

An Undisciplinarian View of STEM & Policy

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In his Rules, René Descartes argued that in order to be true to science, we should not split our work into separate disciplines, but rather seek a connected truth across disciplines. In that spirit, this talk will explore the connections between STEM fields and policy. We will look at how policy can influence STEM as well as how STEM can influence policy. We will also talk about the intersection of STEM and human rights. In addition to offering some theoretical perspectives, we will examine specific examples from the headlines, and we will discuss career opportunities in the nexus of STEM and policy.



Jessica M. Libertini, Ph.D., identifies as an undisciplinarian who holds advanced degrees in mechanical engineering and applied mathematics and who has worked in industry, government, and academia. In 2017-2018, she served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a Science & Technology Policy Fellow where she managed international relationships and advised senior Pentagon leadership on bilateral and multilateral defense cooperation efforts. She has also contributed to the development of interdisciplinary curricula at her current institution, the Virginia Military Institute, and in her previous appointment at the U.S Military Academy at West Point where she was awarded the U.S. Army Commander's Award for Public Service. In addition to her faculty position, Dr. Libertini is the Policy Problem Lead for the international Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling, and she is currently a Climate & Security Fellow at the Climate & Security Advisory Group.