



Meeting of the  
President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST)  
March 14, 2024

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## Invited Speaker Biographies

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### **DEREK CUMMINGS, PHD**

Derek Cummings is an infectious disease epidemiologist and the Associate Director for Education and Graduation Programs at the Emerging Pathogens Institute, a research institution affiliated with the University of Florida. Dr. Cummings' research on emerging pathogens has included studies of MERS, Ebola and novel influenza, observing and characterizing transmission dynamics in the early days of outbreaks. Particular areas of focus include speed and patterns of transmission and the natural history of a pathogen. Prior to joining the University of Florida, Derek and his colleagues collaborated to develop an infectious disease surveillance system for targeting Ebola and other infectious diseases before they proliferate and become serious threats to public health. Dr. Cummings began his teaching career at the University of Florida in 2016. In 2020, he contributed to an early transmission model for the novel coronavirus and co-authored a study finding a vaccine effective against a common variant.

### **JUDITH GREEN, PHD**

Judith Green has been a Professor of Sociology and the Director of the Wellcome Center for Cultures and Environments of Health at the University of Exeter since 2020. Dr. Green also serves as a module organizer for the MA Cultures & Environments of Health module titled "Making, Using and Contesting Evidence." Prior to her work at the University of Exeter, Dr. Green worked at King's College London, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and the London South Bank University. Dr. Green has published on a diverse range of topics in the field of sociology of health and medicine. Past publication topics include risk, health services, public understanding of health and illness, and research methods, particularly for evaluation. Her recent and ongoing work focuses on transportation-related health outcomes, knowledge in public health practice, and methodology. In addition to her publications, Green was co-editor of *Critical Public Health*, an international public health journal, and coauthor of the textbook, *Qualitative Methods*

*for Health Research*. She is a Trustee of the Foundation for Sociology of Health and Illness, and a member of the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Public Health Research funding panel.

### **SARAH KAPNICK, PHD**

Sarah Kapnick became the chief scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2022. Dr. Kapnick earned a PhD in atmospheric and oceanic sciences from University of California, Los Angeles and an BA in mathematics from Princeton University. She first worked as an investment banking analyst with Goldman Sachs. Afterwards, she served as a physical scientist and deputy division leader at NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL). Dr. Kapnick has contributed to the development of NOAA's Small Business Innovation Research Program. She was also a member of NOAA's Eastern Region Climate Team, a panelist for Climate.gov, and the NOAA team lead of the NASA High Mountain Asia Team. Before becoming chief scientist, Dr. Kapnick worked as a managing director for J.P. Morgan, providing input as a senior climate strategist, sustainability strategist for asset management, and advisor on new opportunities. Dr. Kapnick is also a member of the American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of science.

### **NICHOLAS PIDGEON, PHD**

Nick Pidgeon is Professor of Environmental Psychology and Risk at Cardiff University and Director of its Understanding Risk Research Group. His research looks at public engagement, risk communication and decision-making for environment, climate, energy and emerging technology risks. He has directed many research projects for the UK Research Councils and Charities on these topics over a 30-year span and was Co-Investigator on the NSF Centre for Nanotechnology in Society at Santa Barbara from 2005-2015. He is currently a Science Advisor to the UK Department of Transport, served on two UK Covid19 Science Advisory Committees, and was awarded an MBE in 2014 for services to climate change and energy security awareness. His main current research focuses on low carbon energy use in everyday life, and new technologies for carbon removal in global and UK agriculture. He was elected a Fellow of the UK's British Academy in 2023.