

# COLLOQUIUM

## **Fear, Distortion, and Denial. Does Science Still Matter in America Today?**

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Public opinion in the world's leading scientific nation continues to demonstrate a surprising unwillingness to embrace the scientific consensus on issues affecting the well being and prosperity of the country and the world. While it might seem logical to attribute the prevalence of anti-science attitudes to religious dogma or factual unawareness, the roots of this problem go far deeper, and relate to popular perceptions of science and scientists. I will consider multiple aspects of science denial, and suggest how the scientific enterprise and science education need to change to reclaim the cultural high ground in American society.