

Eric Winsberg

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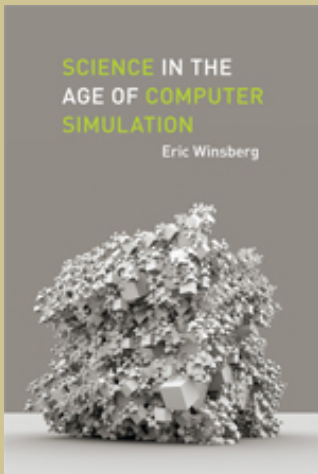
Monday, April 1, 2019

3:00 PM

Luddy Hall, Rm. 4063

Philosophy and Climate Science

Abstract: There continues to be a vigorous public debate in our society about the status of climate science. Much of the skepticism voiced in this debate suffers from a lack of understanding of how the science works - in particular the complex interdisciplinary scientific modeling activities such as those which are at the heart of climate science. In my recent book, *Philosophy and Climate Science*, I show how the philosophy of science can contribute to better public understanding of some of the main pillars of climate science. In this talk, I will review a few of the central topics of the book, focusing especially on how climate data are used to support hypotheses, on the nature of probabilities in climate science, and on how climate science should be used to guide public policy.



Biography: Ph.D. Indiana , 1999. Joined the Philosophy Department faculty at USF in 2001 after a postdoctoral fellowship in History and Philosophy of Science at Northwestern University. His principal interests are in the philosophy of science, the philosophy of climate science, and the philosophy of physics. He is especially interested in the role of computer simulations in the physical sciences, and analog simulation in cosmology, and in the foundations of statistical physics and the direction of time. His work in the philosophy of climate science specifically relates to their application in science policy and ethics. He also writes on truth and on scientific authorship. Winsberg is the author of several articles on these topics that have appeared in such journals as *Philosophy of Science*, *the Journal of Philosophy*, *the British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* and *Synthese*. He has held visiting fellowships at the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (ZiF) at the University of Bielefeld in Germany , and the Institute of Advanced Study at the University of Durham in the UK, at the University of

California, Berkeley, the MCMP in Munich and at the University of Lueneburg in Germany. He is the author of *Science in the Age of Computer Simulation*, which appeared in the fall of 2010 with the University of Chicago Press, and the co-editor of two forthcoming books; one on climate science and one on the arrow of time, with the University of Chicago Press and Harvard University Press, respectively.

