Dupont Summit 2017

Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy

December 1, Historic Whittemore House, Washington, DC

Panel
"The Digital Divide in Context and Effect"

This panel will examine various approaches to and aspects of the digital divide as a critical expression of relative inequalities and differences in information and communications technologies (ICT) access and usage between and among individuals, groups, and geographic areas. Specifying gaps within and among digital "haves" and "have-nots" in different socio-spatial contexts, the digital divide encompasses multiple interactive relational structures enacted in diverse institutional frames in which access to education, skills, and ICT capabilities and opportunities are variably distributed throughout political, social, economic, and cultural systems. As such, it has important consequences not only for social justice and the wellbeing of individuals and groups, but also for the stability and prosperity of countries and regions more generally, as found in Global North and South divides. Accordingly, analyzing the digital divide in its various guises has been an important issue on research and policy agendas, and the panel will consider various dimensions and perspectives on the digital divide and related capabilities to explore policy implications and impacts across global, national, and regional contexts and levels of analysis.

Organizer
Connie L. McNeely, *George Mason University*

Moderator
Jong-on Hahm, *U.S. National Science Foundation*

Presentations
"Exploring the Digital Divide: Information Technology Governance and Native Nations"
Michelle Watts, *American Public University System*
Travis Trueblood, *American Public University System*

"The Digital Divide in the US and Abroad: Evidence from PIAAC"
Kathleen Seely-Gant, *Energetics Technology Center*

"NSF Approaches to the Digital Divide"
Lara A. Campbell, *U.S. National Science Foundation*

"Bridging the Digital, Knowledge, and North-South Divides: Concepts, Frameworks, and Ethical Concerns"
Erik W. Kuiler, *George Mason University*