



The Policy Studies Organization

# DUPONT SUMMIT 2012

..... Pressing Issues Amid the Political Maelstrom

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## Panel Speakers

Brian J. Cook, PhD, *Virginia Tech*  
Michael D. Jones, PhD, *Virginia Tech*

## Topic

### **“The Political Dynamics of Policy Design: The Case of Climate Change Policy in the U.S.”**

Despite strong scientific consensus about the consequences for failing to address the causes of climate change, U.S. policymakers have labored unsuccessfully to produce policy designs attracting broad political support. Current policy theories do not adequately explain this phenomenon. We combine two theoretical constructs—Arenas of Power and the Narrative Policy Framework—to address this weakness. We seek to isolate a clear causal linkage between individual policymaker assessments of policy designs and coalition formation by relying initially on elite interviews and content analysis of congressional testimony. We explore the implications of our preliminary findings and detail how the findings fit into our larger research aims.