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# Energy and Science Policy in Practice: Working on Local Solutions to Global Problems

Dr. Adam Briggie & Dr. Anthony Ingraffea

October 6, 10:40am -12:10pm, Debartolo 214

When we use the term 'science policy,' we all too often mean it as shorthand for national processes of allocating resources, enacting legislation, and crafting rules and regulations. By the time an issue attracts national attention, however, it already has a long history of local conflicts, defined stakeholders and articulated positions.

This forum looks at the complexity of science and energy policy at the local level, focusing on responses to fracking in Texas and New York. The event features first-hand accounts by scholars who made a conscious decision to apply their expertise in the contentious arena of fracking policy and regulation.

## Adam Briggie, "The Birth and Death of a Texas Fracking Ban: An Insider's Account"

In 2011, I was asked by a Denton City Councilor to form an advisory committee to help them rewrite local regulations for gas well drilling and production. By 2014, this committee had morphed into a PAC calling for a ban on hydraulic fracturing within Denton city limits. The citizens of Denton voted for the ban, but it was soon overturned by the Texas legislature. In this talk, I'll tell the story of my efforts as a field philosopher to help the city of Denton think about fracking and justice. I'll focus on questions about the appropriate role of intellectuals in public controversies about science and technology.

## Anthony Ingraffea, "Science and Advocacy: One Professor's Journey to Enlightenment"

It started as a simple request to tell a fishing club what "fracking" is. Then, an 8-year blur: TIME Magazine, the New York Times, Gasland II, and over 170 presentations worldwide trying to explain the problem, and that fracking is not it. Along the way, I was pilloried by a Nobel-Prize-winning Secretary of Energy, the API, its PR hacks, and some academic colleagues. But we stopped shale gas in New York and sensitized the world to the crucial importance of methane emissions, and I have helped individual families get justice for suffered harms from shale gas. So, I am in a "good place" now, and I will tell you why.



**Dr. Briggie** is an Associate Professor and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Philosophy & Religion department at UNT. He holds a PhD in Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado and served for three years as a postdoctoral fellow working on the philosophy of technology at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. He is also the author of *A Field Philosopher's Guide to Fracking* (2015, Liveright Press) and was instrumental in passing a fracking ban in the city of Denton.

**Dr. Ingraffea** is the Dwight C. Baum Professor of Engineering (Emeritus), Weiss Presidential Teaching Fellow at Cornell University and president of Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy, Inc. In the context of fracking, he is perhaps best-known for his co-authorship of a Cornell University 2011 study that established the greenhouse gas footprint of fracking as being greater than that of any other fossil fuel, including coal.

