Dr. Paul Edwards
William J. Perry Fellow in International Security at Stanford University & Professor Emeritus of Information & History at the University of Michigan

Friday, January 25th, 2019

Politics of Algorithms:
Roundtable with Paul Edwards, Ron Day, Filippo Menczer, and Nathan Ensmenger

Truth under Siege:
Making Climate Knowledge in an Age of Transparency, Skepticism, and Science Denial

Dr. Edwards examines the history of environmental data systems in the context of the current US administration’s assault on environmental science. Tracking and understanding environmental change requires scientific memory, aka “long data.” Environmental knowledge institutions depend on an ongoing truce among scientific and political actors. For at least 25 years, climate denialism and deregulatory movements have sought to destabilize this truce, which nevertheless had held until recently. Since 2017, however, climate change deniers and non-scientist ideologues have been appointed to lead key American knowledge institutions. These leaders, and the White House itself, view certain environmental data systems as targets, which they may yet succeed in crippling or completely dismantling. These developments threaten the continuity of the “long data” vital to tracking climate change and other environmental disruptions, with significant consequences for both domestic and international security.

Roundtable:
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Luddy Hall 0117

Lecture:
1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Luddy Hall Auditorium

Reception:
2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Luddy Hall 2nd Floor across from ILS suite

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