Keynote address: Dr. Jennifer Kuzma, Goodnight-NCGSK Foundation Distinguished Professor, School of Public and International Affairs and Co-Director, Genetic Engineering and Society (GES) Center, North Carolina State University (NCSU)

Jennifer Kuzma 8/14/16 3:13 PM
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Governance for Engineered Pests in Historical and Systems Contexts

Abstract:

Gene editing and gene drives represent an inflection point in our technological capabilities: they are outpacing abilities to develop appropriate risk assessments and oversight systems for them. When applied to engineered pests designed to spread, they create particular challenges for decision making, especially when transitioning from laboratory to field studies or full-scale release. In this presentation, future options for governance of engineered pests will be examined from a systems-thinking point of view.   Elements of governance systems-- such as funding, regulation, and stakeholder and public engagement—and their interactions will be interpreted through the lens of the history of genetically engineered organisms (GEOs). Social science research and observations from this history will be used to foresee possible and plausible scenarios for the governance of engineered pests in the environment, with the hopes of catalyzing dialogue about the futures that we desire.