"Eyes wide open and all hands on deck: Challenges and opportunities in responding to the risks of climate change"

Dr. Elke U. Weber
Gerhard R. Andlinger Professor in Energy and the Environment and Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs
Princeton University

ABSTRACT:
Every day individuals, households, organizations, and politicians make a large number of decisions that impact the environment in intentional or unintentional ways. I will examine the cognitive and motivational barriers that often prevent us from making such decisions wisely. Fortunately there are solutions that take advantage of the ways in which people make decisions and acquire, represent, and process information that go beyond rational deliberation and choice. A better understanding of the abundance of goals that motivate people’s choices and of the multiple ways in which they arrive at their decisions provides entry points to the design of decision environments that help people, households, and organizations make decisions with which they will be more satisfied in the long run.

BIOGRAPHY:
Elke Weber is the Gerhard R. Andlinger Professor in Energy and the Environment and Professor of Psychology and Public Affairs at Princeton University. Her research models decision-making under uncertainty and time delay from a psychological and neuroscience perspective. She is past president of three societies (Neuroeconomics, Judgment and Decision Making, and Mathematical Psychology) and a fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the Society for Experimental Psychology. She was elected to the German National Academy of Sciences and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and recently received the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award from the Society for Risk Analysis.