

# Newsletter



## LCSSP Postdoctoral Scholar Updates

Raquel Centeno joined the LCSSP as a Postdoctoral Scholar Teaching Fellow in Science, Society, and Policy in July 2025. She received both her MA and PhD in Political Science at USC. Her dissertation focused on how partisan polarization is influenced by both partisan and racial identity, and her work in election science and political reform focused on how electoral institutions influence the political behavior of voters. Prior to USC, Raquel completed her BA in Political Science at California Lutheran University in 2018. Outside of academic work, she has served as a Research Associate at The Center for Election Science and regularly engages in academic political polling, including doing work on the USC Schwarzenegger Institute's California Issues Poll and the CSU Long Beach Center for Urban Politics and Policy's California Elections and Policy Poll.

Past postdoctoral scholars include Cong Cao, Ozan Gurcan, Myrl Marmarelis, and Beatrice Magistro. Cong is now a Postdoctoral Associate in Economics at Cornell University. Ozan is currently a Clinical Research Associate in Bioethics at St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis. Myrl was a Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Computing & Mathematical Sciences and the LCSSP. He is now working as a Senior Machine Learning Engineer at Keeling Labs in Los Angeles. Beatrice was a Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Computational Social Science. She is currently an Assistant Professor of AI Governance with a joint appointment in the Department of Political Science and the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University.

## Spotlight Interviews



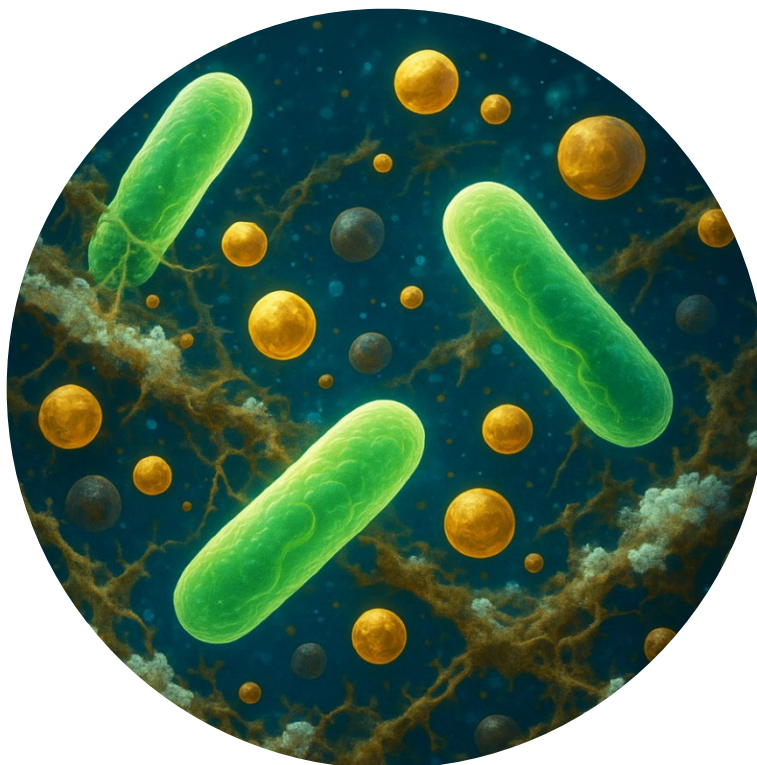
### [A Conversation with Beatrice Magistro: AI, Climate Change, & her book, \*Who Thinks Like an Economist\*](#)

LCSSP Co-Director R. Michael Alvarez talks to Caltech Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Computational Social Science, Beatrice Magistro about their joint work, her research, and her new book.



### [Reflections from John Marken: The New Perspective a Scientist Acquires by Learning about Policy](#)

LCSSP Research Policy Lead Sara Kassir talks to John Marken (PhD '23) about his eight years at Caltech.



## **Biotech Beyond Conventional Containment: A Workshop on Policy & Governance**

**October 6-7, 2025 | Caltech**

The regulation of biotechnology in the United States has long been characterized by ambiguities, uncertainties, inefficiencies, and gaps. One reason for the status quo: for decades, ideas about governance have tended to rely on maintaining separation between genetically engineered organisms and the “natural” world. Today, while some biotech applications are still created for use in contained settings, many of the field’s most promising innovations are not. In a world where biotech applications are increasingly developed for deliberate dissemination into the environment, revised thinking about what constitutes responsible development and use of such technology is overdue. LCSSP's upcoming conference, "Biotech Beyond Conventional Containment: A Workshop on Policy & Governance," will convene multidisciplinary perspectives across the academic, industry, government, and non-profit sectors to fill this important gap, with the ultimate goal of synthesizing shared insights as practical recommendations for policymakers.

**Conference organizing committee: Richard Murray (Caltech), Sara Kassir (Caltech), Tom Adamo Schmidt (Caltech), Zack Abbott (ZBiotics), Emma Frow (Arizona State University), Andrea Hodgson (Schmidt Sciences), Cholpisit (Ice) Kiattisewee (MIT), and Yonatan Chemla (MIT)**



**Launch of the Linde Center BioPolicy Initiative  
October 14, 2025 | Dabney Lounge, Caltech  
4:30-6:00PM**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Drew Endy**

Associate Professor of Bioengineering and Senior Fellow, by courtesy, at the Hoover Institution  
and at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University

Advancements in the biological sciences have been a driving force for much of humanity's progress for over a century. LCSSP's new BioPolicy Initiative builds on this legacy, drawing connections between contemporary public policy conversations and Caltech's longstanding expertise in fields like microbiology, genomics, ecology, biochemistry, and bioengineering.

Please join us to celebrate the launch of this important work, which has been made possible by the incredible generosity of Eric and Wendy Schmidt and Ronald and Maxine Linde. Keynote remarks will be delivered by Hoover Institution Science Fellow Drew Endy, with a reception to follow in Dabney Garden.

For more details, please contact us at [lcssp@hss.caltech.edu](mailto:lcssp@hss.caltech.edu).

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