

# 22nd Biennial AMS/AGU Joint Heads and Chairs Meeting

Programmatic Pivots During the COVID-19 Pandemic

October 8 - 9, 2020 - Virtual Conference

## AGENDA

### Thursday, October 8, 2020

*Times are in Mountain Time Zone*

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|---------------|---|
| 10:00 – 10:15 | <b>Welcome:</b> Co-chairs Jeff Trapp and Valerie Sloan<br><b>Remarks:</b> Mary Glackin, AMS President,<br>Pranoti Asher, Grants and Education Programs, AGU         |
| 10:15 – 11:00 | <b>Thursday Keynote Talk:</b> “Geoscience Workforce in a Time of Change and COVID-19.”<br><b>Presenter:</b> Christopher Keane, American Geosciences Institute (AGI) |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Q/A and discussion  |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | -- Break –  |
| 11:45 - 1:00  | <b>Session 1: What departmental strategies worked during the pandemic?</b><br><i>Two 30-minute small group discussions in breakout rooms.</i>                       |
| 1:00 - 1:45   | -- Break –  |
| 1:45 – 3:00   | <b>Session 2: Instruction and learning in higher education during a pandemic</b><br><i>Two 30-minute small group discussions in breakout rooms.</i>                 |
| 3:00 – 3:15   | Wrap up session   |
| 3:15          | Adjourn   |

**Friday, October 9, 2020**

*Time zones are in Mountain Time*

- 10:00 – 10:10 Welcome Remarks & discussion
- 10:15 – 11:00 **Friday Keynote Talk:** “Preliminary results and implications from the Spring 2020 COVID-19 Daily Diary survey of geoscience faculty”  
**Presenters:** [Eric Riggs](#) (Texas A&M), [Ellen Altermatt](#) (SERC), [Kathryn Bateman](#) (Temple U.)
- 11:00 – 11:15 Q/A and discussion
- 11:15 – 12:00 -- Break --

12:00 – 1:30 **Session 3:**

**Better Letters: Writing and Reading Letters of Recommendation for Equity (90 min)**

It's well known that individual metrics like the GRE and GPA can be biased indicators of scholarly potential. And while letters of recommendation are also used in admissions and hiring to glean important information, they are another common place that bias is written into applicant records— sometimes in subtle ways. Toward the goal of equity-minded evaluation of the next generation of scientists, this workshop 1) reviews key research studies on bias in letters of recommendation, 2) enables participants to recognize gender and racial biases in existing letters, and 3) provides practice in writing better letters. Activities are specifically designed to help attendees develop knowledge, skills, and language to manage common equity dilemmas inherent in how we solicit, write, and review letters, and a toolkit for improving letters will be provided to attendees.

**Session chair:** Valerie Sloan

**Workshop facilitator:** [Julie Posselt](#), [Román Liera](#), [Steve Desir](#), University of Southern California.

1:30 – 2:00 -- Break --

2:15 Wrap-up discussion and closing

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