

# 29TH ANNUAL SERIES



INSTITUTE FOR BIOETHICS AND HEALTH POLICY

## DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

### DIALOGUE 197

# Forecasting the Weather: Safety, Ethics and Really Big Data

Benjamin Kirtman, PhD  
*University of Miami*

**11 a.m., Friday, November 6, 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

[Click here to join](#) | Meeting ID: 984 0440 5312 | Passcode: 099933

Hurricanes, floods and fires, oh my: predicting extreme weather and hazards from days-to-decades is a data-intensive undertaking that is also of tremendous societal interest. We use enormous amounts of data from our best observational estimates of the state of the climate systems and a large suite of state-of-the-art climate models to make these prediction and quantify the uncertainty in these predictions. However, many decision makers and even sponsors challenge us “reduce” the uncertainty beyond that which is scientifically justifiable. This Dialogue will seek participants’ input/critiques on how we ought to confront this challenge based on some examples from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and others.

Dr. Kirtman is a Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS), Director of the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmosphere Studies (CIMAS) and Deputy Director of UM’s Institute for Data Science and Computing (IDSC). He was a coordinating lead author of the most recent IPCC report and leads UM efforts to inform operational hazards predictions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Dialogues in Research Ethics is a series of monthly seminars. For more information, phone UM Ethics Programs at 305-243-5723 or E-mail [ethics@miami.edu](mailto:ethics@miami.edu).*

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