"Earth’s Changing Climate: The Transformation of the Arctic"

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4:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
295 FASB (Sutton Bldg.)
Abstract

The Arctic region is experiencing climate change at a pace far faster than the rest of the globe, due to climatological factors that cause what is known as ‘polar amplification’. The summer sea-ice is in rapid decline, the winter sea-ice is also diminishing, the surrounding permafrost is thawing, methane is being released to the atmosphere, and Greenland is melting over much of its surface and shedding ice to the sea at an accelerating pace. By mid-century we may see an ice-free Arctic Ocean in the summertime for the first time in human history. Such dramatic changes will spur geological and biological resource exploitation, territorial disputes, maritime transportation, tourism, and military activity.

Bio

Henry Pollack, a Professor of Geophysics at the University of Michigan, has served on many advisory panels for the National Science Foundation, testified before National Academy of Science and U.S. Senate committees, and provided briefings about climate change to Congress and the White House. He was a Contributing Author to the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th Assessment Report, and is a scientific advisor to former Vice-President Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project. He has authored two books: Uncertain Science…Uncertain World (Cambridge University Press, 2003) in which he discusses scientific uncertainty and the role it plays in the formulation of public policy, and A World Without Ice (Avery/Penguin 2009) in which he describes the role of ice in shaping Earth’s landscape and climate, and the likely fate of the cryosphere in the face of continued anthropogenic warming.