

Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturers 2025–2026

For the 87th year, Sigma Xi presents its panel of Distinguished Lecturers as an opportunity for chapters to host visits from outstanding individuals who are at the leading edge of science. These experts have agreed to visit chapters and share their insights and excitement on the topics detailed below.

The Distinguished Lecturers are available from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Each speaker has consented to a modest honorarium together with full payment of travel costs and subsistence.

Local chapters may apply for subsidies to support expenses related to hosting a Distinguished Lecturer. Subsidy applications must be submitted online by March 1, 2025, for funds to be available the next fiscal year.

Additional support for the program comes from the American Meteorological Society. Lecturer biographies,

contact information, and additional details can be found online at sigmaxi.org/lectureships or by sending an email to lectureships@sigmaxi.org.

—Committee on Lectureships

Chapter Subsidy Application Deadline:

March 1, 2025

sigmaxi.org/lectureships



David A. Bader, Distinguished Professor, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Solving Global Grand Challenges with High Performance Data Analytics (P, G, S) • Predictive Analysis from Massive Knowledge Graphs (P, G, S) • Interactive Data Science at Scale (P, G, S)



Matthew Baum, Marvin Kalb Professor of Global Communications and Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University

Misinformation: How Big a Problem and What Can Be Done? (G, S) • Soft News, Satire, and the Blending of Politics and Entertainment: Why It Matters (P, G, S) • Media Bias: Perceptions, Reality, Consequences (G, S)



Joseph J. Biernacki, Professor Emeritus, University Distinguished Faculty Fellow, Tennessee Technological University

What Do Artificial Intelligence, Synthetic Live-Chemistry and Nuclear Fusion Have to Do with Portland Cement (P, G, S) • The Looming Housing Crisis and Hope on the Horizon (P, G, S) • Who's the Biggest Maker of Them All? (P, G)



Lynn Cominsky, Professor, Physics and Astronomy, Director, EdEon STEM Learning, Sonoma State University

Gravitational Waves: The Discovery That Won the 2017 Nobel Prize (P, G) • High Energy Visions of the Universe (P, G) • Science of War and Peace (P, G)



James N. Druckman, Martin Brewer Anderson Professor, University of Rochester

Partisan Hostility and American Democracy (P, G, S) • (Dis)trust in America (P, G, S) • The Polarization and Politicization of Trust in Scientists (P, G, S)



Eduardo Fernandez-Duque, Professor, Department of Anthropology and School of the Environment, Yale University

Fatherhood: From Molecules to Society (P, G) • The Evolution of Pair-Bonds and Monogamy (P, G) • Cause and Effect in Biological Anthropology (G, S)