

Please join the Science, Religion, and Lunch Seminars (SRLS) hosted by the Northern Plains Ethics Institute for:



**Kent Rodgers**

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
NDSU

## **Science: What It Is, What It Isn't, & What It Is Good For**

Room of Nations, Memorial Union, NDSU  
12-1 pm, November 2, 2021

or

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://ndsu.zoom.us/j/96889174060>

**Meeting ID:** 968 8917 4060

**Passcode:** 340521

**Abstract:** As the global community navigates ongoing public health and environmental crises, the scientific community is navigating a decline of the esteem in which it and, in some cases, its practitioners are held by the general public. Public statements by elected officials, the press and members of the public on topics related to science and technology often reveal a fundamental lack of understanding of science. Thus, correlated with the decline in public perception of science and its practitioners, there seems to be widespread misunderstanding about what scientific inquiry is, what its goals are, and how its outcomes can or cannot inform public policy. Coupled with, or at least related to this general misunderstanding of science is the hijacking of public opinion on science-related issues. In order to advance their own interests, groups often exploit misunderstanding of science and the associated struggle to distinguish evidence-based argument from misinformation. This is generally accomplished through misinformation campaigns that often succeed in aligning public opinion on science-related issues with special interests, even when they are at odds with the public interest. This presentation will discuss how science works in the context of history and current events. It will explore how awareness of scientific methods provides a foundation for distinguishing evidence from misinformation and for recognizing how to consider the outcomes of scientific inquiry as guideposts for public policy

**Bio:** Kent Rodgers is a full professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at NDSU. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in chemistry and directs a federally funded research program focused on the chemistry and biochemistry of hemes (e.g. blood pigment). The current emphasis of his research program is elucidation of heme homeostasis mechanisms in pathogenic bacteria. Based on this work, he, along with his students and colleagues, have contributed about 100 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters to the chemical and biochemical literature. Kent is a long-time attendee of Science, Religion and Lunch Seminars.

SRLS fosters thoughtful, accessible dialogues on religion or science, with a special focus on the intersection between the two. Presenters take the seminar's first forty minutes to develop their ideas for the diverse town and gown audience, and then answer questions for 20 minutes, or until we get kicked out of the physical or Zoom room.

If you are interested in giving a seminar, then please contact Dennis Cooley at [NDSU.NPEI@ndsu.edu](mailto:NDSU.NPEI@ndsu.edu).