Public engagement with science in r/science

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Abstract/Syllabus: Traditionally, scientists are using various means to help lay audiences engagein public participation, such as policy making, dialogue, and knowledge production (Einsiedel,2014). Science cafés and exhibits have been widely used, especially in Europe and Asia, for the purpose of creating a dialogue (Nielsen, et al., 2015). Recently, the public can participate in framing scientific discoveries and opinions by editing science-related articles on popular websites like Wikipedia (Hara & Sanfilippo, 2017) and/or by assisting with the collection of data for citizen science projects (Crowston, et al., 2018). Brossard (2013) notes that the role of lay participation in online environments has changed the nature of science communication, creating new opportunities for two-way communication. I will discuss one such online Public Engagement with Science taking place on Reddit, specifically the sub-Reddit r/science, which had 18 million subscribers and frequent AMA (Ask Me Anything) threads hosted by scientists at the time of this investigation.

Her research in Social Informatics emphasizes online knowledge sharing, communities of practice, and collective behaviors in mediated environments. Specifically, she examines the means by which collective behaviors are enabled and/or impeded by Information Technology. She is currently investigating the role of technologies in public engagement with science. She is the author of *Communities of Practice: Fostering Peer-to-Peer Learning and Informal Knowledge Sharing in the Work Place* from Springer, and a co-editor of *Global Wikipedia: International and Cross-Cultural Issues in Online Collaboration* (with Pnina Fichman) from Rowman & Littlefied.