Alex Segrè Cohen, PhD

School of Journalism and Communication

Center for Science Communication Research

University of Oregon

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Google Scholar

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# Academic Rank

**Assistant Professor** of Risk and Science Communication, Environmental Focus

School of Journalism and Communication, University of Oregon

Core Faculty Member, Science Communication and Research Associate

Center for Science Communication Research, University of Oregon

# Research Interests

judgment and decision making | science of science communication | environmental justice | psychology of risk | critical thinking | sustainability | public health | emerging technologies

# Education

**PhD** University of Southern California, Psychology (Social)

Dissertation: “Harnessing critical thinking and decision support for emergent risks.”

Committee: Joe Àrvai (chair), Wändi Bruine de Bruin, Gale Sinatra, Richard John, and Caitlin Drummond Otten

**BA** Clark University, Geography

 *summa cum laude*

 Advisor: Jody Emel

# Professional Experience

Director of Operations Our Climate Voices, Remote 2017-2021

Social Scientist National Science Foundation, Alexandria, VA 2016-2018

# Publications

\*indicates student author

7. \*Maduneme, E., & **Segrè Cohen, A**., (*in press*). Effects of Solutions Journalism Stories on Climate Change Behavioral Intentions: The Mediating Role of Collective Efficacy.

* Contributions: survey and stimuli design, wrote multiple sections, substantial edits

6. Slavik, C. E., Chapman, D. A., **Segrè Cohen, A.**, \*Bendefaa, N., & Peters, E. (2024). Clearing the air: evaluating institutions’ social media health messaging on wildfire and smoke risks in the US Pacific Northwest. *BMC Public Health* doi: 10.1186/s12889-024-17907-1

* Contributions: study design, analyses, wrote multiple sections, substantial edits, financed project.
* Media coverage: *Fox,* *Oregon Public Broadcast*

5. Bearth, A., Otten, C. D., & **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2024). Consumers' perceptions and acceptance of genome editing in agriculture: Insights from the United States of America and Switzerland. *Food Research International*, 113982.

* Contributions: survey design, substantial edits
* Media coverage: *ASU News*

4. Àrvai, J., **Segrè Cohen, A**., **\***Lutzke, L., and Drummond Otten, C. (2023). I think, therefore I act, revisited: Building a stronger foundation for risk analysis. *Risk Analysis.* doi: [10.1111/risa.14177](https://doi.org/10.1111/risa.14177)

* Contributions: survey design, data analysis, wrote first draft, substantial edits

3. **Segrè Cohen, A**., **\***Lutzke, L., Drummond Otten, C., and Àrvai, J. (2022). I think, therefore I act: The influence of critical thinking ability on trust in experts and behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Risk Analysis.* doi: [10.1111/risa.13833](https://doi.org/10.1111/risa.13833)

* Media coverage: *Fox, Haaretz, The Conversation*, *Seattle Press, Yahoo! News, The Buffalo News, Idaho Press, Bozeman Daily Chronicle, MedicalXpress, St. Louis Post, Arizona Daily Star, San Antonio Express, Fairfield Citizen*

2. **Segrè Cohen, A.,** Love, N. G., & Àrvai, J. (2020). Communicating the Risks and Benefits of Human Urine-Derived Fertilizer. *Sustainability*, *12*(23), 9973. [doi:10.3390/su12239973](https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/23/9973/htm)

1. **Segrè Cohen,** A., N.G. Love, K.K. Nace, and J. Àrvai. (2020) Consumers’ acceptance of agricultural fertilizers derived from diverted and recycled human urine. *Environmental Science & Technology.* 54 (8), 5297-5305. [doi: 10.1021/acs.est.0c00576](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.est.0c00576)

* Media coverage: *Nature, CNN Business, The New York Times, MLive, Yes!Magazine*

***Revise and Resubmit***

**Segrè Cohen, A.,** Slavik, C., Kurani, S., & Àrvai, J. (n.d.) Mapping water injustice and perceptions of privatization hotspots in the United States.

**Segrè Cohen, A.,** Slavik, C., & Chatman, D. (n.d.) Read Between the Party Lines: Political Ideology, Environmental Injustice, and Climate Change Attitudes Among the American Public.

***Manuscripts Under Review***

**Segrè Cohen, A.,** Bearth, A., & Otten, C. D.(n.d.). The Role of Actively Open-Minded Thinking in Willingness to Take Civic and Political Action on Genome Editing in the United States and Switzerland

Sleboda, P., Bruine de Bruin, W., **Segrè Cohen, A.,** Drummond Otten, C., Lutzke, L., & Àrvai, J. (n.d.) Associations of fear and anger with risk perception, trust, and preventive behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic: May and December 2020.

# Grants & Fellowships

**National Science Foundation, Senior Personnel, $100,000** 2024-2025

Award number 2436970 “**S**cience **CO**mmunication for **R**esilient **E**nvironments and **S**ocieties (SCORES).” Planning grant to create a Center for evidence-based risk communication, education, and behavior change related to geo- and climate-related health hazards

**National Science Foundation, Co-PI, $1,800,000** 2022-2025

Award number 2221599 “Center for Interfacial Ionics.” Center for Chemical Innovation Phase I. Conducting research on public policy science communication efforts related to battery usage and storage.

**SCR Small Grants Award, Faculty Advisor, $2,000** 2024

Awarded by the Center for Science Communication Research to fund a research project entitled “*Greenwashing: A scoping review”*

**SCR Small Grants Award, Faculty Advisor, $2,000** 2024

Awarded by the Center for Science Communication Research to fund a research project entitled “*A Matrix of Play: Newsgames' Relationship with Trust, Comprehension, and Confirmation Bias”*

**Decision Education Research Collaborative Fellowship, $5,000** 2023-2024

Awarded by the Alliance for Decision Research Education toadvance the teaching and learning of skillful judgment formation and decision-making in childhood and adolescence.

**2024 Environmental Initiative Curriculum Award, Co-PI, $25,000**  2023-2024

Awarded by the Environment Initiative at the University of Oregon to develop a course entitled “Science communication and mapping for climate justice” for AY 2024-2025

**Bridging the Gap Research Award, Co-PI, $8,000** 2023

Awarded by the Society for Behavioral Medicine to fund a research project entitled “Health Maps as Behavioral Interventions: Bridging Psychological Distance of Environmental Justice”

**SCR Small Grants Award, Faculty Advisor, $2,695** 2023

Awarded by the Center for Science Communication Research to fund a research project entitled “*Personal and Large Network Dynamics of Scientific Risk Perception in Digital Media: Risk Information Processing as a Networked Phenomenon.”*

**2023 SOJC Dean’s Fund, PI, $10,000** 2023

Awarded by the University of Oregon’s School of Journalism and Communication to fund a research project entitled “Communication about and the psychology of Greenwashing.”

**SCR Small Grants Award, Faculty Advisor, $3,000**  2023

Awarded by the Center for Science Communication Research to fund a research project entitled “*Effects of Solutions Journalism Stories on Climate Change Behavioral Intentions: The Mediating Role of Collective Efficacy”*

**Sonosky Fellowship, $6,000** 2021

Awarded by Wrigley Institute at the University of Southern California for research.

on dissertation

**Robert & Judy Marans/Kan & Lillian Chen Dissertation Award in** 2020

**Sustainability and Survey Methodology, PI, $10,000**

Awarded by ICPSR at University of Michigan for research on dissertation

**Intersections of Climate Justice, Co-PI, $13,185** 2020

Awarded by Sparkplug Foundation for Our Climate Voices programming

**Ethical Storytelling and Climate Justice, Co-PI, $8,000** 2020

Awarded by Urgent Action Fund for Our Climate Voices programming

**Ethical Storytelling and Climate Justice, Co-PI, $2,000** 2020

Awarded by Oil Change International for Our Climate Voices programming

**Intersections of Police Brutality and Climate Justice, Co-PI, $13,500** 2020

Awarded by Earth Rising Foundation for Our Climate Voices programming

**Artist Residency in Eco-Anxiety and Climate Justice, Co-PI, $15,000** 2020

Awarded by Earth Rising Foundation for Our Climate Voices programming

**Intersections of Police Brutality and Climate Justice, Co-PI, $20,000** 2020

Awarded by the Redford Center for Our Climate Voices programming

**Innovation Prize, Co-PI, $150,000** 2019

Awarded by J.M. Kaplan Fund for Our Climate Voices programming

**Professional Development Fellowship, $2,500** 2019

Awarded by University of Michigan for developing programming within my department

**Inspiring Strength and Empowering All Kinds of Girls**, **PI, $40,000** 2015

Awarded by the United Way to All Kinds of Girls programming

**Inspiring Strength and Empowering All Kinds of Girls**, **PI, $40,000**  2014

Awarded by the United Way to All Kinds of Girls programming

# Teaching

**University of Oregon,** Eugene, OR

**Instructor of Record,** School of Journalism and Communication

* UGST 109: Climate Justice Storytelling, Fall 2024
* J617: Psychology of Misinformation, Spring 2024
* J460/560: Communication about Environmental and Social Justice, Fall 2023
* J460/560: Green Brand Strategy, Spring 2023
* J377: Science of Science Communication, Winter 2023, Winter 2024, Winter 2025
* J557: Curiosity for Strategists, Fall 2022, Fall 2024, Winter 2025

**University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA

**Graduate Instructor**, Psychology

* PYSC 316: Research Methods, Spring 2022
* PYSC 100: Introduction to Psychology, Spring 2021

**University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI

**Instructor**, Environment and Sustainability

* EAS 741: Research Paradigms, Winter 2021, Fall 2020

# Presentations and Invited Lectures

\*denotes student author

*(42)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2024, August). Environmental Justice Communication: Lessons from Psychology. Invited Speaker. Yale University’s Environmental Fellows Program and Yale Conservation Scholars Early Leadership Initiative. Yale University.

*(41)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2024, August). Science Communication and Environmental Justice. Invited Speaker. IntroDUCKtion. University of Oregon.

*(40)* **Segrè Cohen, A**., Bearth., A., & Otten. C. D. (2024, June). The Role of Actively Open-Minded Thinking in Willingness to Take Civic and Political Action on Genome Editing in the United States and Switzerland. Paper presented at Society for Risk Analysis Europe Annual Meeting.

*(39)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2024, January). Polarizing Challenges and Possible Solutions: The Case for Actively Open-Minded Thinking. Invited Lecture: Kansas State University’s Science Communication Initiative Webinar Series

*(38)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** & \*Bunquin, B. (2023, December). Risk perception, public policy and public understanding of energy usage and storage. Paper presented at Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting.

*(37)* Sleboda, P., Bruine de Bruin, W., **Segrè Cohen, A.,** Drummond Otten, C., Lutzke, L., & Àrvai, J. Associations of fear and anger with risk perception, trust, and preventive behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic: May and December 2020. Paper presented at Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting.

*(36)* Slavik, C., Chapman, D., **Segrè Cohen, A.,** \*Bendefaa, N., & Peters, E. Clearing the air: Evaluating institutions’ social media health messaging on wildfire and smoke risks in the US Pacific Northwest. Paper presented at Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting.

*(35)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2023, November). Environmental and Science Communication. Invited Guest Lecture. J100: Media Professions. University of Oregon.

*(34)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2023, November). Quantitative Research Methods in Psychology. Invited Guest Lecture. J315H: Capstone Research Methods. University of Oregon.

*(33)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2023, June). Environmental Communication: Lessons from Psychology on Best Practices. Invited Speaker. Yale University’s Environmental Fellows Program and Yale Conservation Scholars Early Leadership Initiative. Yale University.

*(32)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2023, February). Harnessing Narratives and Data: the Case of Environmental Justice. Invited Speaker. Science Communication Research Forum, University of Oregon.

*(31)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2022, December). UO Today interview: Alex Segrè Cohen, Science and Risk Communication [Video]. YouTube. <https://youtu.be/Tk5Nhq2ARFo>

*(30)* **Segrè Cohen, A.,** Bearth, A. & Drummond Otten, C. (2022, December). Risk perceptions, critical thinking, and acceptance of genome editing in the United States and Switzerland. Paper presented at Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting.

*(29)* Sleboda, P., Bruine de Bruin, W., **Segrè Cohen, A.,** Drummond Otten, C., Lutzke, L., & Àrvai, J. (n.d.) Associations of fear and anger with risk perception, trust, and preventive behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic: May and December 2020. Paper presented at Society for Riak Analysis Annual Meeting.

*(28)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2022, July). Polarizing Challenges and Possible Solutions: The Case for Actively Open-Minded Thinking. CAIDE Lab Meeting, University of Oregon, virtual.

*(27)* Drummond Otten, C., **Segrè Cohen, A., \***Lutzke, L., & Àrvai, J. (2022, February). Social Norms, Individual Critical Thinking Skills, and Uptake of COVID-19 Preventative Behaviors. Poster presented at the Society for Judgment and Decision-Making meeting, virtual.

*(26)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2021, November). Harnessing Biases in Decision-Making for Science Communication. Invited Guest Lecture in The Science of Science Communication, University of Oregon.

*(25)* **Segrè Cohen, A.,** \*Lutzke, L., Drummond Otten, C. & Àrvai, J. (2021, December). I Think, Therefore I Act: The Influence of Critical Thinking Ability on Trust and Compliance During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis, virtual.

*(24)* Drummond Otten, C., **Segrè Cohen, A.S.,** \*Lutzke, L., & Àrvai, J. (2021, June). Social Norms, Individual Critical Thinking Skills, and Uptake of COVID-19 Preventative Behaviors. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis, virtual.

*(23)* \*Lutzke, L., **Segrè Cohen, A.,** Drummond Otten, C. & Àrvai, J. (2021, June). Perceiving political polarization within the context of COVID-19 is associated with individuals’ pandemic responses and attitudes in the U.S. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis-Europe, virtual.

*(22)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2021, August). People Centered Storytelling. Invited Speaker at USC Wrigley Institute’s Environmental Communication Panel, the University of Southern California

*(21)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2021, July). Decision-Making 101, Invited Guest Lecture to Introduction to Psychology, University of Southern California, 2021

*(20)* **Segrè Cohen, A.,** \*Lutzke, L., Drummond Otten, C. & Àrvai, J. (2021, June). Sex Differences in COVID-19 perception and prevention in the United States. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis-Europe, virtual.

*(19)* **Segrè Cohen, A.**, Àrvai, J., & Love, N.(2021, June**).** Risk Perceptions, Disgust, and Consumer Preferences Regarding the Use of Human Urine-Derived Fertilizers for Domestic Agriculture. Paper presentated at International Conference on Resource Sustainability (icRS), virtual.

*(18)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2021, May).Climate Justice is LGBTQIA\* Liberation. Invited Guest Lecture Erasmus University College Sustainability Week. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WSkpvN3VR0GPBBODbY6mjZT2dz-edvOy/view>

*(17)* **Segrè Cohen, A.,** \*Lutzke, L., Drummond Otten, C. & Àrvai, J. (2021, March). Critical Thinkers Perceive Greater Risks from COVID-19 and Behave Accordingly. Invited Guest Lecture Psi Chi Event, the University of Southern California.

*(16)* Àrvai, J. **Segrè Cohen, A.**, & Lutzke, L. (2021, March). Improving Decision-Making for Risk and Environmental Management. Guest Lecture at Psychology Brown Bag Talks, University of Southern California.

*(15)* Drummond, C., **Segrè Cohen, A.,** \*Lutzke, L., & Àrvai, J. (2020, December). Reasoning about novel risks: How does scientific reasoning ability relate to behavioral and attitudinal responses to the COVID-19 pandemic? Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis, virtual.

*(14)* **Segrè Cohen, A.,** \*Lutzke, L., Drummond, C., & Àrvai, J. (2020, December). Critical Thinkers Perceive Greater Risks from COVID-19 and Behave Accordingly. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis, virtual.

*(13)* **Segrè Cohen, A. (**2020, October) Life After NSF. Invited Panelist at the National Science Foundation.

*(12)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2020, May). The Principles of Ethical Storytelling. Our Climate Voices May Workshop Series.

*(11)* **Segrè Cohen, A.**, Àrvai, J., & Love, N.(2020, January)Risk Communication Strategies and Acceptance of Urine Derived Fertilizers. Paper presented at Michigan University-Wide Sustainability & Environment Conference.

*(10)* **Segrè Cohen, A.**, Àrvai, J., & Love, N.(2019, December). Risk and Consumer Acceptance of Human Urine-Derived Agriculture,” Paper presented at Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting.

*(9)* **Segrè Cohen, A.**, Àrvai, J., & Love, N. **(**2019, October). Risk Perceptions, Disgust, and Consumer Preferences Regarding the Use of Human Urine-Derived Fertilizers for Domestic Agriculture. Paper presented at Rich Earth Summit.

*(8)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2019, September).Climate Justice Storytelling: Storytelling to Reimagine and Regenerate. Workshop held in collaboration with Our Climate Voices and University of Michigan.

*(7)* Love, N.**, Segrè Cohen, A.**, Àrvai, J. **(**2019, May). Consumer Preferences and Perceptions Regarding the Use of Urine-Derived Fertilizer for Domestic Agriculture. Poster presentation at Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AAESP).

*(6)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** & Àrvai, J. **(**2019, May). When Governments Retreat, Does the Private Sector Step Up?: On the Risks Associated with the Privatization of Water. Paper presentation at Work Congress on Risk.

*(5)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2019, March). Ethical Storytelling and Climate Justice. Facilitated Workshop for Our Climate Voices.

*(4)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** & Emel, J. **(**2016, May). “The Gendered Biopolitics of Meat Consumption in the United States,” Poster presented at Academic Spree Day at Clark University.

*(3)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2015, May) Gender Variations in Values in the Wet Tropics of Queensland, Australia. Poster presentation at Community Forum in Yungaburra, Australia.

*(2)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2015, May) Gender Variations in Values in the Wet Tropics of Queensland, Australia. Invited Guest Lecture at the Community Forum in Yungaburra, Australia.

*(1)* **Segrè Cohen, A.** (2015, March). Survey Methodology and Ethical Interviewing. Invited Guest Lecture in Survey Methods Course at School for Field Studies in Yungaburra, Australia.

# Student Supervision

**Doctoral Students**

Jon Benedik Bunquin. University of Oregon. Chair.

Janes Phillips. University of Oregon. Chair

**Undergraduate Students**

Avery Csaszar. University of Oregon. Thesis Advisor

**Graduated Students**

*Doctoral*

Dr. Samantha Lorenzo. University of Oregon. Committee member.

*Masters*

Natalie, Dulansky. University of Oregon. Thesis Advisor.

*Undergraduate*

Heidi Stevenson. University of Oregon. Thesis Co-Advisor

# Professional Service

**Assessment Director**

School of Journalism and Communication, University of Oregon, 2023-Present

**Invited Panelist**

“Finding Balance and Self-Care for Doctoral Students” for University of Oregon, 2023

**Poster Judge**

Graduate Student Research Forum, University of Oregon, 2023

**Workshop Organizer and Panel Moderator**

Science Communication Speaker Series, University of Oregon, 2024

History of Women in Science, University of Oregon, 2023

Storytelling to Reimagine and Regenerate, University of Michigan, 2019

PhD Alumni Roundtable, University of Michigan, 2019

Social Sciences Distinguished Lecture Series, National Science Foundation, 2017, 2018

Cultivating Cultures of Ethical STEM, National Science Foundation, 2016

Inspiring Strength and Empowering All Kinds of Girls, Clark University, 2013

**Peer-Reviewed Articles for** Risk Analysis, City and Environment Interactions, Judgement and Decision-Making, PLOS-One, Waste Management Bulletin, National Science Foundation Decision Science and Research Management Program

# Professional Affiliations

Society for Judgment and Decision Making (SJDM)

Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

American Psychological Association (APA) Division 34, Division 18