

TRUTH-SEEKING IN AN AGE OF TRIBALISM:

ENGINEERING, ETHICS AND CITIZENSHIP LESSONS FROM RECENT WATER CRISES

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020 | 6PM-8PM | JOHN JAY COLLEGE

ABSTRACT: The water crises in Washington DC, Flint, Denmark (SC) and Newark are unique case studies in the recent history of engineering and scientific misconduct, as they illustrate environmental crimes perpetrated by government agencies, which led to criminal indictments and lawsuits.

Aspiring to uphold the duty of scientists and engineers to hold paramount the public welfare, Edwards worked alongside collaborators in the public, press and in Congress for more than 17 years to uncover some of the wrongdoing. In Flint, after a unique collaboration exposed the problems and a federal emergency was declared, some unscrupulous reporters, academics, actors, activists, and pseudo-scientists attempted to exploit the tragedy to promote their own agendas. His presentation will explain how these experiences shed light on the importance of truth-seeking in an age of tribalism—and the urgent need to cultivate the scientist within all of us.

RSVP THIS LECTURE HERE

CCNY-EDWARDS.EVENTBRITE.COM



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Marc Edwards is a University Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech, where he teaches courses in environmental engineering, applied aquatic chemistry and engineering ethics. His research group conducted the investigative science uncovering the 2001-2004 D.C. Lead Crisis and the 2014-2016 Flint Water Disaster. Time Magazine dubbed Edwards “The Plumbing Professor” in 2004, listing him amongst the 4 most important “Innovators” in water from around the world. The White House awarded him a Presidential Faculty Fellowship in 1996, he won a MacArthur Fellowship in 2007, and in 2013 Edwards’ was the 9th recipient (in a quarter century) of the IEEE Barus Award for “courageously defending the public interest at great personal risk.” In 2016 he was named amongst TIME Magazine’s 100 Most Influential people in the World, the World’s 50 Greatest Leaders by Fortune Magazine, Politico Magazine’s Top 50 Visionaries who have transformed American politics, Foreign Policy Magazine’s 100 World’s Greatest Thinkers, and was short-listed amongst Flint whistleblowers as Time person(s) of the year. He was co-recipient of the inaugural 2017 MIT Disobedience Award, received the 2018 AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility award, and the Hoover Humanitarian Medal in 2019.



ABOUT THE MODERATOR

Bruce Podwal has a B.C.E. from CCNY and an M.S.C.E. from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. He worked at Parsons Brinckerhoff for 50 years managing major engineering projects worldwide and became a member on the Board of Directors of this 12,000-person firm. An ASCE Fellow, Bruce was elected Director on ASCE’s National Board. He served on ASCE’s Committee on Advancing the Profession and the editorial board of its “Leadership and Management in Engineering” journal. He was President of ASCE’s NYC-based Metropolitan Section and received the section’s Thomas C. Kavanagh Service Award. Bruce represents ASCE on the multi-engineering society Hoover Medal Board of Award, which this year recognized tonight’s speaker, Marc Edwards, for outstanding service to humanity. Bruce chairs the CCNY Department of Civil Engineering Advisory Board and received the CCNY Engineering School Alumni’s Career Achievement Award in 2015. He authored “The Engineering is Easy” and has guest lectured on engineering and management topics at CCNY, University of Houston, Turkey’s Middle East Technical University, and Beijing Municipal Engineering Design and Research Institute.

The City College
of New York

The City College
of New York
The Grove School
of Engineering

The City College
of New York
Division of Interdisciplinary Studies
at the Center for Worker Education

The City College
of New York
Colin Powell School
for Civic and Global Leadership



JOHN
JAY
COLLEGE
OF
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE