
Freedom of Scientific Expression

GSA Preamble and Endorsement of AMS Position Statement.

GSA supports the principles outlined in the American Meteorological Society's Freedom of Scientific Expression statement including, and in particular, the role of scientists in presenting their results and interpretations. GSA also strongly believes that science and society benefit greatly from careful and ample technical peer review of scientific findings, and subsequent communication of scientific results must be permitted freely and without concern by the scientist for censorship, intimidation, or political interference.

FREEDOM OF SCIENTIFIC EXPRESSION

A Statement of the American Meteorological Society

(Readopted by AMS Council on 22 January 2017)

Advances in science and the benefits of science to policy, technological progress, and society as a whole depend upon the free exchange of scientific data and information as well as on open debate. The ability of scientists to present their findings to the scientific community, policy makers, the media, and the public without censorship, intimidation, or political interference is imperative. With the specific limited exception of proprietary information or constraints arising from national security, scientists must be permitted unfettered communication of scientific results. In return, it is incumbent upon scientists to communicate their findings in ways that portray their results and the results of others, objectively, professionally, and without sensationalizing or politicizing the associated impacts.

These principles matter most — and at the same time are most vulnerable to violation — precisely when science has its greatest bearing on society. Earth sciences and their applications have growing implications for public health and safety, economic development, protection of the environment and ecosystems, and national security. Thus, scientists, policy makers, and their supporting institutions share a special responsibility at this time for guarding and promoting the freedom of responsible scientific expression.

[This statement is considered in force until January 2022 unless superseded by a new statement issued by the AMS Council before this date.]
<https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/about-ams/ams-statements/statements-of-the-ams-in-force/freedom-of-scientific-expression/>

ABOUT THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Geological Society of America, founded in 1888, is a scientific society with more than 27,000 members from academia, government, and industry in more than 100 countries. Through its meetings, publications, and programs, GSA enhances the professional growth of its members and promotes the geosciences in the service of humankind. GSA encourages cooperative research among earth, life, planetary, and social scientists, fosters public dialogue on geoscience issues, and supports all levels of earth science education. Inquiries about the GSA or this position statement should be directed to GSA's Director for Geoscience Policy, Kasey S. White, at +1-202-669-0466 or kwhite@geosociety.org.

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