

THE PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

AN ASSOCIATE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

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MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

on **TUESDAY, 19th May 2009 AT 5.30 pm**

IN THE BOOTHROYD ROOM, PORTCULLIS HOUSE*

(Please recheck the room allocation on <http://www.scienceinparliament.org.uk> on the day)

TAKING SCIENCE TO THE STREET

Addresses by

Professor Anthony J Ryan OBE

Pro-Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Science, Sheffield University
Royal Institution Christmas Lecturer 2002, Street Science Lecturer BBC Radio 4

Dr Daniel Glaser

Head of Special Projects in Public Engagement, Wellcome Trust
Co-chair of Café Scientifique at the Photographers' Gallery

Dr Maewan Ho

Editor & Art Director for Science *in Society*
The Institute of Science in Society

Most scientists are passionate about what they do and believe it's in a good cause. But what happens when they're taken out of their comfort zone, to try to explain what they do and why, to members of the public? In one week in December last year, five leading scientists including Anthony Ryan, all working in controversial areas, went face to face with some of their harshest critics, as presented on BBC Radio 4, over five days in fifteen-minute slots.

In contrast, others cast doubt about the role of science in society. Much still remains to be done to convince them on how science really works, and on how scientists can learn to interact better with the general public. For example, without a much better understanding and application of the knowledge that science and scientists bring to the table, the planet and its ecosystems, including humanity, are in for a very hard time in the next 100 years. This view is supported by James Lovelock and by Lord Rees, President of the Royal Society.

In a democracy the answer surely lies in helping people to understand the potential benefits and also the risks they run in maintaining their current lifestyle, aided wherever possible by scientific knowledge based on the opinions of prominent scientists? Maewan Ho will present this case.

IAN TAYLOR MP

Chairman

The Meeting will be followed by an informal reception in the Club Room, 1 Parliament Street

*Portcullis House is on the corner of Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment; the entrance is on Victoria Embankment.
The Boothroyd Room is on the first floor.