Over the last decade, the American public has become increasingly divided on the subject of climate change. Whereas Democrats and liberals tend to accept the evidence for global warming and believe that it is human-caused, significantly fewer Republicans and conservatives hold these beliefs. This polarization has paralleled the growth of partisan media outlets such as Fox News and MSNBC. In this talk, Dr. Feldman will consider the role that partisan media outlets play in shaping public opinion about climate change and in contributing to polarization around the issue.

Dr. Feldman is an assistant professor in the School of Communication & Information at Rutgers University. She studies the media's role in shaping people's political knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. Her current research analyzes media coverage of climate change and the effects of that coverage on public opinion and engagement. She is particularly interested in understanding the media's contribution to political polarization around climate change and in developing and testing message strategies to help reduce partisan and ideological divides. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Carnegie-Knight Task Force on Journalism, and the Spanish Ministry of Science, and has appeared in a number of edited books and peer-reviewed journals, including the Journal of Communication, Communication Research, Public Understanding of Science, and Political Communication.