

## About Richard Moriarty



Carnegie Museum of Natural History is saddened by the recent passing of our great friend, Dr. Richard Moriarty. His deep commitment to the museum made possible the Carnegie Discoverers, which he helped found in 2006 and served as chair, and the R.W. Moriarty Science Seminars program that launched in 2010.

Dr. Richard Moriarty was a pediatrician, a former associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and a vibrant member of Pittsburgh's medical community. He

advanced knowledge in the fields of pediatrics and toxicology, contributing more than 20 journal articles with the fundamental goal of reducing childhood fatalities due to poisoning.

Moriarty founded the Pittsburgh Poison Center—nationally known for the development of the Mr. Yuk poison warning symbol—and the National Poison Center Network that both fostered the development of and supported existing poison centers nationally.



**CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL HISTORY**

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4400 FORBES AVENUE | PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

# The R.W. Moriarty Science Seminars

Exploring Nature, Culture, and the Future of Life on Earth



## Laurie Giarratani, MS, and Nicole Heller, PhD

Carnegie Museum of Natural History

**“Let’s Talk About Climate Change! Outcomes of the Climate  
and Rural Systems Partnership (CRSP)”**

Monday, October 23, 2023 | Noon  
The 160<sup>th</sup> Seminar in a continuing series

## Abstract:

The Climate and Rural Systems Partnership (CRSP) operates at the intersection of three ideas: 1) museum resources are valuable for understanding environmental change, 2) museums are underserving rural audiences, and 3) complex socio-scientific environmental change topics are deeply connected to social decision making in rural communities. Over the last four years, educators and researchers from Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH) and the University of Pittsburgh have collaborated with community partners in a research practice partnership (RPP) that supports professional networking, reflection and learning. The project is centered at two community hubs - one at Powdermill Nature Reserve and the other at Mercer County Conservation District. Our collective work supports socially safe, science-based discussions about human-caused climate change and is building regional capacity for information exchange across organizations. Through this partnership we seek to improve methodologies and practices for practitioners to effectively address climate change issues with their audiences, including the museum's work with its audiences. In this talk, we will share background theory and practice that motivated this learning science project, describe how the RPP works, and discuss some of our findings. We will also talk about how this research is informing our vision for the long-term role of the museum in regional climate empowerment.



## Biographies:



Laurie Giarratani, MS, is the Director of Learning & Community at Carnegie Museum of Natural History. She specializes in bringing people with diverse experience and skill sets together to create inclusive learning spaces, programs, and resources that help all kinds of people connect the science of natural history to their lives and interests. She is Co-PI of the Climate and Rural Systems Partnership, and has engaged in learning research around climate engagement for the last 10 years.



Nicole Heller, PhD, is a conservation ecologist and Associate Curator of Anthropocene Studies at Carnegie Museum of Natural History. For over 20 years, she has worked at the research-practice interface to pioneer climate change communication, adaptation, and mitigation strategies in natural resource management. She has collaborated with climate scientists, journalists, designers, anthropologists, learning scientists, artists, and many others in projects experimenting with different approaches to communicating about global environmental change in formal and informal learning environments. She is the Co-PI of the Climate and Rural Systems Partnership.

