

## FOSEP: Promoting dialogue about science ethics and policy on a university campus

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The Forum on Science Ethics and Policy (FOSEP) is a multidisciplinary organization founded and run by graduate students at the University of Washington. FOSEP's goal is to promote dialogue about the intersection of science and society. One of FOSEP's activities is to organize seminars for the academic community at large by bringing in nationally renowned speakers. The goals of these seminars are (1) to raise awareness and promote interdisciplinary discussions within the academic community on topics relevant to science ethics and policy; and (2) to provide the academic community with information on controversial topics while remaining nonbiased. These seminars are an opportunity for faculty and students from scientific and non-scientific disciplines to come together and engage in discussions about these issues. Topics covered in the past include human cloning, genetically modified foods, the politicization of science, genetic discrimination, intelligent design, science and policymaking, environmental policy, end-of-life issues, climate change, and Internet neutrality. All seminars took place at central locations and were advertised broadly on campus. Attendance ranged from 20 to 200, with an average of about 60-70 attendees. Past seminars were attended by undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and staff from over 20 different departments. Future plans are to broaden the range of topics, improve attendance, and build partnerships with likeminded groups on campus.