



The Shultz Family Leadership in Humanitarian Engineering Speaker Series
& ConocoPhillips Center for a Sustainable WE²ST present:

Fractured Disciplines Meet Hydraulic Fracturing:

A Cost/Benefit Analysis of Collaboration Between the Social
Sciences/Humanities and Engineering Sciences

By **Patty Limerick, Professor of History and Director, Center of the American West
University of Colorado at Boulder**

Wednesday March 25, 3 - 4 pm, Student Center Ballroom D

Enjoy refreshments and a graduate student poster session about shale plays starting at 2:30 pm

The study of controversial environmental issues offers higher education a distinctive route to redemption and revitalization. In the last half-century, academic specialization has grown in power, both expanding and constraining our understanding of the world. With its array of struggles and contests over natural resources, the contemporary American West offers a remarkable laboratory for experiments in reuniting the fractured world of expertise, with the issue of hydraulic fracturing offering a particularly promising prospect for hybrid approaches. In an era of anxiety about the decline in social sciences/humanities majors and course enrollments, the need for cooperation between the humanities and natural sciences has never been more urgent. And yet that collaboration can position people attempting this collaboration on a balance beam between risk and reward, frustration and satisfaction, vexation and exhilaration. In this talk Patty Limerick will offer a forthright consideration of adventures encountered and lessons learned on that balance beam.

Patty Limerick has dedicated her career to bridging the gap between academics and the general public and to demonstrating the benefits of applying historical perspective to contemporary dilemmas and conflicts. Limerick received the MacArthur Fellowship (1995 to 2000) and the Hazel Barnes Prize, the University of Colorado's highest award for teaching and research (2001).



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