

# Chemistry Department Colloquium: Spring, 2012

**Friday, March 16; 3:30**  
**Seminar Hall (room 1315 Chemistry)**

**Lost in Translation: How Regulators Use Science  
and How Scientists Can Help Bridge Gaps**

**Stephanie Tai, Ph.D., J.D.**  
**Assistant Professor of Law, UW-Madison**



Many environmental and public health statutes and regulations explicitly require decision-makers to use natural science and even social science research in reaching their decisions. However, such legal requirements often fail to address the multitude of ways in which scientific research may vary. For example, research protocol, timeliness and uncertainty.

This talk will provide a broad overview of the ways in which legal decision-makers treat such statutory and regulatory mandates, while exploring these decision-makers' broader visions of science.

In particular, I will discuss how particular beliefs regarding the nature of science may lead to gaps in the robustness of environmental and public health decision-making: gaps that can be bridged by more active participation of scientists in these decision-making processes.

Raised in the South by two Chemists, Stephanie Tai decided to combine her Chemistry background with a legal education to improve the use of science in environmental protection.

Professor Tai focuses her scholarly research on the interactions between administrative law and environmental and health sciences. She has written on the consideration of scientific studies and environmental justice concerns by administrative agencies, and is currently studying the role of scientific dialogues before the judicial system.

**Please stay for refreshments at about 4:30 in the Charter Street Atrium**