

## Bio for Naomi Oreskes

26 July 2013

**Naomi Oreskes** is Professor of History of Science and affiliated Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Harvard University, and an internationally renowned historian of science and author of numerous books and peer-reviewed papers. Having started her career as a geologist, she received her B.S. (1st class Honours) from the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College London, worked for three years as an exploration geologist in the Australian outback, and then returned to the United States to receive an inter-disciplinary Ph.D. in geological research and history of science from Stanford University. Professor Oreskes has lectured widely in diverse venues ranging from the Madison, Wisconsin Civics Club to the Air Force Research Laboratory, and has won numerous prizes including the 2009 Francis Bacon Medal in recognition of outstanding scholarship in the history of science and technology, and the 2011 Climate Change Communicator of the Year. Naomi was previously a Professor of History and Science Studies at UC-San Diego, and Adjunct Professor of Geosciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Professor Oreskes has a long-standing interest in understanding the establishment of scientific consensus and the role and character of scientific dissent. Her early work examined the 20th century transformation of earth science, in *The Rejection Continental Drift: Theory and Method in American Earth Science* (Oxford, 1999) and *Plate Tectonics: An Insider's History of the Modern Theory of the Earth* (Westview, 2001). For the past decade, Professor Oreskes has primarily been interested in the problem of anthropogenic climate change. Her 2004 essay "The Scientific Consensus on Climate Change" (*Science* 306:1686) has been widely cited, both in the United States and abroad, including in the Royal Society's publication, "A Guide to Facts and Fictions about Climate Change," in the Academy-award winning film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, and in Ian McEwan's novel, *Solar*. Her opinion pieces have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Times* (London), *Nature*, *Science*, *The New Statesman*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, and elsewhere. Her 2010 book, *Merchants of Doubt, How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco to Global warming*, co-authored with Erik M. Conway, was shortlisted for the Los Angeles Time Book Prize, and received the 2011 Watson-Davis Prize from the History of Science Society.

Her current research projects include completion of a book on the history of Cold War Oceanography, *Science on a Mission: American Oceanography from the Cold War to Climate Change* (Chicago, forthcoming); *Assessing Assessments: A Historical and Philosophical Study of Scientific Assessments for Environmental Policy in the Late 20th Century*, funded by the National Science Foundation; *Nation and Knowledge: Science and Technology in the Global Cold War*, a volume co-edited with John Krige. She is the co-founder the *Climate Accountability Institute* and is investigating the ethical and legal obligations of the individuals and groups who have attempted to discredit the scientific evidence of anthropogenic climate change.