

Lunch talk

Research under attack: the politicization of science funding

Dr. Christine Leuenberger

Department of Science & Technology Studies, Cornell University

Richard P. Nathan Public Policy Fellow, Rockefeller Institute of Government.

This talk examines how the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), which was long seen as essential for U.S. leadership and economic competitiveness, has become increasingly subject to political dictates under the Trump-Vance administration. The multi-pronged attacks happened across various institutional levels, putting under pressure long-established procedures, priorities, and values and draining the agency of expertise through Reduction of Force initiatives and forced resignations and retirements. Dr. Leuenberger will show how the NSF – an independent agency that traditionally had bipartisan support – has become subject to political interventions. At the same time, she highlights how program directors and staffers continue to support the scientific community and try to sustain the funding of impactful research.

Monday 11.05.2026

12:15-13:00

UniFR, PER-21, room A420

