Academic professionals have three tasks: teaching, research, and engaging the public in science learning and ideas. As the understanding of science increasingly requires thinking about complex interconnected systems and data-driven ideas (such as ocean science, genomics, ecosystems ecology and social, political and economic networks), there is a need to rethink how we communicate science outside the walls of academia. At the New York Hall of Science, we take this kind of engagement seriously. The speakers will talk about their career paths in the Third Task, and how they bring the worlds of science research and public engagement together.

Catherine Cramer is Senior Project Developer at the New York Hall of Science (NYSCI) in Queens, NY. She is a passionate science educator and outreach specialist with over 20 years experience in developing and managing collaborative projects, and mentoring and designing curriculum for students, teachers and the general public. Her particular areas of interest include network and big data literacy; Smart Cities; ocean literacy and resilience strategies; embodied cognition; design-based learning; digital humanities and computational thinking; and culture and computational processes.

Dr. Stephen Uzzo is a Chief Scientist for the New York Hall of Science. He does research and development of public programs and experiences on complex science and instructional development for pre-service teacher education. His background includes teaching and learning in STEM and television and computer graphics systems engineering. Dr. Uzzo’s research interests include network models for learning, collaboration in free-choice learning environments, and the teaching and learning of data driven science.

They are active members in the Network Science in Education community, contributing to Network Literacy: Essential Concepts and Core Ideas; the annual NetSciEd symposium; and several publications.

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