

## Sample Reflection for Ethics Credit for Adhoc Events

Session attended:

*Health Law Institute Seminar Series (1 hour credit):*

*Scientists as public intellectuals: New roles, responsibilities and risks in science-policy debates*  
*-Declan Fahy*

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The seminar mostly covered the emerging roles and challenges of scientists as public intellectuals. I hadn't thought before about the role of a "public intellectual" as someone who re-frames and reformulates public knowledge related to policy, specifically with respect to health policy. Drawing from the diverse examples of Susan Greenfield, Steven Pinker, and Arthur Caplan, the speaker talked about the balance such public intellectuals must face in maintaining scientific integrity through continued peer-reviewed publication, while also committing an increasing amount of time to populist explanation of science. It seems to me like there's a limited number of well-known names in science, and it is a challenge to become known as an approachable scientist while still maintaining a scientific reputation as well. Those that succeed in this manner are even more frequently referred to, which also raises the question of whether specialized scientists can or should speak about broader scientific areas. For example, if I got known as an immunology public expert, would it be appropriate for me to speak on genetic modification of organisms?