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**The Environmental History of NYC:
Pollution, Public Policy and Lessons for the 21st Century**

This seminar examines the sources and fate of pollution in NYC during the late 19th and 20th century and explores the factors that shaped observed patterns of pollution geochemistry in today's city. The talk will examine the central roles played by public policy and environmental governance and the evolution of technology in shaping the pollution of the emerging urban landscape and effect of recent environmental protection movement to reverse those impacts. NYC's environmental history provides insights into our current struggle to reverse the causes of climate change and to respond to the challenge of urban resilience and provides important lessons for environmental public policy and governance as we enter the second quarter of the 21st century.

About the Speaker: Daniel Walsh, Ph. D. is a geochemist and environmental historian who has worked in environmental governance in New York City for three decades. He has directed many state and city environmental protection programs like Superfund; landfill, hazardous waste and brownfield cleanup; and solid waste recycling. He directed New York State's environmental response to the World Trade Center disaster and NYC's environmental response to Hurricane Sandy. In his career he has cleaned up over 5,000 properties, possibly as many as anyone in U.S. history. Dr. Walsh is a fierce advocate for city-led governance of environmental quality and served for the last decade in City Hall at the nexus of politics and the environment. He has founded landmark environmental protection programs including the nation's first city-run land cleanup program, the world's first urban soil exchange and programs for social-environmental equity. He is an Adjunct Senior Research Scientist at Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory where he studies urban environmental history and pollution geochemistry, environmental public policy and the mechanics of environmental governance.