

Colloquium Notice

Michael Lubell

City College, CUNY

Navigating the Maze: How America Became the World's Science and Technology Giant

Science and the technologies it has spawned have been the principal drivers of the American economy since the end of World War II. Today, economists estimate that a whopping 85 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) growth traces its origin to science and technology. The size of the impact should not be a surprise, considering the ubiquity of modern technologies.

Innovation has brought us the consumer products we take for granted: smart phones and tablets, CD and DVD players, cars that are loaded with electronics and GPS navigating tools and that rarely break down, search engines like Google and Yahoo, the Internet and the Web, money-saving LED lights, microwave ovens and much more. Technology has also made our military stronger and kept our nation safer. It has made food more affordable and plentiful. It has provided medical diagnostic tools, such as MRIs, CT scanners and genomic tests; treatments for disease and illness, such as antibiotics, chemo-therapy, immunotherapy and radiation; minimally-invasive procedures, such as laparoscopy, coronary stent insertion and video-assisted thoracoscopy; and artificial joint and heart valve replacements.

None of those technological developments were birthed miraculously. They owe a significant part of their realization to public and private strategies and public and private investments. Collectively the strategies and investments form the kernel of science and technology policy. *Navigating the Maze* is a narrative covering more than 230 years of American science and technology history. It contains stories with many unexpected twists and turns, illustrating how we got to where we are today and how we can shape the world of tomorrow.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Michael Lubell is the Mark W. Zemansky Professor of Physics at the City College of the City University of New York (CCNY). He has spent much of his career carrying out research in high-energy, nuclear and atomic physics, as well as quantum optics and quantum chaos, and is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physical Society. He is well known in public policy circles for his ground-breaking work in Washington, DC, where he served as director of public affairs of the American Physical Society for more than two decades. He has published more than 300 articles and abstracts in scientific journals and books and has been a newspaper columnist and opinion contributor for many years. He has been active in local, state and national politics for half a century and has lectured widely in the United States and Europe. *Navigating the Maze* is his first full-length book.

Monday
February 10, 2020

Starts at **12:15 pm**
Science Building C201

Physics Department of Queens College, 6530 Kissena Blvd, Queens, NY 11367 <http://physics.qc.cuny.edu>