

SIG-MET Distinguished Speaker Series Launches with Lecture by Dr. Cassidy Sugimoto

The ASIS&T SIG-MET launched its Distinguished Speaker Series with an opening lecture by Dr. Cassidy Sugimoto, Tom and Marie Patton Professor and School Chair in the School of Public Policy at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Held online on Friday, December 5, 2025, the lecture, titled “How to Be a Scientific Superpower”, offered attendees an engaging and timely discussion on the conditions that shape scientific excellence and global influence in research.

Drawing on her metascience research, Dr. Sugimoto examined the systemic factors and policy frameworks that enable nations and institutions to emerge as leaders in science. She discussed how traditional understandings of scientific “superpower” status have largely been driven by indicators of investment and research production, while also calling attention to the importance of diffusion, epistemic influence, and broader patterns of global scientific exchange.

By connecting historical evidence with contemporary developments, Dr. Sugimoto highlighted the increasingly polycentric organization of global science and encouraged participants to think critically about how scientific leadership is measured and defined. She concluded by reflecting on how scientists, policymakers, and research administrators can take a more intentional role in shaping the global scientific agenda.

Dr. Sugimoto is widely recognized for her research on the formal and informal ways knowledge is produced, disseminated, consumed, and supported, with a particular emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her lecture provided valuable perspectives for members of the ASIS&T community and others interested in research evaluation, science policy, and global knowledge systems.

The event marked a strong opening for the SIG-MET Distinguished Speaker Series and underscored SIG-MET’s ongoing commitment to promoting critical dialogue on metrics, metascience, and the future of global scholarship.