

CGD SEMINAR



DATE: Tuesday, 17 October 2017

TIME: 11 a.m.

LOCATION: NCAR, 1850 Table Mesa Drive
Mesa Lab, Main Seminar Room

TITLE: Gordian Knots of Prevision:
The lessons of history

SPEAKER: James Fleming, Colby College

ABSTRACT:

Atmospheric researchers have long attempted to untie the Gordian Knot of meteorology—that intractable and intertwined tangle of observational imprecision, theoretical uncertainties, and non-linear influences—that, if unraveled, would provide perfect prevision of the weather for ten days, of seasonal conditions for next year, and of climatic conditions for a decade, a century, a millennium, or longer. This presentation, based on *Inventing Atmospheric Science* (M.I.T. Press, 2016), examines the work of three interconnected generations of scientists (Vilhelm Bjerknes, C.-G. Rossby, Harry Wexler) and the influence of three families of transformative technologies (radio, aerospace, nuclear) in the first six decades of the twentieth century, from the dawn of applied fluid dynamics to the emergence, by 1960, of the interdisciplinary atmospheric sciences and the new Gordian Knot of chaos.

Live webcast: <http://www.fin.ucar.edu/it/mms/ml-live.htm>

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