The History of Nuclear Costs and Learning Curves

Abstract: Jessica will go through the history of nuclear costs and learning curves to show that nuclear has not followed the trend of other energy technologies. Why does nuclear power appear less innovative than other sectors. From her research into other, highly innovative industries, Jessica will detail potential policies that could make nuclear more innovative (and reduce costs faster). Lastly, she will cover the important role of international collaboration in nuclear innovation and some of the barriers posed by export controls and strict security regimes.

Biography: Jessica Lovering is the director of the energy program at the Breakthrough Institute, a pioneering research institute changing how people think about energy and the environment. Her research explores how policies can jumpstart innovation to create the disruptive technologies needed to mitigate climate change and increase modern energy access. Jessica has a BA and MS in Astrophysics and an MS in Environmental Policy with a focus on energy issues. In her spare time, she is completing a PhD in Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University.