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Abstract for an Invited Paper  
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**Lets talk about religion, politics and physics**

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Scientists are trained to think carefully about theories and evidence, to imagine or carry out experiments to test hypotheses, and implicitly, to leave the complicated interactions between science and society for others to worry about. Of course, we know that reality is not as simple as this outline would make it seem. After happily working in a physics lab for twenty-five years before turning my attention to climate change, energy systems and sustainable development, it has been interesting to think through some of the issues surrounding scientific impartiality, social responsibility and effective communication. In this talk, some of these experiences will be shared, as well as some musings about possible implications for how we educate students in the future.