Science and Security in the Age of Bioterrorism
Challenges for Citizens and Scientists

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“Anthrax Gothic”
• Background-Rhetoric of Science
• Tensions
• Challenges
How to Make Sense of the World?

“A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR”

BIOTERRORISM!
• Rhetoric of science/ medicine; bioethics

• Concern for role of language (rhetoric) in shaping understanding

• How “science” circulates technical, public, and private spheres

• Role of rhetoric in shaping perceptions about threat of bioterrorism
• NIAID anthrax-related funding +3400%

• $1.7 billion in biodefense in 2005

• More than Manhattan project adjusted to 2003 dollars
Four Tensions

• deterrence and defense
• secrecy and disclosure
• awareness and alarm
• efficiency versus justice
Challenges

• Illuminated in case of UW and Boston Biosafety Laboratories
Challenges for Citizens and Scientists

• What is or what might be scientific citizenship?
• What is the character and form of public and expert participation in decisions regarding the interface between body politic and body physical?
• What assumptions about science, technology, society, and citizenship should inform participation?
• How to engage multiple overlapping and divergent publics?
• What role should the scientific community play in policing itself?