



December 10, 2022

Studio 611, 315 West 39th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY

[www.SkepticCampNYC.org](http://www.SkepticCampNYC.org)

SkepticCamp is an Open Conference on science and skepticism, where any of the attendees can also be presenters! It is based on the “BarCamp” event model that was once popular among technology communities. In the past, people have camped out overnight at those types of events. But, today, the “camp” suffix doesn’t really mean anything, anymore.

We have some rules and things to keep in mind, during the event:

- SkepticCamp lectures are not to be passively accepted. We encourage the asking of challenging questions! But, always please try to **argue the argument**, without insulting or disrespecting the people, themselves.
- Every speaker is required to endure at least 5 minutes of live Q&A, divided between those who arrived in person, and those attending on-line. Some presenters won’t even mind if you interject with a question in the middle of their presentation. *But, be respectful of those who choose to wait until the end for answers.*
- Behavior that is abusive to anyone, or disruptive of the event will get you ejected.
- Everything in front of a camera is going to be recorded, unless otherwise specified.
- No unauthorized videotaping or audio recording of your own, please.
- Everyone in the web conference will be muted while speakers will be speaking.
- Up to 100 people will be allowed into the web conference at once. We apologize to those who can’t get in.
- Always feel free to come and go into and out of the event, as you please. No one is forced to be here. Please do not be disruptive if you do decide to leave in the middle of a session.
- If you make a mess, you will be responsible for cleaning it up.
- ***The opinions of SkepticCamp presenters do not necessarily reflect those of its organizers.***
- Have fun! And we hope you learn something awesome!

Visit the Dashboard page, for any important status updates about the meeting:

<https://skepticampnyc.org/webcasthome.aspx>. If anything goes wrong, contact: [admin@skepticampnyc.org](mailto:admin@skepticampnyc.org)

If *you* would like to speak at SkepticCamp NYC, either next year, or to fill a gap this year, please read the Session Leader’s Guide on our web site: <http://skepticampnyc.org/SessionGuide.aspx>

### **Sponsorship**

**New York City Skeptics:** <http://www.nycskeptics.org>

New York City Skeptics is an all-volunteer, 501(c)3 nonprofit that promotes critical thinking and science education. Consider donating so that we can run fabulous, thought-provoking events!

### **Mitchell Scott Lampert**

Mitchell is just some guy, you know. But, he puts a lot of time and resources into this. So, we think he ought to be listed here, as well.

### **Organizers**

Lead Organizer: Mitchell Scott Lampert: [MitchLampert42@gmail.com](mailto:MitchLampert42@gmail.com)

Assistant Organizers and Volunteers: Craig Sachs, Benny Pollak, Russ Dobler, Jonathan Nelson

Other Consultants (from previous years): Michael Feldman and Reed Esau

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82601676307?pwd=MkllQUxtQXBjMTB1WEo0aHg0Q1ZxQT09>



share the apple of knowledge

# SkeptiCamp NYC 2022

## The Intended Schedule

This schedule, of course, is subject to change throughout the day.

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Pre-Con Meet-and-Greet!  
Schmooze with your fellow attendees, while we get things ready.

---

10:00 AM - 10:10 AM **Opening Ceremonies** and Other Obligatory Stuff

---

Category: Cryptids (Imaginary Animals)

10:10 AM - 10:40 AM JD Sword **D.C. - The Demon Cat of the U.S. Capitol**  
Imagine you're a night watchman, patrolling the echoing, empty corridors of the Capitol. You hear something. The meowing of a feral cat. But suddenly, the cat grows to the size of an elephant and pounces at you with a hellish roar! Scary, right? For over a century the myth that a demon cat prowls the halls of the United States Capitol building has fascinated tourists. Where did this myth start, how has it changed over time, and is there a logical explanation?

---

10:40 AM - 11:10 AM Russ Dobler **Mothman is My Boyfriend: The Rise of Cryptidcore**  
There's one thing most skeptics and believers can agree on -- cryptids are cool. But now they're also trendy?! Cute caricatures of the Jersey Devil, Nessie, Mothman and more have taken over online craft stores and spurred their own sudden subculture. How did this happen? What does it mean for skeptics and "real" cryptozoologists?

This is a startlingly big topic, but we'll start to scratch the surface here.

---

11:10 AM - 11:25 AM Short Break #1

---

Category: Humankind is Doomed

11:25 AM - 11:55 AM Craig Sachs **There Are No Accidents**  
Exploring the time-saving Bias by Swedish psychologist Ola Svenson and how it kills Americans as much as gun violence. NHTSA projects that an estimated 42,915 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes last year, a 10.5% increase from the 38,824 fatalities in 2020. How our own perception of space and time get us and others killed because of our liner bias and selective attention.

Talk and discussion is based on this blog <https://theness.com/neurologicablog/index.php/the-linear-bias/and-my-and-the-audiences-evidence>.

---

11:55 PM- 2:00 PM **Lunch Break**

---

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM Bill Chapman **Outreach to Conservatives on Global Warming**  
I have been reading everything I can get my hands on about climate science and zero-carbon energy since 2016. I have been specializing in outreach to conservatives on the issue, who have proved a tough nut to crack. The consensus of most on the left is the climate skeptics are just "paid shells" of the fossil fuel industry, and I outline why I don't think that's quite the case.

---

Category: Cryptos (Imaginary Wealth?)

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM Benny Pollak **"Investing?" in Crypto**  
Why the whole idea of investing in Crypto makes no sense.

---

Category: I Don't Care.... Whatever...

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Mitchell S. Lampert **William Shakespeare and Other Things You Probably Don't Care About: An Exploration of "True Neutrality"**  
We are told that a True Skeptic must approach each claim with a neutral stance, and then investigate which way the data actually goes. Sometimes this is hard to do; but with training, it can be done even for the most eye-rolling of silly claims. Sometimes, however, it can be quite easy! Barely an inconvenience! Especially when you don't actually care about the topic at hand. Let us discuss the ins and outs of how we tend to think about these sorts of things. (Though, my own crackpot ideas for how the mind works, will NOT be part of it.)

---

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM **Open Sessions** - Here, we open the floor to anyone else who wants to talk about anything involving science or critical thinking.

---

5:30 PM - 6:00 PM **Closing Ceremonies** and Cleaning Up After Ourselves

6:00 PM Until Whenever: After Party - Russ Dobler is picking a nearby place.

Note: The categories don't really mean anything, and aren't really very important.

