Dr. Roberta Balstad

Dr. Roberta Balstad is a Senior Research Scientist at Columbia University and a member of Columbia's Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED). Her work has long focused on the nexus between the social and environmental sciences at a global scale, and her current research focuses on agricultural decision making under extreme weather conditions on the Great Plains.

Dr. Balstad has published extensively on science policy, information technology in scientific research, remote sensing applications and policy, and the role of the social sciences in understanding global environmental change. She is the author of numerous articles and books, and currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Weather, Climate and Society*, a publication of the American Meteorological Society.

Dr. Balstad received the Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1974. She was a senior fellow at Oxford University in 1991-1992 and a Guest Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in 1994. Before joining Columbia University, Dr. Balstad was the Director of the Division of Social and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation, the founder and first Executive Director of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), and President/CEO of the Consortium for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN). There, she ensured socioeconomic data were produced at geospatial scales appropriate for integration with remote sensing data obtained in NASA's Earth Observing System program.

Dr. Balstad is a AAAS Fellow and a recipient of the NSF Meritorious Service Award. She has served on many Boards and Advisory Committees. She is currently Co-chair of the Board on Research Data and Information of the National Research Council and Chair of the US National Committee on Data and Information and a trustee of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). As a member of the National Research Council's Space Studies Board, she chaired a committee to study applications and commercialization of satellite remote sensing data.