The School of Business is now conducting a Faculty Luncheon Series. I will speak on November 21 on the topic below. A buffet lunch will be available starting at 11:45 a.m. in Duques 553. At 12:10 p.m., I shall begin my presentation. We will conclude at 1:00. The events are intended for faculty members in the School of Business, but other GW faculty members are welcome to attend.

**SECOND ORDER SCIENCE: THE EFFECT ON BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH**

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Presently there are several efforts to redefine science in more general terms. There are several underlying causes. First, a great deal of research and many experiments have been done, leading to a desire to combine and synthesize what we have learned. Second, the internet creates opportunities for cooperation both in integrating past results and in conducting future experiments. Third, there is increased interest in the role of the observer in the scientific process and in the effect of theories on the systems being studied, at least in the social sciences. This presentation will focus on the third factor.

In the social sciences it is clear that theories affect the phenomenon being studied. Indeed, we create theories in the hope that the theory will be accepted, acted upon, and the social system will function better. However, usually social science research is based on the assumption that the theory does not affect the phenomenon. The result is a gap between our assumptions about social systems and the way we do research. Closing this gap is leading to new methods for both research and practice.

Creating a second order science, which includes attention to how theories affect the phenomenon being studied, will make science more relevant for the study of business. The previous philosophy of science was created for describing physical systems. Systems in which participants actively try to influence others require an expanded philosophy of science. This expanded philosophy of science will alter the way that business, and social science, research is done.