We examine networks of those who span boundaries between scientists and end-users concerning climate change in the Great Lakes. The networks are defined by co-participation in “events” including small conferences, bi-weekly phone calls, and co-written documents. From these data we map the networks, showing the expansion of the network and integration of discernible clusters over time. We then relate location in the social structure to beliefs about climate change projections (concerning lake levels and freeze–thaw cycles) as well as to the roles played in the diffusion of knowledge about climate change. We address four research questions (preliminary findings in parentheses):

1) How is knowledge transformed as it diffuses through the social structure? (knowledge is localized and the language of climate change is not used when mediators interact with end users).

2) How does the transformation depend on the nature of the social structure through which it diffuses? (the social structure west of Lake Michigan relies more on technology and has fewer redundancies than that east of Lake Michigan; we will report on how this affects the diffusion of knowledge).

3) How do the roles different people play in the diffusion of knowledge relate to their location in the social structure? (some actors or more in a position to bridge than others, allowing them to play a greater role in the diffusion of knowledge).

4) How is location in the social structure related to beliefs about climate change outcomes (lake levels and freeze–thaw cycles)?

5) How are opportunities for interaction structured by institutional forces? (Institutions including on–line forums and NOAA and NSF funded projects are deliberately shaping the patterns of interaction)