The Materials Science and Engineering Department welcomes

Dr. Jingguang Chen
Thayer Lindsley Professor of Chemical Engineering,
Columbia University, New York, NY 10027, USA

Catalytic Conversion of Carbon Dioxide

Ocean acidification and climate change are expected to be two of the most difficult scientific challenges of the 21st century. Converting CO₂ into valuable chemicals and fuels is one of the most practical routes for reducing CO₂ emissions while fossil fuels continue to dominate the energy sector. The catalytic reduction of CO₂ by H₂ can lead to the formation of three types of products: CO through the reverse water-gas shift (RWGS) reaction [1], methanol via selective hydrogenation [2], and hydrocarbons through combination of CO₂ reduction with Fischer-Tropsch (FT) reactions. Our research approaches involve the combination of DFT calculations and surface science studies over single crystal surfaces, evaluations over supported catalysts, and in-situ characterization under reaction conditions. In the current talk we will present some of
our recent results in CO$_2$ conversion via both heterogeneous catalysis [3] and electrocatalysis [4]. We will also discuss the generation of CO$_2$-free H$_2$ [5,6], which is critical for net CO$_2$ reduction. We will conclude by discussing challenges and opportunities in this important research field [7].

References: