Sheril Kirshenbaum is director of[The Energy Poll](http://www.utenergypoll.com/) at The University of Texas at Austin. She works to enhance public understanding of science and energy issues and improve communication between scientists, policymakers and the public. She is also executive director of [ScienceDebate](http://sciencedebate.org/), a non-profit initiative working toward a presidential debate on science and technology policy.

Sheril co-authored [*Unscientific America: How Scientific Illiteracy Threatens Our Future*](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B002UXRZDU/ref=as_li_tf_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=kirshenbaum-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=B002UXRZDU) with Chris Mooney, chosen by *Library Journal* as one of the Best Sci-Tech Books of 2009 and named by President Obama's science advisor [John Holdren](https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/about/leadershipstaff/director) as a top recommended read. She is also the author of [*The Science of Kissing*](http://www.amazon.com/The-Science-Kissing-What-Telling/dp/0446559903/ref=tmm_hrd_title_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1423495055&sr=1-1), which explores one of humanity's fondest pastimes. In addition, she blogs at [*Scientific American*](http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/plugged-in/).

Sheril is a 2015 [Presidential Leadership Scholar](http://www.presidentialleadershipscholars.org/); an initiative launched by four presidential centers to foster growth in a diverse group of leaders. She has also been a [Marshall Memorial Fellow](http://www.gmfus.org/mmf), a legislative NOAA Sea Grant [Knauss Science Fellow](http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/knauss/) in the U.S. Senate and a Next Generation Fellow through the [Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law](https://www.strausscenter.org/).

Sheril's writing has appeared in publications such as *Bloomberg* and *CNN* frequently covering topics that bridge science and society from hydraulic fracturing to climate change. Her work has also been published in scientific journals including *Science* and *Nature* and she is featured in the anthology [*The Best American Science Writing 2010*](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0061852511/ref=as_li_tf_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=kirshenbaum-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0061852511).

Sheril speaks regularly around the country to audiences at universities, federal agencies, and museums. She has appeared in documentaries and been a guest on such programs as*CBS This Morning* and *The Today Show*. She has also served on the program committee for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and been a [TEDGlobal](http://conferences.ted.com/TEDGlobal2011/program/guide.php) and [TEDx](http://www.tedxcongressave.com/speakers) speaker.

Previously, Sheril was a research scientist with the [Webber Energy Group](http://www.webberenergygroup.com/) at UT Austin's [Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy](http://www.jsg.utexas.edu/cieep/). In addition, she was a research associate at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment with [The Pimm Group](http://thepimmgroup.org/) and has been a Fellow with the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History and a Howard Hughes Research Fellow.

Sheril holds graduate degrees in marine biology and policy. She has hosted blogs at [*Wired*](http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/convergence)and [*Discover*](http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/intersection/). She also regularly contributes to a variety of science websites such as [*NPR*](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=148138657&live=1) and [*Think Progress*](http://thinkprogress.org/romm/issue/).