Chile is a peculiar case of a modern state that at the turn of the 21st century does not invest in science nor cultivate scientific advice as a strategic ally of the state. Barandiarán explains this by focusing on a series of environmental conflicts in Chile after it transitioned from dictatorship to democracy, in which the state tried to act as a “neutral broker” rather than the protector of the common good. This shift is driven partly by a neoliberal ideology, which favors market mechanisms and private initiatives over state agency actions. Chile has not invested in environmental science labs, state agencies with in-house capacities, or an ancillary network of trusted scientific advisers—despite the environmental problems and increasing popular demand for more active environmental stewardship. Chile’s model has been that of an “umpire” state that purchases scientific advice from markets. The talk is illustrated with examples from four environmental crises that shook citizens’ trust in government: the near collapse of the farmed salmon industry when an epidemic killed millions of fish; pollution from a paper and pulp mill that affected thousands of black-neck swans; a gold mine that threatened three glaciers; and five controversial mega-dams in Patagonia. The presentation draws from her recent book with MIT Press, Science and Environment in Chile (2018).