

Dr. Terry Babcock-Lumish is the sixth—and first female—executive secretary of the Truman Foundation, the “living memorial” to our 33rd president and the national monument to public service. For fifteen years, she led Islay, providing strategic guidance for philanthropic foundations and other mission-driven organizations across six continents. Recent years’ academic affiliations include the University of Arizona, City University of New York, the University of Delaware’s Biden School, Harvard Law School, the University of Oxford, and the United States Military Academy at West Point, where she developed West Point’s first behavioral economics course and a civilian-military partnership with the Culinary Institute of America. Previously, she served as the founding director of public policy at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, dedicated to education, research, and civic engagement, in the historic New York City home of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. She has served in local, state, and federal government for both Democratic and Republican administrations, and as a researcher for two books by former Vice President Al Gore. From 1999 to 2001, she was a Presidential Management Fellow at the Treasury Department and in the Council of Economic Advisers. She completed her BS at Carnegie Mellon University, where she was named a Truman Scholar, and earned an MPA in environmental and technology policy as a Lilly Community Assistance Fellow at Indiana University’s O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She read her DPhil in economic geography at the University of Oxford as a Clarendon Scholar. Her research interests are at the intersection of science, technology, and society.