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Karen Akerlof is a research assistant at George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication. She is currently working on a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation evaluating messages framed around public health for their efficacy in engaging the public on climate change.

Karen has worked at 4C since its inception in Fall 2007, first while obtaining a master's degree in Environmental Science & Policy and currently as a doctoral student in Communication. She has co-written an article with 4C Director Edward Maibach on international climate change communication campaigns and co-authored a book chapter about energy efficiency attitudes and behaviors across the Six Americas audience segments. Her master's thesis analyzed media coverage of climate models within the context of post-normal science and decision-making.

Prior to 4C, she has worked in journalism and political communication, and holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan.