

Integrating the Human Sciences to Scale Societal Responses to Environmental Change: A Workshop

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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023 (ALL TIMES IN ET)

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Purpose

The workshop will consider how to integrate, align, and converge the broad mix of human sciences to produce new insights and inform efforts for improved community resilience. Earth System Science increasingly incorporates human systems in its analysis of climate change, but the human sciences have yet to align internally to address how best to enable a resilient civic body to be prepared to respond to environmental shifts, uncertainties, and damage.

10:00–10:15 Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

Led by Robyn Wilson, *Workshop Chair & Professor of Risk Analysis and Decision Science*, School of Environmental and Natural Resource, The Ohio State University and Thomas Thornton, BECS Board Director

10:15–10:35 Sponsors Welcome and Comments

Gary Belkin, *President*, Billion Minds Institute

Chris Frey, *ORD Assistant Administrator*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

10:35–11:00 Workshop Overview

Robyn Wilson, *Workshop Chair & Professor of Risk Analysis and Decision Science*, School of Environmental and Natural Resource, The Ohio State University

What are the human sciences?

How can we better map and synthesize this knowledge? *Address knowledge push from the human science perspective, and demand pull from the communities

What do we know about scaling societal responses to environmental change? *Address circularity – how does addressing current challenges better minimize future harms, how do we recover in ways that advances sustainable behaviors

What are the gaps in our understanding of how to empower community climate action?
What opportunities are there to strengthen social ties, increase well-being and advance justice?

11:00–12:30 Panel 1: Overview of Success: Bodies of Knowledge and Existing Toolkit

Moderated by: Susan Clayton, *Committee Member & Professor of Psychology*, The College of Wooster

Speaker 1:

What do we know is working to promote resilience from the community perspective?
Jessica Murphy, *Professor of Technology*, Department of Civil & Environmental and Industrial Systems & Technology, Jackson State University

Speaker 2:

What do we know is working to promote resilience from the human science perspective?

Stephen Linder, *Committee Member & Professor and Vice Chair*, Department of Management, Policy and Community, Center for Precision Environmental Research, University of Texas School of Public Health, Director, Institute for Health Policy, Co-Director, Community Engage. for the Gulf Coast

Potential Panel Discussion Questions:

- What has the role of partnerships (public and private) been in building capacity?
- What timeline and resources are needed to build successful community partnerships?
- What equitable solutions are working in community resilience and how do we sustain them?
- What best piece of advice would you give to inform community resilience?

12:30–1:00 BREAK

1:00–2:30 Panel 2: Overview of Challenges: Identified Gaps and Needs That Prevent Real and Sustained Change

Moderated by: Fernando Sanchez, *Committee Member & Assistant Professor*, Department of Native American Studies, Assistant Professor, Department of Enviro. Studies, Director, Elouise Cobell Land & Culture Institute, University of Montana

Speaker 1:

What do we need to understand about populations and places to prepare communities for future environmental changes?

Deborah Balk, *Professor*, Marxe School of Public Affairs, Baruch College & Director, CUNY Institute for Demographic Research, City University of New York

Speaker 2:

Direlle Calica, *Director*, Institute for Tribal Government, Portland State University

Speaker 3:

What can be done to augment the human sciences disciplines to better meet community needs?

Gabrielle Wong-Perodi, *Assistant Professor*, Stanford University

Potential Panel Discussion Questions:

- What is the best way to solve these challenges – does this involve changes in educational systems, public outreach, institutional structure, funding structures?
 - *What are challenges and needs in relation to infrastructure and housing (greening in health sector)?*
 - *What are challenges and needs in relation to governance?*
- How can we prioritize efforts in marginalized communities?
- How do we build and sustain a workforce to address climate change?
- What opportunities need to open to build capacity in the human sciences?
- How can social scientists contribute to or lead efforts around environmental change?
- What scales (i.e., local, state, federal) and actors (i.e., executive agencies, tribal and indigenous groups, non-governmental organizations) are needed to better analyze and respond to environmental change?
- What uncertainties (past and present) might impede forecasting change and achieving resilience?

2:30–4:00 Panel 3: Best Practices Across Domains of Need from the Human Sciences

Moderated by: Stephen Linder, *Committee Member & Professor and Vice Chair*, Department of Management, Policy and Community, Center for Precision Environmental Research, University of Texas School of Public Health, Director, Institute for Health Policy, Co-Director, Community Engage. for the Gulf Coast

Speaker 1: Data collection and access

Shannon Dosemagon, *Director*, Open Environmental Data Project; Shuttleworth Foundation Fellow

Speaker 2: Social movements

Lynny Brown, *Partner*, Healthy Environments at Willamette Partnership

Speaker 3: Behavior change

Steven C. Hayes, Foundation Professor, Behavior Analysis Program, Department of Psychology, University of Nevada

Speaker 4: Communication and sustainability

Ezra Markowitz, Associate Professor of Environmental Decision-Making, Department of Environmental Conservation, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Potential Panel Discussion Questions:

- What is the role of citizen science in these domains of need?

- What ethical bureaucratic challenges and opportunities do we face in community engagement work?
- How do we bridge from policy to practice? How can we integrate data from different scales?
- How do we leverage education to move the key lessons and best practices forward?
- Where do we go next? In each of the areas, is there anything we need to do differently to prepare the workforce to engage in this sort of work?
- How is the data being used?
- How can we mobilize/engage communities to collaborate toward climate/environmental action?

4:00 ADJOURN

END OF DAY 1

START OF DAY 2

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FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023 (ALL TIMES IN ET)

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

10:00–10:15 Highlights of First Day

Robyn Wilson, *Workshop Chair & Professor of Risk Analysis and Decision Science*,
School of Environmental and Natural Resource, The Ohio State University

10:15–11:30 Panel 4: *Case Studies: Achieving Climate Action through Community-Level Partnerships*

Moderated by: Linda Silka, *Committee Member & Senior Fellow and Professor Emerita*, Senator George J. Mitchell, Center for Sustainability Solutions, University of Maine

Speaker 1:

Examples of successful resilience building at the community level

Abby Reyes, *Director*, Community Resilience Projects at University of California, Irvine

Speaker 2:

What is the role of relationships in fostering community capacity and resilience?

Sara Constantino, *Assistant Professor*, Psychology Department & School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University

Speaker 3:

What are the important steps to ensure that the well-being of communities are front and center in climate policies?

Kristie Ebi, *Professor*, Center for Health and the Global Environment, University of Washington

Potential Panel Discussion Questions:

- What made this effort successful and how do you recreate the success in different communities?
- What policies protect health, equity, and justice within communities?
- What is needed to prime communities to receive and successfully implement these tools, practices, and methods successfully?
- What messaging is involved to encourage community involvement and how can we evaluate cooperation?

11:30–12:00 *BREAK*

12:00–1:00 **Panel 5: Case Studies: Strengthening Community Resilience through Environmental Justice**

Moderated by: Arianne Teherani, *Committee Member & Professor of Medicine*, Education Scientist Center for Faculty Educators, Founding Co-Director, Center for Climate Health and Equity, University of California, San Francisco

Speaker 1:

How do you see justice and the balancing of power as a cornerstone to advancing change around the climate crisis?

Alai Reyes Santos, *Committee Member & Professor of Practice*, School of Law, Associate Director, PNW Just Futures Institute for Racial and Climate Justice, University of Oregon

Speaker 2:

What useful tools exist to build these relationships among diverse stakeholder groups, sectors, and communities?

Jesse Keenan, *Favrot II Associate Professor of Sustainable Real Estate*, Tulane University

Potential Panel Discussion Questions:

- How do we build and sustain efforts around DEI in academia when the training is happening while it's being contested and challenged?
- How do we embed these efforts in our policies and protect them from external agents who might want to uproot these efforts? And who is included in this and what's needed to push this initiative?
- How do you see justice and the balancing of power as a cornerstone to advancing change around the climate crisis?
- What has been your experience been like facing resistance to EJ efforts?
- Who are we including and who can we empower?
- How can we best allocate resources to communities?

1:00–2:00 **Panel 6: Case Studies: Achieving More Durable Solutions Through New Collaborations**

Moderated by: Linda Silka, *Committee Member & Senior Fellow and Professor Emerita*, Senator George J. Mitchell, Center for Sustainability Solutions, University of Maine

Speaker 1:

Successful collaborations between anchor institutions and communities for resilience building (equitable knowledge and power sharing).

Shina Robinson, *Resilience Hubs Manager*, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Speaker 2:

What defines a mutually beneficial partnership and what are tactics to approach working with communities toward racial, economic, environmental, and climate justice?

Mark Lubell, *Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, and Director, Center for Environmental Policy and Behavior*, University of California, Davis

Potential Panel Discussion Questions:

- What key learnings can be shared from collaboration with anchor institutions?
- What does “partnership” mean to you, and what would you say to people and institutions in positions of power about how to approach working with communities towards racial, economic, environmental, and climate justice?
- What are the ways in which the different partners have different ways of defining a project as successful, and how can this be negotiated within the partnership?

2:00–2:15 **BREAK**

2:15–3:15 Panel 7: Moving forward to improved community resilience

Moderated by: Raj Pandya, *Workshop Planning Committee Member & Director*,
American Geophysical Union

Speaker1:

Themes from previous 3 panels

Raj Pandya, *Workshop Planning Committee Member & Director*,
American Geophysical Union

Speaker 2:

Durable Solutions to Advancing Environmental Justice and Improving Community Resilience

Lisa Arkin, *Executive Director*, Beyond Toxics

Speaker 3:

Tools and directions to best support efforts to advance transformative change.

Shahzeen Attari, *Associate Professor*, Indiana University Bloomington

Potential Panel Discussion Questions:

- How do we encourage people to look into future (forward thinking) and how far into future should we be looking?
- How to integrate work from different disciplines and sectors to create a new solution?
- What holistic approaches are most effective? —*address the feasibility of these approaches?*
- How to tackle challenges within the political environment or current administration/depolarization?
- How can we advance changes realistically?
- Which health equity mechanisms exists?
- How can the public be mobilized toward resilience?

3:15–4:00 Wrap-Up Discussion

Robyn Wilson, *Workshop Chair & Professor of Risk Analysis and Decision Science*,
School of Environmental and Natural Resource, The Ohio State University, and
Daniel Talmage, *Study Director*

4:00 MEETING ADJOURNS