Investing in Resilience: Challenges and Opportunities

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Abstract

Business, and the finance institutions that lend to, invest in, and insure them, are at the heart of many of the drivers and solutions to ecological degradation, resource depletion and social vulnerability. Resilience principles should be at the heart of practical steps to both alleviate these pressures and frame opportunities for more sustainable financing models and investment practices. So far, the majority of dialogue on resilience and investment has focused on a limited set of issues primarily relating to disaster risk resilience. However, there has been very little investigation into these issues within the academic discourses on resilience, and even less dialogue with this practitioner community than other communities (e.g. park rangers, water managers etc). At the same time, the business and investment community are scaling up efforts to transform accounting and valuation practices and strategic priorities in order to facilitate more sustainable investment.

This panel seeks to generate a conversation between resilience scientists and a range of practitioners from accounting, insurance and financing perspectives that interface with a contrasting range of resilience based challenges. The session aims to present novel perspectives from a range of practitioners involved in finance (i.e. insurance, accounting, investment) or financing ‘resilience’ based activities in order to provide insights into the challenges and opportunities for integrating resilience into the practical mechanics of enterprise risk and investment evaluation. Panelists will therefore give an overview of how their practical work/research intersects with resilience issues and science, the challenges in the operational application of these frameworks, the expected opportunities and benefits to doing so (focusing on the novel insights it provides) and how best to drive further progress. Interactions with academics and the audience will provide a unique opportunity for dialogue between the academic communities engaged in resilience research and a set of practitioners seeking to better account for resilience based challenges within business practice and investment. Panelists

Dr. David N. Bresch, Director Global Head Sustainability, Swiss Re (Skype)
Dan Dowling, Assistant Director, Sustainability and Climate Change, PwC
Linda Freiner, Flood Resilience Program Manager, Group Corporate Responsibility, Z’urich Insurance
John Fullerton, Founder & President, Capital Institute (Skype)
Prof. Sander van der Leeuw, Arizona State University

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∗Speaker