Collaborative Resilience in Practice III: Governance

Bruce Goldstein\textsuperscript{1}, Mike Jones*\textsuperscript{1,2}, Wyborn Carina*\textsuperscript{1,3}, and Aritree Samanta*\textsuperscript{4,4}

\textsuperscript{1}University of Colorado Boulder (USA) – United States
\textsuperscript{2}Swedish Biodiversity Center, Uppsala – Sweden
\textsuperscript{3}University of Montana (UM) – 32 Campus Drive Missoula Montana, 59801, United States
\textsuperscript{4}Cleveland State University (CSU) – 2121 Euclid Ave Department of Urban Studies Cleveland, Ohio, United States

Abstract

Resilience thinking demands new approaches to collaborative planning and design, whether in response to disasters or intractable conflicts or as part of a broader transition. This dialog session will engage leading collaborative theorists and practitioners in a discussion of novel design and facilitation techniques that promote resilience, both in terms of social-ecological regime and capacity for deliberation, mutual understanding, and collective action. As collaborative practitioners and scholars question techniques grounded in assumptions about optimization and equilibrium, we wrestle with the complexity and controversy that arises from our efforts to assist communities in bounding their social-ecological system and defining desirable alternatives. In addition to promoting resilience through collective understanding and agreement on a shared vision, we seek to identify approaches that enhance lasting adaptive and transformative capacity, including the ability to access different knowledge and perspectives and mobilize to achieve social and ecological change.

Our approaches resonate with broader resilience scholarship, which focuses on the interaction between bottom-up emergence and top-down institutional and ecological constraints. We are particularly attentive to the way that social-ecological systems are defined and alternatives selected – and the way that powerful interests may constrain these possibilities. For collaborative practitioners, resilience is a way of becoming rather than a pre-defined state, a sensemaking as well as scientific process. In these two linked sessions, we will go beyond identifying "best practices" in our field to promote our understanding of the implications of pursuing resilience as communicative action.

This is one of three linked sessions that examine collaborative approaches to capacity building and social learning as well as collaborative governance (this session). These papers consider how collaborative governance can address the lack of political will, technical and institutional capacity to address complex, multi-scalar challenges such as sea level rise in Florida, economic decline in Ohio, and forest-dependent communities in Oregon. These authors consider how system boundaries are chosen so that they are meaningful for fostering adaptation or transformation, and how collaborative institutions are structured to address the tension between the need for stakeholder representation in a complex and multi-scalar system and

*Speaker
*Corresponding author: mikejones.psa@gmail.com
†Corresponding author: carina.wyborn@umontana.edu
§Corresponding author: a.samanta@csuohio.edu
the limits of inclusion needed to maintain engagement, trust, and a common information base.

**Format of the Session:**

We will begin with short (approx. ten minute) presentations from each panelist describing innovative collaborative approaches that are situated in a real-world case, drawing from their research and practice in complementary fields such as soft systems methodology, scenario planning, and communities of practice.

Next, the session chair will facilitate a 20 minute dialogue between the presenters and panelists from the other linked session that will focus on issues such as how different dialogic approaches can help communities identify conditions and preferences, as well as the broader implications of collaboration for the relationships between experts and community.

The final ten minutes will be devoted to facilitated questions and comments from the audience.

**Session Chair: Bruce Goldstein, University of Colorado Boulder**

**Keywords:** Collaboration, Governance, Stakeholders, Facilitation, Collaborative