

Session 4: Regional Resilience: Normative Frames and Narratives

Deborah Brosnan

Cascading Events and Consequences: Why we need a Normative Framework for Ecological Resilience

Abstract:

Ecological resilience is typically viewed from two different perspectives: 1. Resilience of ecological systems and natural resources and their ability to rebound from extreme events without any concern for human dimensions. For instance, coral reef and mangroves are often damaged by hurricanes but they typically rebound from them. 2. The second perspective is ecological resilience as it relates to human resilience. The interplay between humans and their ecosystems/natural resources during and after extreme events can determine the resilience of each. Humans are affected extreme events through their relationship with natural resources e.g. fisheries or agriculture. Human investments in conservation and sustaining ecosystems and e.g. in endangered species are today often risky in the face of current and future hazards. Using examples from our work in tsunami (real events and scenario planning); Colorado floods, and other extreme events, the paper focuses on why we need a normative framework for ecological resilience and the consequence its absence in planning for coupled nature and human resilience. The presentation discusses the role of science in resilience building.



