

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

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ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE



Department of Environmental
Science and Policy

Student Seminar Series

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Practitioner perspectives on
accommodation and retreat in
response to climate change in
the Netherlands

Carolien Kraan



Trans-sector livelihood
resilience in an urban small-
scale fishing community

Eddie Wintergalen



Practitioner perspectives on accommodation and retreat in response to climate change in the Netherlands

Carolien Kraan

Abstract:

The Netherlands considers itself the safest delta in the world due to its excellent flood risk management system. However, unless extremely ambitious reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions are implemented, the country will face significant climate change impacts over the coming centuries that will impact its water management system. Multiple scenarios have been presented for future adaptation options for the country as a whole. This study explores perspectives on accommodation and retreat as climate change adaptation options under increasing climate change in the Netherlands. We use an expert elicitation process, in which closed-form quantitative judgments are enriched through open-ended follow-up questions. In-depth, semi-structured interviews with ~40 experts explore how accommodation and retreat can play a societally beneficial role in climate change adaptation. Experts have a variety of backgrounds, including academia, government, NGOs, and the private sector. This presentation will give an overview of the experts' range of perspectives on accommodation and managed retreat, including how likely they consider accommodation and retreat measures to be implemented, what forms they may take, barriers and opportunities to such adaptation measures, and how these could be overcome or harnessed to ease implementation.

About Carolien:

Carolien Kraan is a PhD candidate at the Rosenstiel School department of Environmental Science and Policy. Her dissertation research aims to support climate change adaptation that is sensitive to a wide range of societal goals, including equity and environmental justice. She is particularly interested in the idea of making more space for the water through strategic, managed retreat.





Trans-sector livelihood resilience in an urban small-scale fishing community

Eddie Wintergalen

Abstract

Many coastal small-scale fishing (SSF) communities globally are experiencing urbanization due to development and migration patterns. Scholars have begun to document how processes related to these urbanization patterns present SSF communities with a new series of stresses. However, it is still poorly understood how SSF communities perceive and pursue livelihood resilience, or the capacity of a livelihood to withstand shocks and stresses, while adapting to these changing conditions. To shed light on this question, we conduct ethnographic research among the members of an increasingly urban fishing cooperative in Cancun, Mexico. We find that these fishers have pursued resilience by adopting a trans-sector perspective of their livelihoods that views fishing as a lucrative, but fleeting opportunity. Whether these fishers ultimately prove resilient to the stresses of urbanization depends, in part, upon their ability to navigate the evolving set of incentives that push and pull them away from the fishing sector. These insights challenge previous paradigms of livelihood resilience that stem from empirical work in rural contexts and tie resilience inextricably to sustained production within agricultural, pastoral, or SSF systems. Furthermore, these findings suggest that, among all conceptions of resilience in the literature, livelihood resilience is particularly relevant in urban SSF settings given its flexibility to consider paths toward resilience that reach outside the traditionally defined socio-ecological system. If these findings are confirmed on a broader scale, policymakers who wish to bolster livelihood resilience within similar communities should work to align their support programs with this trans-sector perspective.

About Eddie:

Eddie is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in the Rosenstiel School's Environmental Science and Policy Program. Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, Eddie received his Bachelor of Arts from Washington University in St. Louis in environmental earth science and anthropology in 2019. Eddie's research at UM has focused on understanding how urbanization impacts the livelihood resilience of Mexico's small-scale fishing communities. He is currently investigating this topic in Cancun, Mexico via one year of ethnographic research.

