



**PEOPLE
ON THE
MOVE IN A
CHANGING
CLIMATE**

RECEIVING COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25, 2024

**Meeting Room: Siuslaw Willamette
Courtyard Marriott**

400 SW 1st St., Corvallis, OR 97333



WORKSHOP GOALS:

1. Discuss the impact of extreme weather and other climate change impacts on the movement of people.
2. Using national/international case studies, discuss who is moving and why, where, what worked and what did not work.
3. Drawing from multiple disciplines, spotlight strategies to identify, catalog, and share community needs for mitigating displacement and for preparing communities to receive an influx of people.
4. Identify and highlight equity concerns/considerations related to receiving communities as well as strategies/resources/etc. for advancing equity in climate relocation work.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

1 – 1:30 p.m.

WELCOME KEYNOTE

Jainey Bavishi, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Deputy Director of NOAA

Moderator: Katrina Lewandowski, National Sea Grant Office

1:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Overview and Introductions

1:45 – 3 p.m.

Panel I – Stories from Communities – I

Kali Abel, University of Portland

Jennifer Beltz, Portland Resident

Ryan Hartnett, San Francisco State University

Moderator: Jessi Kershner, Oregon Sea Grant

3 – 3:30 p.m.

Networking Break

3:30 – 5 p.m.

Panel II – Practitioner/Planner Perspectives – I

Mindy Granley, City of Duluth

Kelly Main, Buy-In Community Planning

Daniel McKenna-Foster, City of Anchorage

Bart Roberts, University of Buffalo

Moderator: Sydney Fishman, Washington Sea Grant

6 – 7 p.m.

RECEPTION

Location: Vue Corvallis, 6th Floor, 517 SW 2nd Street

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

7 - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 - 10 a.m.

Panel III - Stories from Communities - II

Melissa Daigle, Louisiana Sea Grant
Bruce Haden, FLUID Architecture
Pamela Pettyjohn, Coney Island Beautification Project

Moderator: Davin Holen, Alaska Sea Grant

10 - 10:30 a.m. Networking Break

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Breakout Session I

11:30 - Noon Report Out and Group Discussion

Noon - 1 p.m. Lunch

1 - 2:30 p.m.

Panel IV - Practitioner/Planner Perspectives - II

Brandi Ferguson, McKenzie Valley Land Trust
Devin Thompson, McKenzie Valley Long-term Recovery Group
Lara Whitley-Binder, King County

Moderator: Kayla Walsh, New York Sea Grant

2:30 - 3 p.m. Networking Break

3 - 4:30 p.m. Breakout Session II

4:30 - 5 p.m. Report Out and Group Discussion

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

7 - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast

9 - 10 a.m. Breakout Session III

10 - 10:30 a.m.

Networking Break

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Panel V - Co-creating a Research and Policy Agenda

Kearney Coupland, St. Lawrence University

Anna Marandi, HDR

Lauren Grant, Earth Refuge

David Wrathall, Oregon State University

Moderator: Kathy Bunting-Howarth, New York Sea Grant

11:45 - Noon

Wrap-up and Call to Action

Monday, September 23

WELCOME KEYNOTE

Jainey K. Bavishi, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy Administrator

Jainey K. Bavishi is the assistant secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and deputy NOAA administrator. In this role Bavishi is responsible for providing agency-wide direction with regard to climate resilience, fisheries, coastal and ocean programs, including efforts related to NOAA's implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. A distinguished expert in the field of climate adaptation and resilience, Bavishi most recently served in the New York City Mayor's Office as director of the Office of Climate Resiliency where she oversaw the implementation of climate resilience strategies for the nation's largest city. Prior to that, she was the associate director for climate preparedness at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. She also held posts as the director of external affairs and senior policy advisor at NOAA from 2010 to 2013. Bavishi also led a nonprofit initiative that built partnerships to scale innovative approaches to disaster risk reduction in the Asia Pacific region. Prior to that she was the head of a philanthropic initiative to build a coalition of community-based leaders focused on an equitable recovery from hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike in the Gulf Coast region. Bavishi earned a bachelor's in public policy and cultural anthropology from Duke University, and a master's in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



PANEL I – STORIES FROM COMMUNITIES - I

Kali Abel, University of Portland



Kali Abel is political ecologist and geographer who has been at University of Portland since 2017. Trained initially in the physical sciences, her current research emphasizes the ways in which social and physical sciences can shed light on previously invisible elements of both climate impacts and potential responses in complex human-environment relationships. Her work focuses on informal adaptation to climate change, outcomes of migration as an adaptive response, invisibility within social-ecological systems, as well as multi-hazard environmental change. She focuses predominantly on Global South communities and is currently working in Colombia with additional projects in the Pacific Northwest. A primary emphasis of Kali's work is the use of narratives and storytelling to bring to light the often opaque features of a social-ecological system that produce livelihood outcomes and allow the issues, themes and relationships that are most relevant to a community to come to the surface. Kali completed a bachelor's degree in environmental science at Colby College, a master's degree in geological sciences at University of Colorado, and a Ph.D. in geography at Oregon State University. In between academic endeavors, Kali has worked as a mountaineering guide, environmental consultant, pseudo-professional runner, and a science museum's designated boa constrictor feeder.

Jennifer Beltz, Portland Resident



Jennifer Beltz spent her career in the educational field as an interpretive ranger for the National Park Service and as an educator, guide and administrator for the Road Scholar program at Northern Arizona University (NAU). In her capacity with NAU she led and taught both adults and grandparent/grandchild groups throughout the Southwestern US, exposing them to the nature, culture, geology, geography and natural history of the region. She holds a B.S. in recreation resources administration from North Carolina State University and a M.S. in geography from NAU. While working at Grand Canyon National Park she lived at Phantom Ranch, at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Jennifer has also served as a naturalist on small ship cruises in Alaska's Inside Passage; the San Juan Islands; Columbia River Gorge; Baja, Mexico; the Caribbean; Venezuela's Orinoco River and as a naturalist for the Smithsonian Institution on river trips in the Grand Canyon. She completed her master's research on ecotourism in Brazil, studying the interplay of tourists, park guides and park administration in the management of Parque Nacional Chapada dos Veadeiros in the state of Goiás. Jennifer and her partner moved to Portland, Oregon from Flagstaff, Arizona in 2022, following their retirement from NAU.

Ryan Hartnett, San Francisco State University



Ryan Hartnett grew up in Northern California on the Sonoma Coast in the redwoods and in Santa Rosa, giving him a unique insight into country living and what it's like to live in a growing city. From 2017 to 2021, he worked as a research technician focused on ecology, carbon sequestration, ocean acidification and coastal oceanography. He piloted boats to do water sampling, installed a buoy, and maintained multiple pier locations to publish free, water quality data available 24/7. In 2017, Hartnett and his father lost their home to the Tubbs fire which devastated much of Santa Rosa's Coffey Park and surrounding area. Now, he works as a mechanical engineer and obtained his master's in a rehabilitation robotics laboratory. He is trying to bring devices to the home to increase access to care. He also works as an equipment engineering intern at a local company. Hartnett enjoys building and repairing computers and enjoying his garden in his off time.

PANEL II – PRACTITIONER/PLANNER PERSPECTIVES - I

Mindy Granley, *City of Duluth*



As Sustainability Officer at the City of Duluth, Mindy Granley is responsible for improvement of City policies, programs, and initiatives in support of local environmental, economic, and social systems. In her role, she incorporates sustainability into decision making, measures and communicates progress, and builds partnerships for change. During her first two years at the City of Duluth, Mindy led creation of the City's first Climate Action Work Plan, pushed for adoption of new performance standards for City-owned buildings, established an interdepartmental Sustainability Advisory Team, and led multiple successful grant funded projects with City and community partners. Previously, Mindy served for 12 years as Sustainability Director at the University of Minnesota Duluth, reducing campus emissions and integrating sustainability into the learning experience for all students. Prior to her sustainability career, she spent six years helping to protect northern Minnesota trout streams and Lake Superior that she loves. She holds a bachelor's in geology, a master's in water resources, and is a Certified Energy Manager. She was named a Women in Energy by the Minnesota Clean Energy Resources Team, she helped the City of Duluth receive a Sustainable City Award from the League of Minnesota Cities in 2022, and in 2023 Mindy received a Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership Award.

Kelly Main, *Buy-In Community Planning*



Kelly Leilani Main is the Executive Director and founder of Buy-In Community Planning, a national 501c3 organization providing equitable and accessible voluntary relocation services for communities on the frontlines of irreversible climate impacts. Buy-in was formed in 2020 with the goal of improving federal buyout programs and has since grown to serve communities across the country through its Community Partners Program (CPP). The CPP program currently partners with frontline climate and environmental justice community-based organizations to design and implement grassroots approaches to voluntary relocation programs. Buy-in also provides direct technical assistance to low capacity governments seeking federal grant money and consulting services to cities and states seeking to improve buyout programs. Before founding Buy-In, Kelly worked as a planner, designer, and geospatial analyst at the intersection of climate adaptation planning and rights-driven relocation policy in contexts diverse as the Philippines, Turkey, Ghana, Uganda, Peru, Nepal, Lebanon, Palestine, and the US. Kelly has a master's in city planning from the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning and is currently a Ph.D. student of landscape architecture and environmental planning at UC Berkeley, where her research focuses on the impacts of colonialism on wetland ecosystems and paths forward for environmental reparations.

Daniel McKenna-Foster, *City of Anchorage*



Daniel McKenna-Foster is a Long-Range Planner with the Municipality of Anchorage. He has also worked as the Affordable Housing Planner for the City of Corvallis, and as a Federal Planner for AECOM in Arlington, Virginia. Before getting into urban planning, he spent six years in central Asia doing peace corps, working for an international NGO, and opening a coffee shop. He has a master's degree in city & regional planning for Cornell University and an undergrad degree in art history from Williams College.

Bart Roberts, University of Buffalo



Bart is the interim director at the University at Buffalo Regional Institute (UBRI), a research center of UB's School of Architecture and Planning. In this role, Bart leads a team working to build local capacity and inform regional decision-making related to placemaking, workforce development, innovation, and sustainability. Throughout Bart's tenure at UBRI, he has led various large scale planning projects, including: Imagine LaSalle, the community engagement process guiding the transformation of Buffalo's former LaSalle Park into the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park; One Region Forward, a regional planning effort to build tools and strategies for advancing sustainable development across Erie and Niagara counties; planning and community engagement support for Rain Check—Buffalo Sewer Authority's green infrastructure program; and developing indicators and baseline research for the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable's foundational study *The Racial Equity Dividend: Buffalo's Great Opportunity*. Prior to joining UBRI in 2009, Bart served as the lead analyst for the management accountability program CitiStat Buffalo, where he oversaw the development and analysis of performance metrics for services delivered by the City of Buffalo. Bart holds a bachelor's degree in urban studies from Vassar College, and a master's in urban planning from the University at Buffalo.

Tuesday, September 24

PANEL III - STORIES FROM COMMUNITIES – II

Melissa Daigle, *Louisiana Sea Grant*



Melissa Daigle is a research attorney for the Louisiana Sea Grant Law & Policy Program. Melissa received her B.A. in English from Nicholls State University in 2003, her M.A. in English from Louisiana State University in 2005, and her J.D. and B.C.L. from the Paul M. Hebert Law School at Louisiana State University in 2008. She conducts research and outreach activities with local coastal communities in the areas of resiliency, hazard mitigation, sea level rise, flood insurance, and climate change. She is a member of several state commissions, including the Louisiana Water Resources Commission and the Louisiana Crab Task Force. In addition to her own research in coastal law and fisheries, she oversees training of and research by up to six legal research assistants (law students) each semester. She has been with Louisiana Sea Grant for almost 16 years.

Bruce Haden, *FLUID Architecture*



Bruce Haden is the leader of FLUID Architecture in Vancouver, Canada. He is a leader in the field of evidence-based design to support social interaction and community health. In service of this work, he has led the creation of FLUID Sociability (FLUID Sociability Introduction). This software tool uses AI and Agent Based Modeling to help architects and owners understand the effect of design on social interaction. Bruce has also been recently working on understanding the connection between social connection and resilience. This work is summarized in a report “Designing Buildings for Human over Hazards” written with Sadhu Johnston, former City Manager at the City of Vancouver, for the Summit Foundation, that will be released in September 2024. Prior to founding FLUID Architecture, Bruce led multiple high-profile projects as a partner at Human Studio and Dialog (formerly Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden). He also co-authored “Urban Magnets: How Activity Subcultures can be a Catalyst for Rejuvenating Cities.” Bruce is an active member of the Canadian design community. He is a founding board member of the Urbanarium, has twice chaired the City of Vancouver Urban Design Panel. He was the Jury Chair for the international design competition for Block 2 on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

Pamela Pettyjohn, *Coney Island Beautification Project*



Pamela Pettyjohn is the Founder and President of the Coney Island Beautification Project, Inc. When her Coney Island home and a large part of her community was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Pamela came to the realization that despite her losses, she had to give back to the many thousands in need. Founded in 2014, the Coney Island Beautification Project was formed in response to Hurricane Sandy to foster community involvement, resilience, and education to enhance the local environment. The organization focuses on neighborhood greening, developing and enhancing parks, street tree beds, waterfronts and other green spaces for public use. Pamela also serves on the board of the Waterfront Alliance, an organization that works to inspire and effect resilient, revitalized, and accessible coastlines for all communities. And finally, Pamela serves in a leadership role on several coalitions, including Rise to Resilience, the Forests For All NYC Coalition, Northeast Regional Council Member of the National Parks Conservation Association, Sea Grant New York and several others.

PANEL IV - PRACTITIONER/PLANNER PERSPECTIVES – II

Brandi Ferguson, McKenzie Valley Land Trust



Brandi Crawford Ferguson is the Executive Director of McKenzie Valley Land Trust, a nonprofit, community-based organization designed to ensure community stewardship of land. This Land Trust primarily works to ensure long-term housing affordability after displacement from wildfires. Brandi is a third-generation McKenzie resident, growing up on the lower river. Coming from a logging family, her grandparents moved to Blue River in 1946. Brandi worked in land conservation for the McKenzie River Trust for 14 years. Prior, her work took her across the nation working closely with Chambers of Commerce and economic development corporations in mid-sized communities, helping to support tourism and economic development. Since the Holiday Farm Fire of 2020, Brandi has worked and volunteered alongside fire-affected community members and watershed partners to help replant and rebuild a resilient watershed and thriving community. In her free time, Brandi enjoys exploring her home watershed, backpacking, photojournalism, kayaking and is learning to row her driftboat, so her husband can flyfish!

Devin Thompson, McKenzie Valley Long-term Recovery Group



Devin Thompson is the Executive Director of McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group of Lane County, which aims to recognize needs, find resources, and help individuals and families recover from disaster. The mission of the Group is to help wildfire survivors rebuild and thrive. Devin's family has lived along the lower McKenzie since the 1930s, and he grew up fishing and exploring the upper river. Devin worked in local wood products industry management for over 30 years in both wood product certifications and research and development. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard on both the east and west coast as a coxswain operating a 44-foot motor lifeboat and as a small arms officer. Devin served on the board of the Northwest Youth Corps for five years, is a committed volunteer for other local nonprofits and enjoys fly fishing.

Lara Whitley-Binder, King County



Lara Whitley-Binder is the Climate Preparedness Program Manager for King County in Washington. In this role, Lara is responsible for working with King County agencies to prepare for the impacts of climate change and strengthening regional partnerships to address shared challenges and opportunities around climate preparedness. Prior to joining King County in 2017, Lara served as Senior Strategist for the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, the region's leading resource for research on climate impacts and adaptation practice in the Pacific Northwest. Lara has worked extensively with federal, state, local, and tribal agencies in the Northwest to address the impacts of climate variability and change. This includes facilitating vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning processes, providing technical guidance on integrating climate change into decision making, communicating information on climate impacts and risks, and conducting research designed to support preparing for climate change. Lara holds a master's degree in public policy from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington.

Wednesday, September 25

PANEL V - CO-CREATING A RESEARCH AND POLICY AGENDA

Kearney Coupland, *St. Lawrence University*



Kearney completed her Ph.D. in the Geography and Environmental Studies Department at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her research interests are informed by her training as a landscape architect and explore how people experience and adapt to changing environments in response to conflict and climate change. She studies the social dimensions of climate mobility, including displacement and relocation, to slow- and sudden-onset events in the Caribbean and the Arctic.

Anna Marandi, *HDR*



Anna Marandi is a strategic climate and community resilience expert who embarked on this chapter of her life after an earlier career in film and television where she worked on productions such as *Orange is the New Black*, *Madam Secretary*, and on live sporting events as well as documentary style programming for HBO. Since then, she has supported organizations and practitioners at all scales of government (local, regional, state, federal) through her work at the Institute for Sustainable Communities, National League of Cities, and the Pew Charitable Trusts. Anna received a master's in environmental policy at The New School in New York City and a bachelor's in comparative literature from Boston University. Anna has lived in Canada, France, and Colombia, and speaks fluent French, Spanish, and some Farsi.

Lauren Grant, *Earth Refuge*



Lauren Grant holds an MA in Human Rights from the Legal Studies Department of Central European University and an International Human Rights Defender Certificate from the Foundations of Human Rights Protection in Constitutional and International Law postgraduate specialization program. She is a graduate of the Zoryan Institute's Genocide and Human Rights University Program, and is currently pursuing an MSc in Violence, Conflict and Development at SOAS University of London. At Earth Refuge and beyond, Lauren's research and advocacy spans the fields of climate-induced displacement, women's, Indigenous and minority rights, violence, conflict, genocide and development. In 2022, she founded the world's first International School on Climate Mobilities, a five-week long summer school co-hosted by Earth Refuge and the SOAS Department of Development Studies.

David Wrathall, Oregon State University



David Wrathall is an Associate Professor of Natural Hazards at Oregon State University's College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, and a Lead Author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change AR6 on Chapter 8: Poverty, Livelihoods and Sustainable Development. He also coordinated the group of IPCC authors contributing to the cross-chapter treatment of migration, displacement and mobility for the Sixth Assessment. David studies the ways that climate change impacts are threatening people's livelihoods and rendering parts of the planet uninhabitable, and thus driving new patterns of human migration.

He has examined human migration in response to various climate change hazards, including sea level rise, tropical weather extremes, glacier recession, drought and ocean acidification. David also studies other wicked environmental problems, including the environmental consequences of narco-trafficking in Central America, and the relationship between climate change, violent conflict and human displacement. David teaches courses on Climate Justice, and thinks a lot in his personal life about the scope of transformation that is necessary to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference on our planetary home.

WORKSHOP PLANNING TEAM

Mona Behl, Georgia Sea Grant



Mona Behl's career is dedicated to making science and policy more inclusive and effective. Her work focuses on building climate adaptation, broadening participation in geosciences, and STEM workforce readiness. She serves as associate director of Georgia Sea Grant, providing administrative and financial leadership to Marine Extension Georgia Sea Grant by directing the unit's research and fellowship portfolios, building partnerships, and ensuring the quality, relevance, and impact of the unit's activities in Georgia. Behl also holds public service and academic appointments at UGA, and is a Non-Residential Fellow with the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Policy Program.

Kathy Bunting-Howarth, New York Sea Grant



Katherine (Kathy) Bunting-Howarth is Associate Director of New York Sea Grant and Assistant Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Her expertise is in coastal management and policy, community engagement, and using social science to inform extension programming. She serves on multiple boards and committees including the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS), Executive Council of the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay, New York Water Resource Institute, Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council, Cornell Biological Field Station and the Chesapeake Bay Program Science and Technical Advisory Committee. She enjoys working with diverse groups of people to address wicked problems—from changing lake ecosystems to estuarine eutrophication to equitable climate adaptation. Most recently, she has led two regional workshops on climate-induced human migration and completed a pilot study on the social impacts of nuisance flooding in New York City neighborhoods. The former Director of Water Resources for the state of Delaware, Kathy served in leadership roles for two National Estuary Programs as well as the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Delaware River Basin Program. Kathy holds a Ph.D. in marine studies (concentration in marine policy) (University of Delaware, 2001) and a JD with a certificate in Environment and Natural Resource Law (University of Oregon, 1995).

Debra M. Butler, American Society of Adaptation Professionals



Debra M. Butler is the Executive Director of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP). She also serves as a member of the working committee on Managed Retreat in the Gulf Coast Region by the National Academies of Sciences. Prior to this work, she was a Mellon Foundation fellow for Native and Indigenous Studies at the Five College Consortium in Amherst, MA. She collaborates with Tribal and place-based communities in building equitable climate futures through restoration and stewardship of local ecologies and sacred sites, intergenerational storytelling and advocacy. Debra's praxis and research focuses on climate mitigation, migration and resettlement, particularly on the northern U.S. Gulf coast. She has received fellowships from the National Academies of Science Gulf Research Program, National Science Foundation and the Harte Research Institute, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Rachel Darling, University of Southern California Sea Grant



Rachel Darling is a Science, Research, and Policy Specialist with USC Sea Grant. Her work focuses on connecting applicable science to decision-making for coastal resilience. Rachel received a bachelor's in marine biology with a minor in climate change studies from UC San Diego, as well as a master's in marine biology, also from UC San Diego. Throughout her education and professional career, Rachel has contributed to interdisciplinary projects spanning the topics of climate change, marine and freshwater biology, and public health. These projects have emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary thinking and skills in addressing contemporary environmental and community challenges. Rachel brings her passion for interdisciplinary solutions and rigorous science to her role at USC Sea Grant.

Sydney Fishman, Washington Sea Grant



Sydney Fishman is the Coastal Management Specialist at Washington Sea Grant, where she helps shoreline and coastal decision-makers find solutions to their complex management issues. Her work spans the broad areas of shoreline management, shoreline stabilization, and coastal climate resilience. She fosters a shoreline management community of practice in western Washington; supports the development of regional incentives for shoreline landowners to reduce hard shoreline armor; and supports local and state planning for climate change and sea level rise. She holds a master's in environmental management degree from Duke University.

Davin Holen, Alaska Sea Grant



Davin Holen is a coastal community resilience specialist for the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program and a researcher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Davin facilitates workshops and other activities by building trusted collaborations to provide data and decision support tools to Alaskans to adapt to climate and environmental changes and build resilience and better community well-being. Before joining Alaska Sea Grant, Davin spent 15 years at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, conducting social science research and managing the subsistence program in Southern Alaska. His research examines societal and economic factors intertwined with climatic and environmental changes influencing subsistence economies that are important for culture in Alaskan communities. Davin developed the website Adapt Alaska, which is hosted by Alaska Sea Grant. Davin is a lifelong Alaskan growing up in Anchorage and the Susitna Valley and continues to split his time between his home in Anchorage and cabin in Talkeetna.

Sean Kelly Alaska Sea Grant



Sean Kelly is a Climate Adaptation Specialist for the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His work lies at the intersection of climate, energy, and food systems. Sean works with coastal communities in Alaska to foster resilience in anticipation of social, economic, and environmental change. His projects support rural energy workforce development, access to location-specific data for decision making, and community- and regional-level climate adaptation planning. Sean holds a master's in energy and resources from the University of California Berkeley.

Jessi Kershner, Oregon Sea Grant



Jessi is the Associate Director for Extension & Engagement at Oregon Sea Grant. In this role, she provides leadership for Sea Grant's Extension and community engagement program, which includes work in aquaculture, coastal hazards, commercial fisheries, tourism, invasive species, human dimensions, marine renewable energy, and water resources, among other topics. Jessi has more than 15 years of experience working at the intersection of science and policy to improve the conservation and management of natural resources, with a specific focus on climate adaptation and mitigation. Jessi earned a master's degree in marine science and policy from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree in biology from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Katrina Lewandowski, National Sea Grant College Program



Katrina is a 2024 John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellow working as a Coastal Resilience Specialist in the National Sea Grant Office. Her work includes coordinating working groups and communicating on topics such as climate driven human mobility and water resources. Katrina is also a Ph.D. candidate at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI and is currently working on her dissertation in Great Lakes ecology studying the interactions between non-native quagga mussels and yellow perch. While in graduate school, she collaborated with a local non-profit to install green stormwater infrastructure and has a passion for community outreach and climate adaptation. She also served as a student member on the Board of Trustees for the Michigan chapter of the Nature Conservancy. During her two years volunteering with the Nature Conservancy, Katrina advised on project direction at board meetings, met with lawmakers to communicate relevant conservation bills and contributed to multi-agency projects identifying key conservation features within Michigan.

Kayla Walsh, New York Sea Grant



Kayla Walsh is the Coastal Climate Specialist at New York Sea Grant. Working out of Long Island, NY, she provides information based on best available science concerning all things climate adaptation and mitigation on New York's Coasts to community and industry members. Her expertise includes the impacts and research needs of renewable energy development, marine carbon dioxide removal techniques, and climate change induced natural hazards in coastal communities.

David Wrathall, Oregon State University



David Wrathall is an Associate Professor of Natural Hazards at Oregon State University's College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, and a Lead Author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change AR6 on Chapter 8: Poverty, Livelihoods and Sustainable Development. He also coordinated the group of IPCC authors contributing to the cross-chapter treatment of migration, displacement and mobility for the Sixth Assessment. David studies the ways that climate change impacts are threatening people's livelihoods and rendering parts of the planet uninhabitable, and thus driving new patterns of human migration. He has examined human migration in response to various climate change hazards, including sea level rise, tropical weather extremes, glacier recession, drought and ocean acidification. David also studies other wicked environmental problems, including the environmental consequences of narco-trafficking in Central America, and the relationship between climate change, violent conflict and human displacement. David teaches courses on Climate Justice, and thinks a lot in his personal life about the scope of transformation that is necessary to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference on our planetary home.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Brittany Curry, Graphic Recorder and Facilitator



Brittany Curry is a native of Savannah, Georgia and the owner of InkyBrittany. As a Graphic Recorder and Facilitator, she documents meetings and events through live note taking using a combination of text and large-scale visual imagery. In 2017, Brittany joined the International Forum of Visual Practitioners and was also named to Georgia Trend's annual 40 Under 40 list of rising entrepreneurs and innovators statewide. Brittany has Chaired of the Board of Directors for Chatham-Savannah Citizen Advocacy and currently serves on the Statewide Citizen Advocacy Advisory Committee. She is a trained moderator in public deliberation who has worked with the Kettering Foundation and The National Issues Forums.

Jake Thickman, Lynker



Jake Thickman is a Senior Resilience Specialist with Lynker on contract to NOAA's Office for Coastal Management. Jake has more than seven years of experience in the field of coastal adaptation planning, including hands-on work as a consultant leading the development of sea level rise vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans for coastal communities. In his current role at NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, Jake works to translate his knowledge and experience into effective training and technical assistance to build the capacity of coastal communities to address climate adaptation challenges in a holistic manner. Jake holds a Master's of Science in Marine and Atmospheric Science from Stony Brook University and a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Florida.