Scanning the Adaptation Field: Past, Present and Emerging Needs

Learning Session Webinar
Tuesday, July 23, 2019 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM
Webinar Agenda

• Webinar Logistics
• Brief overview of ARCCA
• Past, Present, and Emerging Needs in the Adaptation Field
• Q&A Panel Discussion
• Closing Remarks
Questions:

At any point during the webinar, you can submit a question through the Zoom control panel. All questions will be read aloud and answered during Q&A as long as time permits.

You can also use the ‘hand raising’ feature to be unmuted and ask a question during Q&A.
About ARCCA

A network of leading regional collaboratives from across California that work together to advance adaptation statewide and increase local capacity to build community resilience.
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Emerging Collaboratives

www.ARCCAcalifornia.org
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State Engagement

www.ARCCAcalifornia.org
Featured Presenters

Susanne C. Moser
Susanne Moser Research and Consulting

Kristen Goodrich
NOAA Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
Scanning the Adaptation Field
Past, Present and Emerging Needs

Susi Moser, Ph.D.
Antioch University New England

Kristen Goodrich
University of California-Irvine
Overview

• Scanning the Adaptation Field
  ➢ Audience Engagement

• Demands and Pressures on Adaptation Professionals
  ➢ Audience Engagement

• Adaptive Mind Project
  ➢ Audience Engagement

• Q&A, Discussion, Closing
The State of the US Adaptation Field

Rising to the Challenge, Together

A Review and Critical Assessment of the State of the US Climate Adaptation Field

Executive Summary
Rising to the Challenge, Together

Appendices
Rising to the Challenge, Together

The full story.....
See: https://kresge.org/content/rising-challenge-together

The short story.....

And how people can be part of the story.....
Motivation


Field-building Needs in Face of Incoming Administration and Growing Challenges
Is there a field? Should there be a field?
Why bother building a field?

**Benefits of a strong “field”**

- Necessary expertise & skilled workforce
- Clarity on good/best practice, established as “common” practice
- Advancing shared goals and values
- Professionals networks
- Adequate training
- Political and public support
- Problems solved effectively, efficiently, and in an integrated manner
- Reduced societal burdens and maximized opportunities

Source: Full referencing in Moser et al. (2017)
Vision of a Strong Adaptation Field

Mitigation → Closing the Resilience Gap → Adaptation

Bedrock: Social Cohesion & Equity
The 4P Field-Building Framework

The 4 Ps of (Adaptation) Field Development:
- Purpose
- People
- Practice
- Pillars of Support

Source: Moser et al. (2017) *Rising to the Challenge, Together*. Troy, MI: The Kresge Foundation
The 4-P Field Framework: PURPOSE

- No common problem definition
- Reactive stance
- No unifying vision
- No agreement on social equity and cohesion
- No agreement on priorities
- Widespread lack of urgency

Source: CMI
The 4-P Field Framework: PILLARS OF SUPPORT

- Crisis-driven funding important but not enough
- Pervasive lack of institutionalized, coordinated, or sustained funding streams
- Federal assets are diminishing
- (Near) loss of federal pillar of support
- Weak signal to the public/policymakers to take preparedness seriously
- Lagging field pillars slow down development of other field components

Sources (t>b): dailydot.com; flickr.com
The 4-P Field Framework: PEOPLE

- Strong growth in numbers, but key gaps
- Networking is good for some but insufficient for others, across/beyond field
- Tension between diversity in and usefulness of focused networks
- Smaller cities and rural areas, tribes left behind
- Loss of federal leadership, lack of well-established resilience leaders
- Climate justice movement important influence, but movement concerns not yet integrated well

Data Source: LGC registration for CAF3
The 4-P Field Framework: PRACTICE

• Mostly still stuck in planning; implementing small, low-regret actions; some policy changes
• Lack of evidence what constitutes “best practice”
• Incremental progress is no match for accelerating climate change
• Inadequate adaptation communication
• Strong preference for “mainstreaming” but not addressing deeper causes
• Acceptance of need for transformative change is extremely limited

Source: greatlakesresilience.org
Mainstreaming vs. Transformation

Source: Moser et al. (2017)
What Do You Think? The Status Today?

Instructions for voting through Mentimeter

- Get your cell phones, laptops, tablets ready
- Bring up the website www.menti.com
- When prompted by a polling slide, type in the number provided on the polling slide
- Vote!
- Your vote will be counted instantly

THIS IS WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON YOUR CELL PHONE/SCREEN:
Adaptation: Emergent, Growing in Sophistication, but Incommensurate with Challenge

What IS happening
- Capacity and skill building
- Some action in all sectors
- More people in field
- Focus on mainstreaming
- A few efforts: adaptation + mitigation + social cohesion

What is NOT YET (sufficiently) happening
- Integration across
  - Sectors
  - Geographies
  - Scales
  - Segments of society
- Efficient social learning
- Widespread education, professional certification
- Standard-setting
- Thinking and actions commensurate with scope and speed
- Embrace of transformation
Meanwhile...

- Speed of climate change
- Politicization/polarization/political stalemate
- Lack of federal leadership
- Vastly inadequate funding
- Pre-dominance of scientific, technical, narrow framing
- Workforce challenges and culture of overwork

Source (t->b): flickr, Brickell, Patrick Giblin.
Building Skill and Capacity across the Adaptation Field

Harvey
Sandy
Florence
Idai
Maria
Floods across US in 2019
“Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems (high confidence). These systems transitions are unprecedented in terms of scale...”

“Increasing investment in physical and social infrastructure is a key enabling condition to enhance the resilience and the adaptive capacities of societies. ... (high confidence)”
Without substantial and sustained global mitigation and regional adaptation efforts, climate change is expected to cause growing losses to American infrastructure and property and impede the rate of economic growth over this century.

While mitigation and adaptation efforts have expanded substantially in the last four years, they do not yet approach the scale considered necessary to avoid substantial damages to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades.”
Persistent, Pressing & Emerging Needs

- Climate and uncertainty literacy
- Engagement and communication
- Cultural competence
- Climate adaptation finance
- Guidelines, codes, standards
- Psychological resilience

Sources (clockwise from top left): 401kcalculator.org; USACE; Liber; CA DWR
Photo Project at NAF 2019

How can we know this and do nothing?

Will you forgive us?

How do we help each other grieve so we can move forward with Revolutionary Action?

How do we help each other grieve so we can move forward with Revolutionary Action?
Your Thoughts

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The Adaptive Mind Project
Our Vision

Climate adaptation professionals, resilience planners and community leaders everywhere working on the frontlines of climate change have the psychological skills, capacities, and peer and institutional support to effectively and compassionately face the challenges of a rapidly, continually, sometimes traumatically and profoundly changing world.
The Challenge

A world with...

• *Rapid and constant change*, great uncertainty, surprises
• More frequent *traumatic disruptions*
• Increasingly requiring and imposing *transformative change*
A Growing Concern

• Daily exposure to information about how climate change is altering what we love and depend on
  ▪ Landscapes, places
  ▪ People
  ▪ Economies
  ▪ Other species

• Overwhelming grief and anxiety

• Growing stress experienced by practitioners; acknowledged for first responders, activists

• Research on occupational health risks limited, but growing
Dealing with Climate Change & Community Responses Entails Intense Emotional Labor

No one (in our field) has been trained to deal with this!
In Our Study of Adaptation Professionals

Q: Have you ever experienced burnout in your work?

Burn-out Crisis in US
23% of employees feel burned out very often or always
44% feel burned out sometimes
(Gallup Poll 2019, n=7,500)

Preliminary results, please do not cite or share without authors’ permission
n=122
In Our Study of Adaptation Professionals (cont.)

Please describe what, if any, stresses you experience in your work for any reason.

1) Urgency of the climate crisis. Regularly feeling that we are not doing enough, fast enough. That climate change is not a priority in peoples' daily lives, it is intangible, and not a large enough priority in leaders' policy or budget decisions. 2) Racialized stresses as a white person working primarily with people of color and just learning to navigate my role in the most humble way possible. 3) Dealing with the barriers of bureaucracy (inflexibility) that make work so much more challenging, especially when trying to alter systems for the benefit of climate and Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

Preliminary study results, please do not cite or share without authors’ permission
In Our Study of Adaptation Professionals

Q: How Do Climate Change and Extreme Events Enter into Your Regular Work?

- Planning and plan development
- Project implementation
- Metrics and evaluation
- Communications and outreach
- Codes and policies
- Climate change is not a factor in my regular work

Preliminary study results, please do not cite or share without authors’ permission

n=123
The Emotional Experience of Working on Climate Change Among Adaptation Professionals

I am emotionally exhausted from the topics I address through my work.  The work I do is not enough to address climate change.  I am determined to succeed in my work because of what I know about climate change and potential impacts.

Preliminary study results, please do not cite or share without authors' permission
How about for you?

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The Adaptive Mind Project

Developing Resources to Support Adaptation Professionals

Sculpture by Celeste Auberge, Pinterest
Peer Support

Institutional Support

Components

- Literature Review
- Practitioner Needs Assessment
- Landscape Assessment
- Transdisciplinary Expert Workshop
- Training Development & Pilots

Preliminary work underway with seed funding

Core parts of project, to be undertaken with full funding
Immediate Audiences = Closest Partners

Coasts + Cities + Frontline Communities
= where there is an immediate need
Core team

Susí Moser, Ph.D. (PI)  
SMRC & AUNE

James Arnott (co-PI)  
AGCI & Univ. of Mich.

Kristen Goodrich (co-PI)  
TRNERR & UC-Irvine

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Margaret Krebs  
Stanford, LLP

Theopia Jackson, Ph.D.  
Saybrook University

Elizabeth Rohring  
NOAA Sea Grant

Kristin Baja  
USDN

Steve Adams  
Inst. f. Sust. Communities

Victoria Benson (TBC)  
Movement Strategy Center
Centering Social Equity, Justice, Inclusion
Part of the Transformative Work...

- What resources, practices, approaches are most helpful?
- How do we account for and do this in a way that respects painful legacies, culture, history, and diversity?
In response to demand outpacing project funding:

Some Initial Resources

Please contact us with any funding ideas!
Q&A • Discussion • Thank you!

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Thank you!