Global Change and Sustainability Center Seminar Series

"Ready or Not: Helping Communities Adapt to Climate Change through Collaborative Action Research"

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Tuesday, September 8, 2015
4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
210 ASB (Aline Skaggs Biology Bldg.)

environment.utah.edu
Abstract

“Warming of the climate system is unequivocal,” according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s 5th Assessment Report. Our best science tells us that warming will continue and that significant climate change effects are now unavoidable. While science can tell us that climate change is happening, we cannot predict exactly when and how impacts will manifest. In light of the complexity of planning for an uncertain climatic future and the politics surrounding climate change, it is not entirely surprising that few communities have taken meaningful action to prepare for the climate change-related risks they face. This raises the question: what can we as academics do to help communities understand and effectively respond to climate change? This presentation will share the experience and research findings from the New England Climate Adaptation Project (NECAP), a trans-disciplinary research project aimed at enhancing the readiness of coastal communities to prepare for and manage climate change risks. Through the case study of NECAP, I will show how collaborative action research projects can bring together researchers from diverse academic disciplines and effectively engage local stakeholders to build the capacity of decision-makers and communities to effectively adapt.

Bio

Danya Rumore, Ph.D., is the Associate Director of the Environmental Dispute Resolution Program in the Wallace Stegner Center at the S.J. Quinney College of Law and a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of City and Metropolitan Planning at the University of Utah. She completed her Ph.D. in Environmental Policy and Planning at MIT, where she was the Assistant Director of the MIT Science Impact Collaborative and the Project Manager for the New England Climate Adaptation Project. She is a co-editor of the book Managing Climate Risks in Coastal Communities: Strategies for Engagement, Readiness, and Adaptation, forthcoming from Anthem Press in September 2015.