



SUSRN - Advancing Conference

*The Next Urban Giants: Building Resilience and Equity into Growing Megapolitan Regions
by Greening the Urban Human-Natural System*

July 30-Aug 1, 2019

Talaris Conference Center – 4000 NE 41st St, Seattle, WA 98105

Day 1- Plenary Session and Breakout Group Discussion

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM: *Registration and Coffee*

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM: *Welcome and Opening Remarks*

[Dr. Brad Gaolach, WSU Metropolitan Center](#)

[Ben Bakkenta, Director for Regional Planning, Puget Sound Regional Council](#)

[Dr. Kelvin Frank, Eastern Washington University](#) (Land Acknowledgment & Welcome)

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: *Morning Keynote Presentations*

- 9:00-9:30: [Dr. Marina Alberti](#), University of Washington, **Urban Sustainability from an Eco-Evolutionary Perspective**
- 9:35-10:10: [Gordon Feller](#), Meeting of the Minds: **Next Generation Solutions: The role industry can play, and is already playing, to help regions and cities**
- 10:10-10:40 break
- 10:40-11:15: [Kim Zentz](#), Urbanova: **Urbanova – Re-thinking Urban Challenges for Mid-sized Cities**
- 11:20-12:00 [Sudha Nanadagopal](#), Environmental Justice Advocate / Social Venture Partners International: **Community Centered Solutions: Creating social cohesion and stronger communities**

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM: *Expectations Wall Activity*

Participants share their thoughts on what “Challenges”, “Needs”, “Questions”, and “Opportunities” should be addressed by a Sustainable Urban Research Center.

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM: *Lunch Buffet*

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM: *Breakout Group Discussions*- identify key megapolitan characteristics that promote sustainability (~8 people per group).

Discussion Questions:



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1. What are the key characteristics of a megapolitan region that control its ability to be connected, renewable, equitable, and adaptable?
2. How do urban system characteristics influence megapolitan resilience to different kinds of hazards and shocks (e.g., earthquake, fire, labor strike, flood, drought, human migration, etc.)?

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM: Breakout Groups Report Out

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM: Coffee Break

3:30 PM - 4:45 PM: Breakout Group Discussions- identify key megapolitan challenges or opportunities for promoting urban sustainability (~8 people per group).

Discussion Questions:

1. What are roadblocks or opportunities for building, governing, and fostering urban sustainability?
2. How do the challenges faced differ when considering the nested scales of urban systems (e.g., urban-rural gradient, short vs. long-term impacts, local vs. regional scale, sharing lessons learned)?

4:45 PM - 5:00 PM: Breakout Groups Report Out

6:00 PM: Reception with cash bar, dinner, and Adaptation Game Night

Day 2- Breakout Group Discussion and Manuscript Development

7:30-8:30 AM: Continental Breakfast

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM: Panel Session- A group of 4 panelists from four different metropolitan regions will discuss (1) key challenges and (2) promising opportunities and actions for moving towards a sustainable megapolitan system.

Panel Members:



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- Albuquerque, NM: [John Barney](#), Parks and Recreation Planning Manager, Bernalillo County NM
- Boston, MA: Dr. [Anne Short Gianotti](#), Associate Professor, Boston University
- Los Angeles, CA: [Janet Hartin](#), Area Environmental Horticulture Advisor and County Co-Director, Cooperative Extension San Bernardino County
- Sacramento, CA: [Dr. Gail Feenstra](#), Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Director, University of California - Davis

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Breakout Group Discussion- Led by Dr. Julie Padowski -- participants will identify key research and action pathways forward (~ 8 people per group).

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the most compelling basic research questions ("intellectual merit") and pressing societal needs ("broader impacts") that need to be addressed to enable a resilient and sustainable megapolitan region?
2. What are the major knowledge and implementation gaps? What types of research approaches or expertise are necessary?
3. What is the most important low-hanging fruit?
4. What would be the ideal way for a center to be structured to address these questions, gaps and opportunities?

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Lunch Buffet

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Breakout Group Summary- breakout groups summarize morning discussion with one powerpoint slide or poster board and present to all participants.

2:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Product Scoping/Development - Participants divide into subgroups and start scoping/drafting one of three different products. All drafting will take place in a shared Google Docs <http://bit.do/SUSPNW>)



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1. White paper and Manuscript - *Led by Julie Padowski* -- develop two documents that summarize 1) key challenges and opportunities cities face 2) how cities can build resilience and equity through green solutions 3) critical research areas that need to be addressed, 4) an interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral strategy for advancing research that supports sustainable urban development
2. Solution “Green Print” - *Led by Scott Altenhoff* -- a reference guide that can be widely shared by participants that clearly summarizes the meeting’s key issues and lessons, as they pertain to on-the-ground decisions. At a minimum, this “Green Print” will articulate: (1) the nature and scale of the problems facing megapolitan areas, (2) ideas for what novel solutions to these problems might look like, and (3) a list of “success stories” or case studies for solving problems at the megapolitan scale.
3. Education & Outreach Scope of Work - *Led by Dr. Ani Jayakaran* -- development of a “scope of work” (SOW) for future education and outreach products targeted at the general public, especially underserved communities. These potential products will be wide ranging in approach and target audiences. The SOW may include things like adaptation games, citizen science projects, or ad campaigns, as well as plans to establish strategic partnerships and secure future funding for development and rollout of these products.

4:30 PM: Adjourn

Dinner on your own - groups meet up

Day 3- Product Development & Discussion

7:30-8:30 AM: Continental Breakfast

8:30 AM - 10:30 PM: Products Draft Review- Participants in the three groups will collectively review the first drafts of the products to share progress and discuss questions about content and future directions.



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10:30 AM - 11:00 AM: Product Draft Summary Report Out -- Groups provide a brief overview of their draft documents to the full group. Participants will indicate their desired level of future participation finalizing conference products in manuscript finalization.

11:00 AM - Box Lunches available

11:00 AM - 11:45 AM: Establish Core Writing Team- Writing teams will be organized and will develop specific manuscript development tasks and product deadlines.

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM: Closing Remarks