RESILIENCY AND YOU
Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change

Invitation to free public talk and discussion on Thursday, March 9, 2017
7:00 pm at SFU Harbour Centre, 515 W. Hastings, Room 1400

Can cities have the wisdom to adopt preventive measures before disaster strikes as we shift into a climate unsteady future?

Presented by: Nadine Mägdefrau, Research Coordinator, Institute of Spatial Planning; and Robin Chang, Research Associate/PhD Candidate, European Planning Cultures at the Technical University of Dortmund, Germany

Moderated by: Dr. Alec Balesescu, Adjunct Professor, Urban Studies, Simon Fraser University

Abstract:

Can cities have the foresight and wisdom to adopt preventive measures before disaster strikes, as we all shift into a climate unsteady future?

As communities familiarize themselves with urban resilience, it becomes apparent that this concept is not just a trend; it is an opportunity. The increasing number of initiatives from agencies such as 100 Resilient Cities, Resilience Alliance, and the United Nations as well as the growing attention to the term in scholarly, professional and community forums support that urban resilience is relevant perhaps because of its ability to systematically understand interactions, but also because of its ability to explore and facilitate opportunities for proactive responses to short and long-term stresses in urban environs.

In this light and to help answer the question, the following two presentations aim to demonstrate how urban resilience facilitates opportunities to address disaster responses and post-industrial restructuring.

Nadine will explore how to build the city back better after a disaster shock making it a resilient city. Drawing on experiences from the reconstruction process after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami 2011 in Japan’s Miyako and Ishinomaki cities, this presentation explains which of the local spatial planning options were used to build resilience and which aspects of resilience were specifically addressed.

Robin will investigate temporary use responses to vacancy and industry loss in the cities of Rotterdam (NL) and Bremen (GE) in the aftermath of long-term economic stresses. Through social entrepreneurship and innovation, she will introduce how urban resilience is more importantly a characteristic of cities as opposed to in cities that requires specific new inquiry approaches.

A concluding discussion will be moderated by Dr. Balesescu to consider what implications these insights have on future research to move towards an urban climate resilience future.

Reservations: https://urban-resilience-climate-unsteady-feature.eventbrite.com
Contact: lauriew@sfu.ca or 778-782-9235

Hosted by: Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions and the Pacific Water Research Centre, Faculty of Environment
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Nadine Mägdefrau, Dipl.-Eng.
Nadine is Research Coordinator at the Institute of Spatial Planning from the Faculty of Spatial Planning at the Technical University of Dortmund.

After completing her studies at the Faculty of Spatial Planning, she developed research interests covering building urban resilience - especially after disasters; disaster risk reduction in spatial planning; climate change adaptation.

Her recently submitted dissertation topic is Building urban resilience through spatial planning following disasters: The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Alexandru Balasescu
Alexandru is an Adjunct professor in Urban Studies at Simon Fraser University. He is an anthropologist, writer, curator and author of several publications including Paris Chic, Tehran Thrills - Aesthetic Bodies, Political Subjects (ZETA Books, 2007).

Over the past six years he has held administrative positions engaged in projects of urban regeneration through arts and culture in Bucharest and Istanbul. He also taught in several universities, including The American University of Paris, RUW Bahrain and Galatasaray University in Istanbul.

Dr. Balasescu obtained his LEED AP accreditation in Vancouver and is a founding member of the Moving Matters Traveling Workshop, based at UC-Riverside. He is also co-founder of Nature, Art and Habitat Multidisciplinary Lab in Italy, nahr.it.

Robin Chang BPl., M.Sc.
Robin is a Research Associate and PhD Candidate in the Department of European Planning Cultures, Faculty of Spatial Planning, Technical University of Dortmund. She studied Spatial Planning there and Environmental Planning at the University of Northern British Columbia. Her research interests include comparative planning cultures; environmental planning (particularly resource management and green governance); and Complexity Science in planning.

Currently, she is working on her dissertation research which focuses on the Comparative Analysis of Temporary Use Institutionalization and Acculturation in German and Dutch Planning.