

Southeast, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico Regional PEMOCC Workshop

November 30 – December 2, 2022

Meeting Room: Decatur A

Courtyard Atlanta Decatur Downtown/Emory
130 Clairmont Ave, Decatur, GA 30030

Planning Team

Tracie Sempier, Coastal Resilience Engagement Specialist, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant

Stephanie Showalter Otts, Director, National Sea Grant Law Center

Mark Risse, Director, Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

Susan Lovelace, Director, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium

Kate McClure, Coastal Climate Specialist, Maryland Sea Grant

Frank López, Extension Director, North Carolina Sea Grant

Matt Hauer, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Florida State University

Amanda Guthrie, Coastal Climate and Resilience Specialist, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium

Cirse Gonzalez, Coastal Training Program Coordinator, Chesapeake Bay NERR – Virginia

Ruperto Chaparro, Director, Puerto Rico Sea Grant

Jeff Carney, Associate Professor, University of Florida

Mona Behl, Associate Director, Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant



Workshop Goal

Despite increased reference to the link between climate change and human mobility (which includes displacement, migration, and planned relocation), there is a dearth of knowledge on how shifts in population patterns intersect with underlying socioeconomic, cultural, political, and environmental processes and resources that either enable or constrain the ability of people to cope where they are or force them to move due to lacking support or constrained resources. With support provided by the National Science Foundation, PEople on the MOve in a Changing Climate (PEMOCC, www.pemocc.org) is a Sea Grant-led research coordination network that fosters collaboration among diverse stakeholders and experts to advance effective, policy-relevant research, and develop regionally tailored educational and engagement strategies to manage climate induced human mobility.

The goal of our workshop is to foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders to manage risks and capture opportunities related to climate induced human mobility in the Southeast, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico (SEC and GoM) regions. During the workshop, we will:

- learn about the current state of knowledge,
- understand ways in which communities in the SEC and GoM regions are preparing for hazards,
- identify research and policy needs, and
- discuss ways in which we can work together to build community resilience and manage climate induced mobility.



Workshop Agenda

Wednesday, November 30

- 1:00 - 1:30pm Welcome and Introductions
- 1:30 - 2:30pm Plenary: Climate Mobility and Social Justice in SEC regions
- Alex Butler, Resilience Planning Director, South Carolina Office of Resilience
 - Dr. Marysel Pagán Santana, Program Manager, Migrant Clinicians Network
 - Dr. Gavin Smith, Professor, North Carolina State University
- 2:30 - 2:45pm Break
- 2:45 - 3:45pm Engagement Session I
- 3:45 - 4:15pm Reconvene, Reflect, Foreshadow
- 4:15 - 5:15pm Plenary: Climate Mobility and Social Justice in GoM region
- Jane Nguyen, Program Manager, Boat People SOS Gulf Coast Branch
 - Dr. Heather Stone, Assistant Professor, University of Louisiana Lafayette
 - Dr. Marla Nelson, Professor of Planning and Urban Studies, University of New Orleans
- 5:15 - 5:30pm Adjourn

Thursday, December 1

- 7:30 - 8:30am Networking Breakfast
- 8:30 - 9:00am Recap
- 9:00 - 10:00am Panel Discussion: Receiving Communities
- Mike Carnathan, Manager of Research and Analytics Division, Atlanta Regional Commission
 - Haley Blakeman, Associate Director of the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture and Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University
 - Alberto A. Vargas, Manager of Planning Division, Orange County FL
- 10:00 - 10:15am Break
- 10:15 - 11:00am Engagement Session II
- 11:00 - 11:15am Reconvene, Reflect, Foreshadow
- 11:15 - 12:30pm Panel Discussion: Notes from the Field
- Dr. Fernando I. Rivera, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Puerto Rico Research Hub, University of Central Florida
 - Dr. Wie Yusuf, Professor of Public Service, Old Dominion University
 - Dr. Jessica Simms, Associate Program Officer, The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine



12:30 - 1:30pm Networking Lunch
1:30 - 2:30pm Engagement Session III
2:30 - 3:00pm Reconvene, Reflect, Foreshadow
3:00 - 3:15pm Break
3:15 - 4:15pm Engagement Session IV
4:15 - 4:45pm Reconvene, Reflect, Foreshadow
4:45 - 5:00pm Adjourn

Friday, December 2

7:30 - 8:15am Networking Breakfast
8:15 - 8:30am Recap
8:30 - 9:45am Panel Discussion: Law and Policy Perspectives

- Scott Pippin, Attorney and Community Planner at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia
- Thomas Ruppert, Esq., Coastal Planning & Legal Specialist, Florida Sea Grant
- Sarah Stein, Adviser, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

9:45 - 10:35am Engagement Session V
10:35 - 10:45am Break
10:45 - 11:45am Reconvene, Reflect, Foreshadow
11:35 - 12:00pm Conclude



Meet the Panelists



Alex Butler is the Resilience Planning Director for the South Carolina Office of Resilience where he oversees the development of the state's first Statewide Risk Reduction and Resilience Plan. Alex has a B.S. in Geology from Clemson University and a M.S. Geography from University of South Carolina where his studies focused on the interaction of people, land use and climate on the hydrological cycles of South Carolina. Prior to his current role, Alex managed the Water Quantity Permitting Section at the DHEC and worked as a Hydrologist for both DHEC and DNR. In his spare time Alex connects people to watershed as a whitewater kayak instructor



Marysel Pagán Santana, DrPH, MS, serves as Migrant Clinicians Network's Director of Environmental and Occupational Health. She is also the Senior Program Manager of the Caribbean Office, where she leads and coordinates MCN's current climate-related projects. In this role, Dr. Pagán Santana provides technical assistance, training, and tool development for community health centers and community residents to address disaster-related issues and target health-related outcomes. In addition, she is the principal investigator in various small projects exploring natural disasters in agricultural communities in Puerto Rico. She also fosters MCN's network of organizations working on climate and health initiatives in Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands. Pagán Santana has extensive experience in training high-risk and vulnerable worker populations and conducting community-based projects. She also has more than seven years of experience in the private sector as an industrial hygienist. Previous work areas include developing and implementing occupational and environmental health training, emergency preparedness, and business continuity planning programs. Pagán-Santana has a master's degree in Industrial Hygiene and a doctorate in Public Health with an emphasis on environmental health from the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. She was the 2021 recipient of the Lorin Kerr Award, an American Public Health Association honor for her dedication to worker health and safety.



Gavin Smith is a Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at North Carolina State University. His research focuses on hazard mitigation, disaster recovery, climate change adaptation, and the integration of research and practice. Educational efforts include leading a graduate certificate in disaster resilient policy, engineering, and design. Dr. Smith has written the text *Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery: A Review of the United States Disaster Assistance Framework* (Island Press, 2011) and served as the co-editor of the text *Adapting to Climate Change: Lessons from Natural Hazards Planning*



PEOPLE
ON THE
MOVE IN A
CHANGING
CLIMATE



National
Science
Foundation

(Springer, 2014) as well as writing numerous peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and practice-oriented reports. Smith's current research includes the analysis of a national survey assessing the role of states in building the capacity of local governments to implement hazard mitigation grants, a comparative assessment of hazard-prone housing acquisition programs in the US and New Zealand, and the development of a post-buyout open space guide. Smith has also served as a policy advisor to nations, states, and local governments addressing planning for post-disaster recovery, flood-hazard risk reduction, and climate change adaptation. Dr. Smith has advised four governors including Governor Hunt following hurricanes Fran and Floyd and Governor Barbour following Hurricane Katrina. During Hurricanes Fran and Floyd, Smith led teams responsible for the acquisition and elevation of more than 5,000 and 500 homes respectively. More recently, Smith led a team of eight faculty, eighteen graduate students, and two practitioners assist six hard-hit low-capacity communities following Hurricane Matthew.



Jane Nguyen is the Program Manager at Boat People SOS's Gulf Coast Branch (BPSOS). She is a member of the National Community Health Worker Association and was selected for the second year as a Mississippi Health Ambassador for MSDH's Public Health Initiative. She also has a background in Disaster and Emergency Management through her years at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Through disaster assignments, she connected with BPSOS and this was where she found and fostered her passion in advocating and empowering her community. Over the past decade, she has been working with BPSOS nationally in providing direct services and advocacy to address social, economic and health inequities for the underserved and marginalized for the Vietnamese communities along the Gulf Coast.



Dr. Heather N. Stone is an Associate Professor of Education and Human Development, Vice-Chair of the IRB, and holds the Paul Burdin/BORSF Endowed Professorship in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Stone seeks out stories that need to be told. Her work takes her beyond the classroom and into communities facing disruptive environmental change. She helps people in these communities explain how they are adjusting and what their journey to resilience looks like. Her first book, *End of the Road: Exodus from Isle de Jean Charles, a Man-Made Crisis*, is forthcoming with the Third Coast Series at the University of Mississippi Press. The manuscript focuses on the bayous of Louisiana, where the Jean Charles Choctaw Nation are losing their ancestral homeland of Isle de Jean Charles. Stone was funded by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to produce a 10-minute documentary on her collaboration with the Tribe from Isle de

Jean Charles entitled *Isle of Memories: The Stories of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw* (<https://vimeo.com/710351916>). Other funding for her research has been provided by the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Mozilla Foundation, the Oral History Association, and the National Science Foundation.



Marla Nelson, PhD, AICP, is a Professor of Planning and Urban Studies at the University of New Orleans (UNO) where she directs the accredited Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) program and serves as a Faculty Associate with UNO's Center for Hazards Assessment, Response & Technology (CHART). She has published widely on the impacts of and responses to industrial and occupational restructuring in US cities and regions, human capital and interregional migration, and post-disaster recovery and redevelopment. Her recent research focuses on adaptive migration as a critical site of action and examines how planning and policy can produce more just outcomes for residents and communities on the frontline of climate and environmental change. She received her BA in economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and her MCRP and PhD in urban planning and policy development from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.



Mike Carnathan is the Manager of the Research & Analytics Department at the Atlanta Regional Commission and is one of the founders of Neighborhood Nexus, which is a community intelligence system for the Atlanta region, providing data, tools and expertise as a catalyst to create opportunity for all of the region's citizens. The goal is to foster a data-driven decision-making culture in the Atlanta region and beyond. Mike oversees the compilation of thousands of variables and indicators that tell the data story about the Atlanta region. And story-telling is key. One of Mike's chief challenges is to help community groups tell their story better through a data-driven approach. Mike has worked with numerous community groups, including the Annie E Casey Foundation, Families First, United Way, The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, along with a host of statewide and local education agencies and other community groups to help them better understand the neighborhoods in which they work. In addition to being a data geek, Mike has a varied background that includes public relations and journalism. This experiences comes in handy as one of the critical uses of data is to tell the right story about our community to help community leaders make better decisions. A native of Georgia, Mike holds degrees in History and Journalism, along with a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Georgia.



Haley Blakeman, FASLA, PLA, is the Associate Director of the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture and an Assistant Professor with 20 years of private practice experience. She is passionate about providing opportunities for civic engagement, strengthening neighborhoods, empowering residents to improve their environment, and fostering incremental shifts that add up to big changes. Haley's experience as a landscape architect and planner gives her a variety of perspectives needed to be a creative problem solver. Her research includes climate-induced migration, effective community engagement, and Complete Streets policy and application. She led the Isle de Jean Charles Resettlement Phase 2 community engagement.



Alberto A. Vargas, Manager, Orange County, Planning Division. He has served as Planning Manager for Orange County since November 2012, where he oversees; Long-Range and Current Planning, Urban Design & Placemaking, as well as the Research & Economic Development sections of the Division. Alberto has 24 years of experience in Planning and Urban Design which straddle the realms of the public and private sectors. Prior to joining Orange County, Alberto led the Urban Design Section of Pasco County's Planning & Development Department. As part of his experience in the private sector, Alberto co-founded Martin & Vargas Design, where he designed and planned projects for public and private clients throughout Central Florida, Baltimore, Central America and Africa. He served as Winter Park's first town architect, and was the City's Assistant Planning Director and Community Redevelopment Agency Manager. Alberto is proficient in implementing planning best practices and principles of design evolving out of the history and the context of place.



Dr. Fernando I. Rivera is a Professor of Sociology and Director of the Puerto Rico Research Hub at the University of Central Florida. His research interests and activities are in the sociology of health/medical sociology, disasters, and race and ethnicity. His published work has investigated how different mechanisms are related to certain health and mental health outcomes with a particular emphasis on Latino populations. His disaster research has explored the investigation of factors associated with disaster resilience, restoration and resilience in coupled human-natural systems, and climate migration. Other publications have investigated the Puerto Rican diaspora in Florida. He has co-edited *Disaster Resilience: Interdisciplinary Perspective* (2012), co-authored *Disaster Vulnerability, Hazards, and Resilience: Perspectives from Florida* (2015), and edited *Emerging Voices in Natural Hazards Research* (2019). He was guest editor for a special issue of *Population and Environment* on Puerto Rico before and after Hurricane Maria and the *Journal of Emergency Management* titled *Analysis of Pre and Post Disaster Management and Recovery in Puerto Rico from Hurricane*

Maria. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and his B.A. degree in sociology from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez. He also completed a NIMH sponsored post-doctoral fellowship at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research at Rutgers University.



Dr. Wie Yusuf is professor of public service in the Strome College of Business at Old Dominion University (ODU) and Virginia Sea Grant extension partner, leading the Virginia Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program which is jointly funded by ODU and Virginia Sea Grant. She focuses her extension and engagement efforts on working with coastal communities to encourage the development and implementation of climate adaptation and hazards resilience plans and practices. Using The Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT), she works with rural communities in coastal Virginia to encourage community-drive resilience planning and project implementation. She also organizes the Hampton Roads Adaptation Forum, quarterly meetings to bring together professionals in adaptation including local municipal government staff, scientific experts, private sector engineers, state and federal agency staff, NGOs and other stakeholders to facilitate regional coordination, information exchange and share adaptation best practices. Her research focuses on policy issues at the intersection of governments, nonprofits, businesses, and civil society. These include complex and conflict-ridden issues such as stakeholder engagement and public participation, climate change and sea level rise, and coastal resilience.



Jessica Simms works in the Health and Resilience Unit of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Gulf Research Program. Her work and research lie at the intersection of climate, health and equity and include community-based relocations, solastalgia, transdisciplinary approaches to solving complex challenges, community capacity-building for equitable access to resources, and compounding and cascading disasters. Dr. Simms has a B.A. from UC Santa Cruz in Politics, an M.A. in Geography from San Diego State University, and a Ph.D. in Geography from Louisiana State University. For her dissertation research she interviewed 120+ residents from coastal Louisiana parishes who have already or are currently facing possible relocation decisions or displacement. The research focused on understanding the links among the influence and mobility of three factors: social relations, inherent resilient practices, and place, including sense of and attachment to it. Before joining the GRP in 2021, Dr. Simms worked for more than four years as the lead outreach and engagement coordinator for the Resettlement of Isle de Jean Charles in coastal Louisiana.



Scott Pippin is an attorney and community planner who joined the Institute of Government’s Planning and Environmental Services unit in 2014. He works on issues concerning environmental and natural resource planning, climate resilience, nature-based and green infrastructure practices, land use, community planning and economic development, and updating and revising city and county land use ordinances. In addition to planning and technical assistance, Scott works directly with communities to develop funding and implement projects that provide social, economic, and environmental benefits. He also delivers training courses on a wide variety of subjects, such as stormwater management, planning and zoning practices, community resilience and sustainability, and preparing for large-scale solar installations. Prior to joining the Institute of Government, he worked as a local government attorney and an environmental consultant.



Thomas Ruppert, Esq., Coastal Planning & Legal Specialist at the Florida Sea Grant College Program, is a recognized expert on law and sea-level rise. He develops legal and policy analysis for local governments on planning for sea-level rise and resilience, resulting in adopted comprehensive plan amendments and ordinances. Mr. Ruppert maintains a website of original resources at www.flseagrant.org/climate-change-coastal-hazards/coastal-planning-program/. Areas of expertise include local government financing of adaptation, flood insurance, property buyouts, Florida’s coastal construction control line, comprehensive planning, sea turtle habitat protection, statutory property protections, and U.S. constitutional property protections. Mr. Ruppert has authored and co-authored three book chapters and seventeen articles in publications such as the Columbia Environmental Law Journal, The Environmental Law Reporter, and Florida Bar Journal. The article “Roads to Nowhere in Four States: State and Local Governments in the Atlantic Southeast Facing Sea-Level Rise” was selected as a top 4 environmental law article in 2019. Mr. Ruppert frequently serves as invited presenter at conferences in Florida and beyond. He appears in documentaries and is quoted in media such as The Washington Post, Politico, BuzzFeed, NPR outlets, The Miami Herald, and the Tampa Bay Times. He organized partners to host professional development workshops on coastal issues and flood insurance in Florida. Mr. Ruppert previously worked with the University of Florida extension system and the College of Law’s Conservation Clinic. Work included issues such as international human rights, indigenous property rights, and land reform in Latin America and conservation-focused homeowners’ association documents. Mr. Ruppert is bilingual (English-Spanish). Work has taken him to Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, the Netherlands, Panama, and Puerto Rico.



Sarah Stein is an adviser on affordable housing and neighborhood stabilization on the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's community and economic development (CED) team. Prior to joining the Atlanta Fed, Stein was an attorney representing seniors and low-income Atlantans on housing matters with Atlanta Legal Aid. There, she spearheaded the Generational Poverty Law Project, developing educational and clinical programming to address long-term homeowner displacement and to help low-income families build generational wealth. She has legal expertise in the areas of fair housing, residential real estate finance, property law, property tax, estate and probate matters, and affordable housing. Previously, Stein was a research fellow with the Emory University Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her work examined the legal frameworks and human geographies of homelessness. She was also a student researcher for Emory's Vulnerability and the Human Condition Initiative project. Stein holds a JD degree from Emory's School of Law and an MA from Emory's Laney Graduate School. She earned her BA in modern studies at the University of Virginia.