



2010 SCARP SYMPOSIUM

Planning for Resilience March 4-5

Identifying the tools to move from knowledge to action

February 16, 2010

Hello!

As students of The UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, we would like to invite you to participate in our 2nd annual Symposium with this year's topic of **Planning for Resilience**. Please see below for an explanation of our theme of resilience. We hope you will be able to share your expertise and time to the success of this event. The day will include a broad range of panel discussions with a diversity of perspectives from students, academics and practitioners from the fields of architecture, planning, geography, resource management, ecology, landscape architecture and more.

The **Planning for Resilience** Symposium is scheduled for March 5th from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Each panel will run 1 hour and 15 minutes. Please see our website for a complete program and schedule of the day - cfis.ubc.ca/resiliencehome.html

Please advise us as soon as possible of any scheduling constraints and technology requirements, so that we can do our best to accommodate them. As a panelist, you are welcome to stay or come early and enjoy the other sessions. Given our budget limitations, we are unable to provide remuneration and ask that if you will be staying for breakfast and lunch, please consider helping to cover our costs for reduced rate of \$25.

Planning practitioners are eligible for professional credits from PIBC.

To kick off the Symposium, we are hosting a lecture from Emily Talen (2010 Amacon-Beasley Scholar-In-Resident) including a wine and cheese reception on the evening of March 4th. Both events will be held at the Graduate Student Society Building at UBC – 6371 Crescent Road, Vancouver BC

Please direct any further questions to your student liaison.
We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

SCARP Symposium Planning Team



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ABOUT THE THEME OF *Planning for Resilience*:

Resilience is the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and still retain its basic functions. Resilience thinking and doing is about understanding and engaging with a changing world. Some have argued that it is a deceptively simple idea, but its application to systems of humans and nature has proven elusive. How can we plan for resilience?

Resilience, initially rooted in ecology, is defined by C.S. Holling as the “*measure of the persistence of systems and of their ability to absorb change and disturbance and still maintain the same relationships between populations or state variables*” (Holling 1973).

In the subsequent years, Holling’s ideas have been applied to a broader scope of ecological, social and economic research. One result is the creation of the Resilience Alliance (www.resalliance.org) which advocates for “research on resilience in socio-ecological systems - a basis for sustainability”. Resilience is an integral component of a sustainable future.

A *resilient system* is formed by the dynamic interplay between static forces and random events, structural factors and human agency, linear paths and contingency. Such diversity and variability allow resilient systems to absorb unforeseen shocks, bounce back by continually adapting and evolving so as to resist collapse.

Shocks might include current ecological and social catastrophes as the recent Haitian earthquake to the projected post-peak oil extraction decline, to economic meltdowns and failed political negotiations.

Adaptations might include the prize winning CitiesPLUS 100 year plan for the GVRD, policy to reduce single-use vehicles or prioritize the preservation of agricultural lands.

As students, academics, and practitioners engaging in sustainability planning, is it critically necessary that we have a grounded understanding of resilience if we are to significantly contribute and advance our thinking of a sustainable future.



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Are our efforts sufficiently inclusive to capture the intricacy of socially, economically and ecologically complete communities? Are we actively creating, learning and building the tools that will guide us forward?

Join us for the 2nd Annual SCARP Symposium. March 5th 2010 where academics and practitioners involved in the resilience 'thinking' and 'doing' and students from Community and Regional Planning, Engineering, Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Resource Economics and Geography will meet to discuss the concept that 'holds the key to our future'.