

Climate Bridge Conference

Challenges of Climate Change for Spatial and Environmental Planning – An International Dialogue

Thursday, October 14th:

9:00am-9:45am — Opening Remarks/Introduction into the Topic

Welcome and Introduction into the Conference Approach (W.H.)

- Jonathan Holloway: President, Rutgers University
- David Gill: Consul General, Federal Republic of Germany
- Laura Lawson: Interim Executive Dean, Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences & Interim Executive Director, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
- Peter March: Executive Dean, Rutgers University, School of Arts and Sciences
- Piyushimita (Vonu) Thakuria, Dean, Edward J Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

10:00 am-10:25am — The Ruhr Region and New Jersey

Wolfram Höfer: Director, Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability

10:25am-10:40am — The Changing Climate

Tony Broccoli: Co-Director, Rutgers Climate Institute, Department of Environmental Sciences

10:40am-10:55am — People and Climate Change

Robin Leichenko: Co-Director, Rutgers Climate Institute, Department of Geography

10:55am-11:10am — Place and Climate Change

Richard Alomar: Chair, Rutgers University, Department of Landscape Architecture

11:10am-11:25am — Policy and Climate Change

Clint Andrews: Professor, Rutgers University, Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

11:25am-12:00pm — Challenges for People, Place, and Policy in the Times of Climate Change

- Tony Broccoli, Robin Leichenko, Richard Alomar, Clint Andrews, & Moderated by Wolfram Höfer

12:00pm-1:00pm — Lunch Break



1:00pm-2:30pm — People, Place, and Policy, Parallel Panels:

These parallel panel sessions establish a baseline for conversation: What are major challenges on both sides of the Atlantic for people, policy, and place? Through these panels, we aim to identify challenges and explore how an international comparison and conversation could be productive.

Panel 1 — People

As increasingly severe climate events around the world have shown us, the effects of climate change are uneven. This panel discusses how people are impacted differently by climate change and how these inequalities are addressed in New Jersey and Germany's Ruhr region. What are the methods to address equity issues? What are the dimensions of vulnerability — physical, socio-economic, and otherwise?

- Sebastian Schlecht: Founder, lala.ruhr and City of Essen
- Arianna Lindberg: Teaching Instructor, Rutgers University, Department of Landscape Architecture
- Susanne Moebus: Professor, Essen University, Department of Public Health
- Michael Witt: General Counsel, Passaic Valley Sewage Commission
- Moderated by Angela Oberg: Assistant Teaching Professor, Rutgers University, Department of Human Ecology

Panel 2 — Place

As climate change alters our physical environment, we, in turn, respond with adaptive modifications. This panel opens a dialogue on the relationship between climate change and the places we inhabit. How are both natural and built systems impacted by climate change? Which system is coming under more stress? How are seemingly discreet events — such as torrential rains, unprecedented heat, fires, and storm surges — connected on a larger systemic scale? How have we prepared and responded in the past?

- Yasmine Pessar: Environmental Planner, City of Hoboken
- Zach Gallagher: President & Chief Operating Officer, Natural Systems Utilities
- Pippa Brashear: Planning Principal, SCAPE
- Johannes Böttger: Landscape Architect, Büro urbanegestalt Köln
- Moderated by Wolfram Höfer: Director, Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability

Panel 3 — Policy

Both Germany and the US operate under a democratic governance structure within an underlying capitalistic system that honors private property. A major difference between these two contexts is how planning and policy can impact land use and land management decisions. This session will explore how these differences have an effect on current planning, policy approaches, and administrative structures.

- Dave Rosenblatt: Chief Resilience Officer, Climate & Flood Resilience Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Robert Freudenberg: Vice President, Energy & Environment, Regional Plan Association
- Stefan Heiland: Professor, Technical University Berlin, Institute of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, Chair of Landscape Planning and Development
- Moderated by Roger Karapin: Professor, CUNY - Hunter College, Department of Political Science

2:30pm-3:00pm — Coffee Break



3:00pm-4:30pm — Rain, Sea, and Land Panels:

Torrential rain, rising sea level, and warmer land temperatures are becoming increasingly difficult challenges. These panels will develop an interdisciplinary and international approach. Identify how people, place, and policy are linked.

After establishing a working hypothesis of the most pressing issues in New Jersey and the Ruhr Region, individual panels will focus on a particular topic.

Panel 4 — Rain

The Challenges: How do torrential rain events place additional stress on stormwater management systems? What are some of the best practices to face these challenges? Where are similarities between New Jersey and the Ruhr Region?

- Uli Paetzel: CEO, Emschergerossenschaft
- Thomas Laustsen: Chief Operating Officer, Passaic Valley Sewage Commission
- Carolyn Paone: Project Engineer & Sustainability Leader, Langan Engineering
- Vincent Mazzei: Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Watershed and Land Management
- Moderated by Roger Karapin: Professor, CUNY - Hunter College, Department of Political Science

Panel 5 — Sea

The Challenges: What are your responses to sea level rise? How do we handle the often competing logics of resiliency and equity? What are the particular challenges to policy change and adoption? Is retreat thinkable or can it be implemented equitable?

- Lisa Auermueller: Assistant Manager, Jacques Cousteau Coastal Education Center
- Fawn McGee: Director, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Blue Acres Program & Bureau Chief, State Land Acquisition, Green Acres Program, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Barbara Woolley-Dillon: City Planner, Atlantic City
- Moderated by Marjorie Kaplan: Associate Director, Rutgers Climate Institute

Panel 6 — Land

The Challenges: How do increasing temperatures and rainfall intensity impact our cities and suburban areas. What strategies in the fields of urban forestry and urban agriculture exist to mitigate heat island effects and to reduce soil degradation?

- Stephan Pauleit: Professor, Technical University of Munich, Chair for Strategic Landscape Planning and Management
- Pam Zipse: New Jersey Certified Tree Expert and Outreach Coordinator, Rutgers Urban Forestry Outreach Program
- Frank Gallagher: Undergraduate Program Director, Rutgers University, Department of Environmental Planning
- Amy Goldsmith: Clean Water Action & Clean Water Fund, New Jersey State Director
- Moderated by Arianna Lindberg: Teaching Instructor, Rutgers University, Department of Landscape Architecture



4:30pm-5:00pm — Closing Comments

Summary of the day's outcome (Frank Gallagher)

Friday, October 15th:

9:00am-10:15am — Keynote Presentation:

"The Future: Changing Demographics" — Thorsten Wiechmann: Professor and Dean, Technical University Dortmund, Department of Spatial Planning and Planning Theory

10:30am-12:00pm — Vision Panels:

New Horizons: What would be our dream land ideal approach? If we were not constrained by resources, what would we do? In these visioning sessions, we will conjure "pie-in-the-sky" collective futures. These visions may not be applicable immediately but may turn into scenarios that inform next steps.

Panel 7 — Vision for People

How do we ensure fair access to resources and increase resilience across all communities? How can we prepare current and future generations to face the impacts of climate change?

- Angela Oberg: Assistant Teaching Professor, Rutgers University, Department of Human Ecology
- Andrea Marston: Assistant Professor, Rutgers University, Department of Geography
- Thorsten Wiechmann: Professor and Dean, Technical University Dortmund, Department of Spatial Planning and Planning Theory
- Tobias Fox: Managing Director, Newark Science and Sustainability, Inc.
- Moderated by Laura Lawson: Interim Executive Dean, Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences & Interim Executive Director, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Panel 8 — Vision for Place

How do we mitigate the effects of climate change related events — torrential rains, unprecedented heat, fires, and storm surges? How do we improve our response to such events? What is the biggest challenge facing the answer to this issue?

- Donna Rendeiro: Executive Director, NJ Office of Planning Advocacy
- Jim Welsh: Senior Landscape Architect, MKW and Associates
- Rupert Halbertschlager: Partner, Bauchplan).(Landscape Architect, Germany and Austria
- Moderated by Richard Alomar: Chair, Rutgers University, Department of Landscape Architecture



Panel 9 — Vision for Policy

How can policy acknowledge our underlying capitalistic system while addressing substantial changes of procedures and administrative frameworks?

- Katrina Angarone: Associate Commissioner for Science and Policy, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Jon Carnegie: Executive Director, Rutgers University, Voorhees Transportation Center
- Wolfram Höfer: Director, Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability
- Sonja Dümpelmann: Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Landscape Architecture
- Moderated by Frank Gallagher: Undergraduate Program Director Environmental Planning, Rutgers University, Department of Landscape Architecture

12:00pm-1:00pm — Lunch Break

12:30pm-1:45pm — Public Poster Session

Posters will provide the opportunity to share in-progress or finished research, designs and other explorations that lend themselves to a visual presentation of creative thoughts and ideas. Scholars, scientists, practitioners, and students in Germany and the United States are invited through a virtual or in person format to contribute their work to the discussion. The diversity of submitted posters will allow participants to compare and contrast different approaches that address common challenges.

2:00pm-2:45pm — Keynote Presentation

Adapting our natural and built environment one design project at a time.

- Tilmann Latz: Principal, Latz + Partner of München

2:45pm-3:15pm — Coffee Break

3:15pm-4:45pm — Public Panel Discussion: Political Visions

This panel will focus on lessons learned from the German American comparison concerning environmental planning approaches to climate change and to highlight that leadership on both sides of the Atlantic is required to set a new political agenda for a resilient future.

- Shawn M. LaTourette: Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Wolfram von Heynitz: Deputy Consul General, Federal Republic of Germany
- Uli Paetzel: CEO, EmscherGenossenschaft
- Moderated by Frederick Steiner: University of Pennsylvania, Dean of the Weitzman School of Design

5:00pm-8:00pm — Closing Reception at Rutgers Club