

ES SEMINAR SERIES

12:30-1:30 pm
01/26/2022

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Marta Berbés-Blázquez

The co-production of resilient urban futures



Abstract: Current and projected climatic trends highlight the need for transformative change to stay within a safe operating space for humanity. In the absence of strong international agreements, many municipal governments are leading the efforts to build resilience to climate change in general and to extreme weather events in particular. In this setting, anticipatory methods such as scenario planning with city professionals, experts, and members of civil society provide an opportunity to co-produce positive visions of the future. Visions are intended to inspire but also to compare the viability of alternative policy pathways. In this presentation, I will present visions of the future co-developed by the Urban Resilience to Extremes Sustainability Research Network (UREx SRN) which worked with nine cities in the United States and Latin America to explore possibilities for creating more resilient, sustainable, and equitable cities. Through this work, I reflect on the possibilities for transformative change that may be catalyzed through the use of anticipatory and participatory approaches.

Bio: **Dr. Berbés-Blázquez** is an assistant professor at the School of Planning in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo, Canada. Her research considers the human dimensions of social-ecological transformations in rural and urban ecosystems with an emphasis on vulnerable and minoritized populations. Her work is informed by resilience thinking and political ecology at a conceptual level, and it is practically oriented toward qualitative, participatory and anticipatory research methods. Specific topics of interest in her research include dynamics of power and access in ecosystem services, scenario planning, resource extraction, climate change adaptation and transformation.



Paper:

Iwaniec, D. M., Cook, E. M., Davidson, M. J., Berbés-Blázquez, M., Georgescu, M., Krayenhoff, E. S., ... & Grimm, N. B. (2020). The co-production of sustainable future scenarios. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 197, 103744.