



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Science

Veronica Horvath

Will defend her thesis

Sustainability Principles and the Future of Phoenix, Arizona: Framing the Salt River's Urban Waterway Redevelopment

Abstract

As urban populations rapidly increase in an era of climate change and multiple social and environmental uncertainties, scientists and governments are cultivating knowledge and solutions for the sustainable growth and maintenance of cities. In this light, my study leverages a qualitative content analysis of news media and interviews to expose if well-established sustainability principles are evoked during the nascent discourse of recently proposed urban waterway developments along over fifty miles of Arizona's Salt River. Possible developments could incorporate the landscape alongside human use, increase residential wellbeing, and provide multiple uses of natural resources. Alternatively, they could cause community, political, and environmental harm in the name of economic development. In this study, a deductive content analysis is used to illuminate the emergence of sustainability assessment principles and analyzed to assess the relationship to macro-environmental discourses. Robust empirical analysis of emergent discourse through the lens of seminal sustainability principles extends scholarly understanding of urban resilience processes and the applicability of sustainability theory. Although substantial literature focuses on urban water resource management related to both human and ecological sustainability, few studies assess the unique role of urban waterway restorations to bridge anthropocentric and ecological concerns in urban environments. As continued densification, in-fill and rapid urbanization continues in the 21st century, more cities are looking to reconstruct urban riverways. Therefore, the emergent sustainability discourse regarding potential revitalizations along Arizona's Salt River is a manifestation of how waterways are

perceived, valued, is essential to urban environments for anthropocentric and ecological needs.

Thursday, April 4th, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Decision Center for a Desert City, BYOH 175

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:

Dave D. White, Chair

Naho Mirumachi

Mikhail Chester

Dan Childers