



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Art
Marley Halter

Will present her scientific paper

**Transformation Labs as a Sustainability Intervention to Leverage
the Human Factor of Social-Ecological Change in the Escalante
Community Garden**

Abstract

Community gardens not only grow food, they can also grow people. There is abundant evidence about the benefits of community gardens for cities and neighborhoods; they can help to resolve conflicts, create community, build trust, connect humans to nature, they can assist personal changes in the people who work and play in them, including deep meanings such as what it means to live a good urban lifestyle. While we often look at community gardens as material spaces managed by organizations, appropriate resources and institutional arrangements do not fully define a community garden or ensure its success. Understanding the “human factor” is key to designing and implementing interventions at the personal, subjective level that increase the viability of gardens across our cities. This paper studies the Escalante Community Garden in Tempe, Arizona, as a transforming social-ecological system in which volunteers exhibiting collective efficacy are a crucial component of the system. To keep this undergoing transformation on a positive pathway, I leveraged a sustainability intervention, a Transformation Lab, that used a set of replicable participatory tools to encourage personal and interpersonal dynamics beyond a purely organizational perspective in Escalante.

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

9:00 AM

WGHL 401

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. David Manuel-Navarrete, chair

Dr. Scott Cloutier, member

Dr. Hallie Eakin, member