



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy
Nicholas Weller

Will defend his prospectus

**Engaging Communities and Decision Makers to Enhance
Resilience to Climate-related Hazards**

Abstract

I propose to examine several facets of a large-scale effort to conduct participatory assessments of climate-related hazards and strategies to deal with those hazards. Research questions address participant conceptualizations of resilience, the dynamics of consensus and disagreement among participants, the role of framing and facilitation in participant conversations, and the interactions of decision makers and experts with participatory assessments. My broad research goal is to create a rich snapshot of a large participatory engagement activity, from the role of convener choices about content to decision maker and participant experiences. Practitioners and researchers have utilized various methods for public engagement around climate change mitigation and adaptation but not without substantial disagreement over the type of engagement, the roles of engagement in broader systems, or even the normative and epistemological groundings of engagement itself. My proposed dissertation work will create practical lessons for both public engagement and sustainability practitioners and address these research gaps and critiques.

Friday, October 27, 2017
1:00-2:00 p.m.
Wrigley Hall, Room 323

Faculty, students, and the public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:
Daniel Childers, Chair
Sonja Klinsky, Member
Ira Bennett, Member
Paul Coseo, Member