
Fostering Global Mindedness in Planning, Research and Pedagogy

GPEIG VOICE

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Message from GPEIG's Co-Chairs

Dear Colleagues,

This annual issue of our newsletter, the GPEIG Voice, provides an opportunity to update our members and friends who have globally-minded interests in planning scholarship, education and practice. We look forward to seeing many of you at the GPEIG business luncheon during the annual ACSP conference in Salt Lake City.

During the luncheon we will also have an opportunity to meet and congratulate the winners of the Gill-Chin Lim Dissertation Award and the Gill-Chin Lim Travel Awards for 2011. More information on the winner's work is included later in the newsletter. We thank the members of the Dissertation Awards Committee (Gabriela Carolini, chair, Tridib Banerjee and Bill Goldsmith) and the members of the Travel Awards Committee (Deden Rukmana, chair, Emel Ganapati and Anuradha Mukherji) for their hard work and conscientious decision-making. We are looking for new

WPSC 2011 Roundtable & Panel co-sponsored by GPEIG

By Keith Pezzoli, Ph.D., Director, The Global ARC, kpezzoli@theglobalarc.org



Photo 1. WPSC 2011 Plenary, Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, Perth, Western Australia, July 4, 2011. Photo by Keith Pezzoli.

The 2011 World Planning Schools Congress (WPSC) in Perth, Western Australia was the third WPSC event to be held in a decade. It joins the ranks of the successful 2001 and 2006 Congresses held in Shanghai and Mexico City respectively. The 2011 WPSC included approximately 500 participants from 68 countries. About 20 of these participants came from the USA and Canada. The World Congress is an initiative of the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN). GPEAN is the leading international convener of urban planning educators and university sector researchers. GPEAN federates nine regional associations of planning schools, including:

- Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS)
- Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning [USA] (ACSP)
- Association of Canadian University Planning Programs (ACUPP)
- Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP)
- Latin American Association of Schools of Urbanism and Planning (ALEUP)
- National Association of Urban and Regional Post-graduate and Research Programs [Brazil] (ANPUR)
- Australia and New Zealand Association of Planning Schools (ANZAPS)
- Association for the Development of Planning Education and Research (APERAU)

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- Asian Planning Schools Association (APSA)

The WPSC 2011 was organized into 20 Tracks including one on Multinational and Crossborder Planning (Track 14, co-chaired by Keith Pezzoli, Andreas Faludi, and Mark Oranje). GPEIG co-sponsored two of the sessions in Track 14 (a roundtable and panel) focused on how planners and allied partners are collaborating across nations, city-regions and global networks. Both the roundtable and panel are described below.

TRACK 14 ROUNDTABLE (CO-SPONSORED by GPEIG)

Grand Challenges in Global Planning and Engaged Scholarship: Linking Diverse Networks, Sustaining Collaborative Infrastructure, and Creating Transdisciplinary Knowledge Commons.

GPEIG co-sponsored this Grand Challenges Roundtable with The Global Action Research Center (The Global ARC) as part of Track 14: Multinational and Crossborder Planning, on July 6, 2011.

Over 50 people participated including those listed below as the invited roundtable leaders:

- Keith Pezzoli, (co-organizer), Director, The Global Action Research Center; Dir. Field Research/Lecturer, Urban Studies and Planning Program, University of California @ San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA
- Vanessa Watson, (co-organizer) Professor, School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Paul Maginn [moderator], Senior Lecturer/Program Coordinator (Urban/Regional Planning), University of Western Australia, School of Earth and Geographical Sciences; and WPSC 2011 Congress Chair.
- Sonia Dias, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), Brazil
- Andrea Frank, PhD, CEBE Deputy Director (Planning, Housing, Transport), Senior Lecturer in City and Regional Planning, Cardiff University, Wales UK
- Trevor Budge, Senior Lecturer, La Trobe University, Bendigo; Adjunct Professor, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia,
- Mr. Aditya Kumar, Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)
- Bheki Ernest Buthelezi, Community Organization Resource Center, South Africa
- Melanie Manuel, Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)

Pezzoli and Watson organized the roundtable with the intent to: (1) Explore the possibility of crafting a set of grand challenges around which to inspire, mobilize and scale up promising initiatives in global planning and networking; (2) Identify barriers and bridges to linking global planning networks (in research, education and practice) with kindred networks mobilized by civil society, government, allied professions and international scientific communities; and (3) Begin a discussion about the kinds of infrastructure and knowledge commons we need to sustain/amplify the benefits of global planning and networking. Food justice, water sustainability, renewable energy, affordable housing, and an informal economy that creates healthy livelihood opportunities were all deemed worthy of grand challenge status.

The Roundtable concentrated on the promise and challenges of co-joining educational and civil society networks. For planning students, experiential learning in informal settlements and with informal workers can shift sensitivity to these contexts more effectively than classroom-based teaching on its own. Along such lines, the Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS) recently

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Slum Dwellers International (SDI). SDI is present in 33 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The MoU establishes a working relationship between African planning schools and SDI with the intent to promote initiatives, plans and policies which encourage pro-poor and inclusive development of African cities and towns.

This effort has the potential to inspire other linkages –for instance, connecting scholarly planning networks active in the global south with WIEGO –Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing. WIEGO is a global research-policy network that seeks to improve the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. The Global Action Research Center (The Global ARC) is building infrastructure to support such efforts (i.e., planning and engaged scholarship across boundaries, sectors, institutions and scales).

The Global ARC's core functions include: <http://theglobalarc.org>

- A systematic way for community-based organizations to clarify and publically broadcast their priorities for use-inspired, problem-solving, and solutions-oriented research.
- Collaborative infrastructure (internet and institutional) that incentivizes citizens, scientists, entrepreneurs and others to collectively pool/share research-based evidence for innovation and public benefit.
- A holistic “connect the dots” approach to urban-rural sustainability that integrates otherwise fragmented efforts in the quest for justice, environmental health and good jobs (framework = The Good Bioregion).
- Leadership capacity-building for community engagement, research translation, science communication and social innovation.



Photo 2: Participants in the WPSC 2011 Roundtable: Grand Challenges in Global Planning and Engaged Scholarship (July 6, 2011, Perth, Western Australia). Photo by Paul Mangin.



Photo 3: Participants in the WPSC 2011 Roundtable: Grand Challenges in Global Planning and Engaged Scholarship (July 6, 2011, Perth, Western Australia). Photo by Keith Pezzoli.

TRACK 14 SPECIAL SESSION (CO-SPONSORED by GPEIG):

Linking networks in planning, civil society, and sustainability science for the global good.

GPEIG co-sponsored this Special Session with The Global Action Research Center (The Global ARC) as part of Track 14: Multinational and Crossborder Planning, on July 7, 2011. Over 30 people participated including those listed below who presented the following papers.

- Keith Pezzoli (Session Organizer). Scaling up innovation thru community-based action research, citizen media and global networking.
- Alison Brown, Caroline Skinner and Sonia Dias. Planning for the Informal Economy: How grassroots activism is challenging planning paradigms.
- Bruce Goldstein. How do networks learn? A comparison of conservation learning networks around the world, with implications for network design and implementation.

Pezzoli pulled this special session together as a complement to the Grand Challenges Roundtable also presented in Track 14. The session authors critically examined global initiatives aimed at strengthening linkages among planning networks (academic and professional), civil society networks, and sustainability science networks.

The session underscored the importance of coordinating academic (theoretical) and practical (policy/ action) aspects of multinational and crossborder networking geared to advancing healthy and sustainable development. Presenting authors based their work on case studies with special attention devoted to: (1) lessons learned, (2) forward-looking actionable vision, and (3) socio-technical challenges associated with global networking including seeking common ground for strategic agendas, establishing sustainable collaborative infrastructure, power relations, equity and justice.

WPSC 2011 multimedia resources

Photos:

Images of the main congress:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/theglobalarc/sets/72157627136963479/with/5966606553/>

Images of the WPSC bicycle tour (4 days cycling around Perth), the Subiaco and East Perth mobile tour, Fremantle and Sydney:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/theglobalarc/collections/72157627132776377/>

Video:

Key note addresses, welcomes, opening and closing statements by the Congress Chair, and highlights of the Bicycle journey around Perth: <http://vimeo.com/channels/229530>

WPSC 2011 Article by the Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS):

http://www.africanplanningschools.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=220&catid=41&Itemid=50

The Good Bioregion: A global action research agenda for progressive regionalism

by Keith Pezzoli, Ph.D. kpezzoli@theglobalarc.org

The time is now for articulating actionable visions of alternative development that can inspire progressive imagination and motivate innovative social transformation. The perfect storm is upon us with multiple stressors colliding locally, regionally and worldwide; creating a cascade of downward-spiraling wicked problems. In the midst of the epic changes taking place, globally-minded planning researchers and educators have an important role to play as problem-solvers as well as solutions-generators. “The Good Bioregion,” I suggest, is a fruitful way to frame civically-engaged action research geared to enabling just and sustainable placemaking.

Bioregionalist Roots

Peter Berg, Raymond Dasmann, Murry Bookchin, Kirkpatrick Sale, among others laid a foundation for bioregionalism as praxis in the 1960s and 1970s. Much of this work has roots in ecological regionalism first articulated in the late-19th and early-20th century (e.g., by Patrick Geddes, Ebenezer Howard, Lewis Mumford, and the Regional Planning Association of America active during the time of the Great Depression and New Deal). Initial variants of bioregionalism (countervailing critiques of North American and Euro-centric conceptions of industrial modernism) mainly prescribed localist/place-based, self-reliant models for urban-rural development. The time is right for a new approach to bioregionalism that is more critical, globally-minded, interdependent, and culturally comparative in theory-building and practice. Critical bioregionalism becomes “critical” when it aims to eradicate root causes of poverty, social injustice and environmental degradation—while taking into account the world’s increasingly globalized flows of material, energy and knowledge resources. Given the increasing importance of knowledge integration when dealing with socio-ecological problems, it makes sense that action research and scholarship of engagement can play a very significant role in defining and implementing a new critical bioregionalism.

Action Research

The 21st century’s mounting social, economic and ecological problems are pressuring universities worldwide to do more civically-engaged and solutions-oriented research. As a result there is rising demand for *scholarship of engagement* including action research focused on civic concerns. Action Research is a method for creating, sharing, and using new knowledge through equitable partnerships and collaboration. Action research is use-inspired, problem-solving, and solutions-oriented; it brings together diverse people and organizations with common cause to improve quality of life and place—especially where harsh realities of poverty, environmental degradation, unemployment and social injustice loom large.

The Global Action Research Center (The Global ARC)

The Global ARC is a new nonprofit organization based in San Diego, California and NYC, New York. GPEIG is listed as a partner on the Global ARC’s web site. The GPEIG-Global ARC relationship was established by a unanimous vote of those who participated in GPEIG’s business meeting held at the 2010 annual ACSP conference.

The Global ARC is promoting “The Good Bioregion” as a framework for making culturally sensitive and biogeographically conscious alternative development possible. The Global ARC helps integrate science, green business, urban-rural planning and multimedia communications for sustainable placemaking (especially where concerns about the built environment, water, food, energy, ecosystem integrity and human health intersect). Those of us building The Global ARC (researchers, educators, and community leaders from the civic, public and private sectors) invite GPEIG colleagues to help organize and develop the ARC’s endeavors including “The Good Bioregion Movement.”

The Good Bioregion Movement: Three core assumptions and strategic agendas

1. **Alternative Development.** Problems arising from climate change, peak oil, peak fresh water, and economic-ecological stresses are combining in new and troublesome ways. The magnitude and complexity of these problems will force institutional and social change on an epic scale. We need to define new pathways for alternative development. From a critical bioregional perspective, the following tasks are high on the agenda:

- Create forward-looking vision and evidence-based foundations upon which policies and programs can be developed to implement just and healthy bioregional development.
- Establish an operational framework and methods for integrated assessment of coupled human-ecological systems (urban, rural, wildland).
- Develop new socio-ecological metrics of value and wealth (e.g., measures of ecosystem services and positive externalities associated with community gardening and food justice).
- Support the creation of green jobs, green infrastructure and community commons.

2. **Bioregional Infrastructure.** Place-based concepts like bioregion, foodshed, watershed, and urban-wild land interface will become pivotal in economic and community development planning as the hyper-mobility of energy-intensive global capital becomes unmanageably problematic. The inability of most economies to create enough jobs has stirred up controversy about so-called free trade, global outsourcing of work, and subsidies that go to big corporations engaged in export led industrialization. But alternatives calling for localist, place-based approaches lack institutional and infrastructural support. From a critical bioregional perspective, the following tasks are high on the agenda:

- Invest in bioregional infrastructure including hybrid institutions of governance as well as conduits for alternative systems of production, distribution and exchange.
- Develop open access web-based resources for data access, visualization, integration, mapping and spatial analysis (e.g., bioregional workbenches).
- Leverage university resources to build regional capacity for discovery, innovation, and learning.
- Support the creation of regional food hubs and other agropolitan-type infrastructure.
- Partner with regional alliances and initiatives to foster ecological democracy.

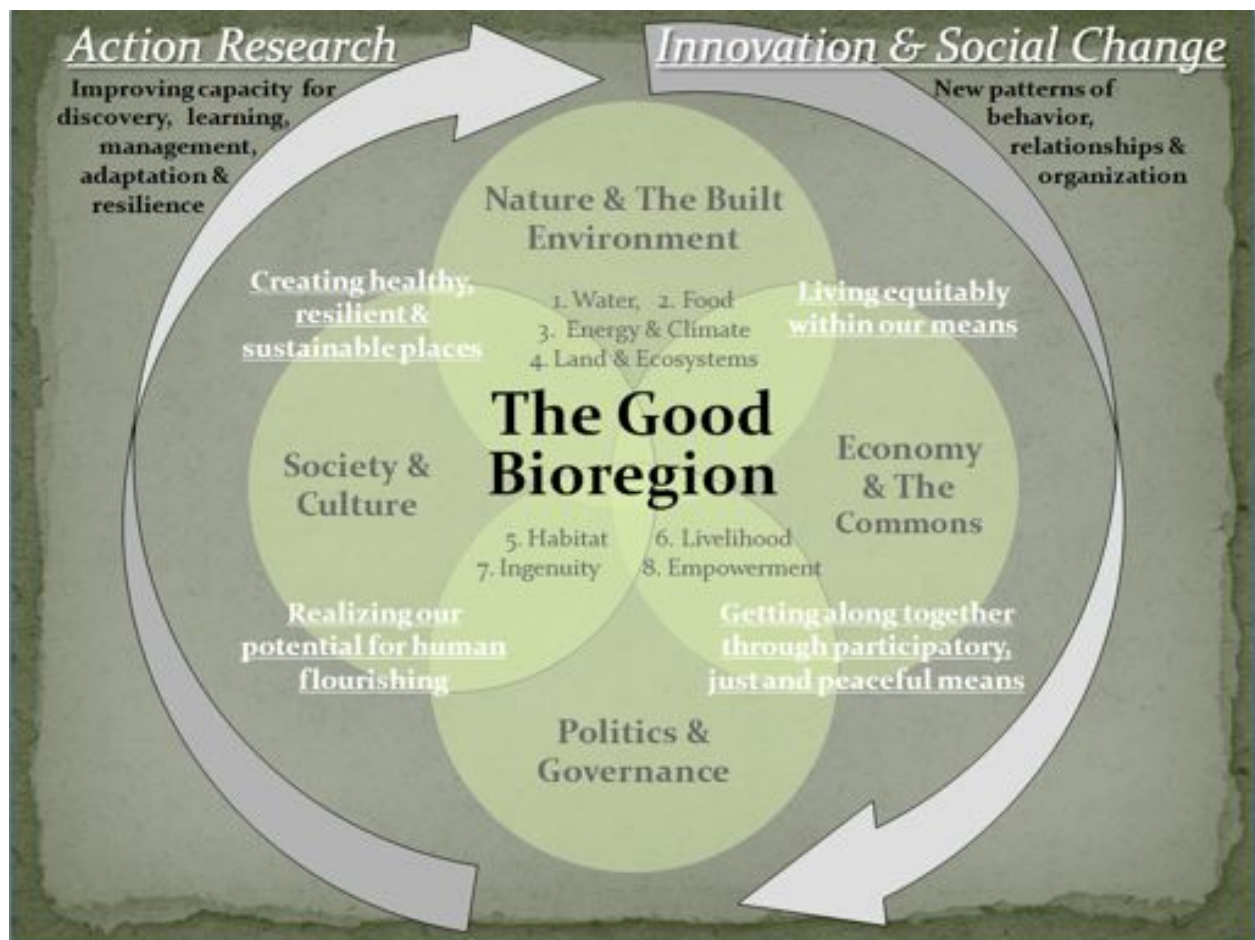
3. **Action Research.** Changes in the funding and culture of science and technology are creating new opportunities for integrative research. The Global ARC’s integrative (connect the dots) web infrastructure links researchers and communities through social media and global networking. The

Global ARC's efforts are part of a rising tide of action research that puts a premium on civic engagement, learn-by-doing, co-production of knowledge, social innovation and ecological democracy with a healthy land ethic. From the perspective of critical bioregionalism, action research is especially useful when it embodies these operational principles:

- Place-based; takes into account complexity, multiscalar flows & networks.
- Integrative and multidisciplinary; weaves together ecologies of knowledge, creates synthesis.
- Normative; articulates critical standpoints while avoiding fundamentalism; promotes justice.
- Historical and Forward-looking; action-oriented.
- Collaborative, community-based and communicative; embraces values of inclusiveness, transparency and accountability.
- Comparative and evidenced-based with metrics for evaluation.

Next Steps and Invitation

The Global ARC is currently reconfiguring its sustainable database from six categories to eight: (1) food, (2) water, (3) energy and climate, (4) land and ecosystems, (5) the built environment, (6) livelihoods, (7) human and organizational development, and (8) communications and empowerment. These categories need to be further tested and refined through use. See image below. Input welcome.



The Global ARC's sustainability database provides a participatory platform for urban and rural communities to shape the agendas, processes and outcomes of action research for good bioregional development. Community-based organizations can use the sustainability database to make known their priority needs for evidence-based knowledge, evaluation, assessment and monitoring. This provides civic-minded faculty, students and others a way to identify local priorities and connect with community partners. We aim to thicken such connections by using a variety of methods: publications, blogs, video, photos, forums, educational outreach, radio, news media, workshops in the field, and social media including Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube and Twitter. Participation welcome. Contact Keith Pezzoli: kpezzoli@theglobalarc.org

Resource Links

The Global ARC home page: <http://theglobalarc.org>

The Global ARC Vimeo (video) archive: <http://vimeo.com/theglobalarc>

The Global ARC YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/theglobalarc>

The Global ARC Flickr Photostream: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/theglobalarc/collections/>

Global ARC work focused on food systems:

- Food Justice Forum at UCSD, Bob Gottlieb as key note speaker: http://www.theglobalarc.org/blog/comments/food_justice_forum_a_success/
- Carbon footprint analysis of locally sourced food: http://www.theglobalarc.org/news_events/comments/farm-to-school_research/
- Bioregionalism (Manzanita Ridge) http://www.theglobalarc.org/programs/detail/manzanita_ridge/

Global ARC work focused on watershed management

- Watershed management and environmental public health in the US-Mexico border http://www.theglobalarc.org/programs/solution/ucsd_tv_documentary/
- Planning and Decision Support Systems <http://www.theglobalarc.org/programs/detail/planning-decision-support/>

The author is Director of Field Research and a Lecturer in the Urban Studies and Planning Program at the University of California, San Diego.