Fostering Global Mindedness in Planning, Research and Pedagogy

GPEIG VOICE

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NEWS

Edward Blakely of the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney and recently recovery director in New Orleans post Katrina was one of the people recognized by UN Habitat with an invitation to the Hairi Awards at the UN General Assembly in New York on Sep 28, 2012. He was cited for his work in disaster mitigation, planning and prevention as well as post disaster reconstruction of cities which are socially and environmentally sustainable.

Petra Doan has been promoted to Full Professor at Florida State University and in academic year 2012-2013 has been awarded a sabbatical. The goal of her sabbatical is to integrate her international development work with her work on inclusive spaces for LGBT people in the US context. In Fall 2012 she is serving as the John Bousfield Distinguished Planning Visitor at the University of Toronto where she is giving the Bousfield lecture on "the Tyranny of Gendered Planning" and is teaching a course on "Beyond Queer Space: Planning for Non-normative Genders and Sexualities." She and Amy Lind have organized a panel at ACSP 2012 in Cincinnati on Queerying Development Planning. Later in November she will return to Florida State University for a gala celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Master's International Program with the US Peace Corps at FSU, a program she initiated in 1992. In Spring 2013 she will be working on several writing projects and hopes to do some more travelling, perhaps to Africa.

Michael Hibbard has been chosen by ACSP for the 2012 Jay Chatterjee Award, in large part because of his work to internationalize ACSP. Mike has held a number of positions with ACSP, including President from 2005-2009 and Co-Editor of the Journal of Planning Education and Research from 2000—2004. He served as representative to the four member International Steering Committee for the 2001 World Planning Schools Congress in Shanghai. After the Shanghai Congress, Mike continued the effort to extend the reach of ACSP by serving on the Planning Globally

Reports and Brief Articles (cont.)

THE GLOBAL ARC™
Global Action Research Center

The Global ARC, a nonprofit organization, was established in 2009 by faculty in the Urban Studies and Planning Program at the University of California, San Diego, along with partners in several other universities and professional organizations. At its 2010 business meeting, GPEIG voted to recognize the Global ARC as an allied organization. This article is a brief update on The Global ARC's activities as it relates to GPEIG's mission. The Global ARC aims to: (1) inspire, design, conduct, and support civically-engaged action research aimed at transitioning unsustainable development toward just and sustainable place-making that is locally rooted, regionally-wise, and globally-minded; and (2) build collaborative information and communications systems that can make it easier for community-based organizations, scientists, scholars and students to join forces linking knowledge-to-action for the common good.

The Global ARC aims to build a diverse social network of local, regional, national, and global partners. The social networks and web infrastructure will enable scholars and community-based organizations to work together for poverty alleviation and sustainability. Community-based organizations are active partners in building the network. In the process community-based organizations can gain exposure for their causes on regional and global scales, get access to action researchers and student interns, benefit from use-inspired and problem solving science, and draw strength from numbers to the extent the community-based organizations is able to rally efforts beyond their borders.

The Global ARC is a work in progress. Core capabilities under development include:

- A systematic way for community-based organizations to clarify and share their priorities for use-inspired, problem-solving, and solutions-oriented research.
- Collaborative infrastructure (internet and institutional) that incentivizes citizens, scientists, entrepreneurs and others to innovatively pool/share research-based evidence for 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.
- Leadership capacity-building for community engagement, research translation, science communication and social innovation.

The Global ARC is creating a sustainability database and other resources that we hope will help GPEIG meet its mission to enable planning educators, students, allied professionals and groups to collaboratively. GPEIG's mission it to: "(1) share global perspectives in planning education and research, (2) foster an understanding of the global perspectives in planning education and research, (3) foster an understanding of the global context of local and regional issues; and (4) engender an appreciation of and respect for cultural, economic, and political dimensions of planning; and the recognition of the rich array of planning processes that can be fully appreciated only by learning about what is being done in other countries" (GPEIG mission statement, http://www.gpeig.org/)

The Global ARC also participates in the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN). GPEAN is a worldwide network of national (including the ACSP) and multi-national associations of university level planning programs and schools in urban and regional planning. The Global ARC co-hosted a roundtable and international panel at GPEAN's 2011 World Planning Schools Congress in Perth, Australia (to learn more see the previous issue of GPEIG's newsletter). GPEAN facilitates international communication on equal terms

amongst university planning communities worldwide in order to improve the quality and visibility of planning pedagogy, research and practice, and to promote ethical, sustainable, multi-cultural, gender-sensitive, participatory planning.

BIOREGIONAL PORTAL FOR THE US-MEXICO BORDER REGION

The Global ARC's leadership recently played a significant role in winning UCSD's $15million NIEHS Superfund Research Center Grant (2012-2017). UCSD's Superfund Research Center, Spatial Information Integration Lab, Urban Studies and Planning Program, Center on Global Justice, Center for Urban Ecologies, and Center for US -Mexican Studies are collaborating with two nonprofit organizations: Alter Terra and The Global ARC to design and create a Bioregional Portal for crossborder research and sustainable development. The Portal's geographical focus at the outset includes: the Sweetwater Watershed, Otay Watershed, Pueblo Watershed and Tijuana River Watershed (a 1,750 square mile area that straddles the U.S./Mexico border). The portal will be extensible to other project locations in the county and across the border.

The development of the Bioregional portal (mainly with funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIEHS) meets a pressing need for innovative information systems and tools that can reconcile and integrate the activities of regional data providers, planners, managers, politicians, regulators, policy-makers and community groups in support of sustainable regional watershed management and decision-making. To resolve serious problems of poverty and environmental degradation in the border region requires collaboration among local, state, and federal agencies based in the US and Mexico. The Bioregional Portal is a collaborative effort to create a durable, trusted, quality controlled, standards-based and user friendly way to share, visualize, analyze, and integrate water and related data across diverse agencies and jurisdictions. One of the tasks includes creating user-defined, purpose-driven, solutions-oriented narratives to facilitate access to and use of data. Narratives of this sort provide actionable analytical perspectives concerning, for example, the water-poverty-climate nexus, waterways and watershed health, hydromodification and flooding—especially useful in disadvantaged communities more people are more likely to suffer the consequences of poverty, climate change and ecosystem degradation.

The UCSD NIEHS Superfund Research Center (SRC) has a Community Engagement Core and Research Translation Core, both of which are led by The Global ARC's Executive Director. The Community Engagement Core is focusing on the San Diego-Tijuana binational crossborder region (see Figure 1).

The dark blue lines shown inside the two watersheds of Figure 1 are heavily contaminated creeks. The

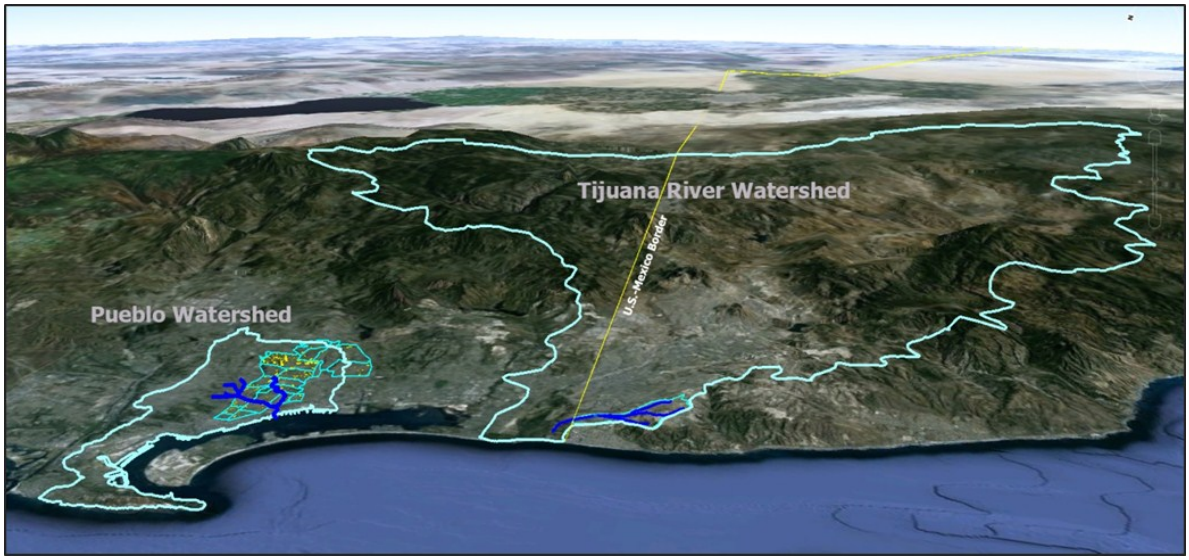

Figure 1. The Global ARC's comparative binational study area: The Tijuana River Watershed and the Pueblo Watershed

Pueblo watershed also shows yellow polygons inside a cluster of 20 neighborhoods that make up Southeastern San Diego. The yellow polygons are vacant lots (591 of them) that The Global ARC evaluated using a site suitability survey, conducted by 90 students, to determine. which vacant lots are good candidates for community gardens and food forests. The Pueblo watershed is the most urbanized, polluted and poverty stricken watershed among the 11 watersheds that make up San Diego. The Global ARC is taking a regional asset-based (land-water-ecosystems) approach to sustainable community development in the Pueblo and Tijuana River Watershed. The inventory of 591 vacant lots generated a list of good candidates for community gardens and food forests. The Global ARC, in partnership with local residents, nonprofits, business leaders, and civically-engaged researchers are in the process of transforming one of those lots into a community garden. This effort goes beyond good healthy food. We see this as a compelling way to advance an agenda of localization (rooted community where people come to know and become affectionate about their place, their watershed, their land, their bioregion, community commons). And the benefits are manifold. Our work is about the food-water-climate nexus.

The Global ARC also played a significant role helping San Diego's Bayside Community Center hook up with researchers at UCSD in a successful bid for a grant from the San Diego Foundation. The Global ARC got several letters of support for the now funded plan to create an Environmental Learning Center at Bayside, which is located in Linda Vista. Linda Vista is a group of under-served neighborhoods made up of approximately 46,000 people of 24 distinct cultures and 38 language dialects. The median income in Linda Vista is less than $40,000 per year; the poverty rate is 21%. Unemployment is 75% higher than the San Diego County average and double the national average. Eighty-six percent of elementary and high school students qualify for free or reduced lunches. The Global ARC, led by the Director of Community-University Relations (**Janice Pezzoli**) created a community garden at the Bayside site in an ongoing effort to promote food justice and security.

The Global ARC, together with UCSD's Urban Studies and Planning Program (including student interns), the Superfund Research Center, and the Center for Community Wellbeing, is working with the new Environmental Learning Center at Bayside on the following goals set by the communities of Linda Vista: (1) San Diego's most vulnerable communities will gain strength as they self-mobilize and proactively resolve critical human health and environmental problems, (2) Disadvantaged and underserved people will gain greater access to green space thanks to hands-on education and training that integrates social justice, food justice and environmental justice, on the ground (in the community garden and an adjacent canyon), and (3) A promising new knowledge-action collaborative will take root in a long standing community center well positioned to bring the nonprofit sector into closer alliance with science, civically-engaged researchers and their institutions of higher education.

By **Keith Pezzoli, Ph.D**.

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The University of California, San Diego Superfund Research Center: U.S.-Mexico Transborder Collaboration for Environmental Public Health

Co-Principal Investigators: **Dr. Keith Pezzoli**, **Dr. Wael Al-Delaimy, Dr. Ilya Zaslavsky, Oscar Romo**

NIEHS Superfund Research Center Grant # P42ES010337 (2012-2017), contact: kpezzoli@ucsd.edu

The UC San Diego Superfund Research Center (SRC) is generating new perspectives on the molecular and genetic basis of toxicant exposure, leading to new methodologies for gauging health risks and assessing health effects—especially among vulnerable populations living under cumulative stresses associated with poverty. The SRC is the largest interdisciplinary environmental

health science program at UCSD; investigators from 10 UCSD Departments, Organized Research Units and Centers work together to develop innovative detection and monitoring systems for toxicity; and create novel models for bioremediation.

Keith Pezzoli is the Principal Investigator of the SRC's Community Engagement Core and Research Translation Core. Pezzoli is a faculty member in UCSD's Urban Studies and Planning Program and an active participant in the Global Planning Educators Interest Group (GPEIG) of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP). Pezzoli works closely with UCSD's Department of Family and Preventative Medicine, and the San Diego Supercomputer Center's Spatial Information Integration Lab. The Community Engagement Core is tasked with linking the SRC's science to real world applications that benefit vulnerable communities. This creates many unique opportunities for faculty as well as graduate and undergraduate students to link science to policy and planning in distressed areas on both sides of the US-Mexico Border. The Community Engagement Core aims to advance environmental justice and sustainability in the San Diego-Tijuana city-region by enabling students, civically-engaged researchers, community leaders, and a diverse range of professionals to collaborate across academic and jurisdictional boundaries.

Among the border region's 14 sister city crossborder metropolitan areas, the San Diego-Tijuana city-region is the largest and fastest growing; it is an especially dynamic place for interdisciplinary and globally-minded research, education and service learning. The SD-TJ region is a living laboratory with much potential for merging two levels of creativity: (1) grassroots dynamism generating civic experimentation and crossborder community problem solving, and (2) upper tier innovation in industrial clusters and science parks (manufacturing, telecommunications, biotechnology, green energy, health and the life sciences).

The SRC's Community Engagement Core "brings science to the people" in San Diego and Tijuana through public workshops with a focus on two areas of concern, especially among vulnerable communities: (1) Obesity and food/environmental justice—how obesity may make one even more vulnerable to diseases related to environmental toxicants. The food security and food justice movement taking place worldwide (including support for urban agriculture and community gardens) is an especially fertile framework for community engagement given how it ties together concerns about cancer, soil/water contamination, obesity, health and land use; and (2) The benefits and risks associated with phytoremediation—an approach that uses plants to bioaccumulate and remove toxicants from land and water.

The Community Engagement Core and Research Translation Core of UC San Diego's Superfund Research Center improves collaborative watershed management, ecological sustainability and environmental public health in the San Diego-Tijuana city-region along the U.S.-Mexico border. The haphazard nature of urban growth along the border creates unhealthy living conditions and serious concerns about environmental justice.

Since 2005, the CEC has been using community-based participatory research to identify, prioritize and address Superfund-related environmental health hazards and issues in the border region. The CEC focuses on the Tijuana River Watershed (TJRW). Two-thirds of the TJRW lies in Mexico and one-third lies in the U.S.; it drains from south-to-north and empties into the Tijuana River Estuary and Pacific Ocean on the U.S. side of the international border. The TJRW is classified as "impaired" by the California State Water Resources Control Board. The Tijuana River contains high concentrations of coliform bacteria, sediment, trace metals (copper, lead, zinc, chromium, nickel, and cadmium), PCBs, and other urban, agricultural, and industrial pollutants).

The CEC concentrates its efforts on *Los Laureles Canyon*, a 4.6 square mile sub-watershed of the TJRW, located mostly on the Mexican side of the U.S.-Mexico border. Los Laureles Canyon is rapidly urbanizing under conditions of poverty, haphazard settlement and inadequate infrastructure. An estimated 75,000 people now live in the canyon on the Mexican side of the border. Due to the canyon's steep grade and unstable hillsides, erosion is a major

problem. Seasonal heavy rain storms send mega-tons of eroded soil —mixed with untreated sewage, hazardous substances, and solid wastes from factories, hospitals, and households—thru Los Laureles Canyon's seven mile stretch into the U.S. where it impacts farmland, the Tijuana River Estuary and the binational coastal zone (see Figure 2).

Governments on both sides of the border recognize the gravity of the environmental problems and are acting jointly to address them, for instance, through the EPA's U.S.-Mexico Border 2020 Program. At the same time a growing number of community-based organizations are working together across the border to jointly address socio-ecological problems and promote sustainable development. The CEC is leveraging this momentum to help minimize exposure to toxicants, enhance ecosystem resilience and improve environmental public health. Table 1 highlights CEC outputs and outcomes.

Figure 2. Los Laureles Canyon, a 4.6 square mile sub-watershed of the Tijuana River Watershed, located mostly on the Mexican side of the U.S.-Mexico border. Los Laureles Canyon is rapidly urbanizing under conditions of poverty, haphazard settlement and inadequate infrastructure

Related Publications

Pezzoli K, Tukey R, Sarabia H, Zaslavsky I, Miranda ML, et al. 2007 The NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Data Resource Portal: Placing Advanced Technologies in Service to Vulnerable Communities. Environ Health Perspect 115(4): doi:10.1289/ehp.9817

Reports and Brief Articles (cont.)

Outputs	Outcomes
UCSD-TV Video Documentary, "Los Laureles Canyon: Research in Action" (28 minutes long, English and Spanish versions). The CEC organized and led a diverse team to produce a documentary about the CEC's partnerships integrating watershed management, planning and the environmental health sciences across the U.S.-Mexico border. http://www.theglobalarc.org/index.php/programs/solution/ucsd_tv_documentary/ **Partnerships for Environmental Public Health Webinar**, "Communicating Science for the General Public", Feb., 22, 2011. http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/dert/sphb/programs/peph/events/	The **"Los Laureles Canyon: Research in Action"** documentary, viewed over 100,000 times, has been featured on a wide-range of media outlets including: Cable TV, UCSD TV, The NSF Research Channel – Emerging Frontiers Program, 2009 AAAS Annual Meeting, and the 2010 APHA Film and Media Festival. It provides decision makers with information about detecting toxicants and reducing the exposure of vulnerable border communities to Superfund chemicals and other environmental hazards. The video, along with study guides and webinars tailored for the purpose, has proven to be a useful teaching tool at UCSD and San Diego State University. The video's production and broadcast drew attention to the problems in Los Laureles Canyon; this has made is easier to get solutions-oriented projects funded.
Transborder Bioregional Network (TBRN). Over the past five years the CEC has grown a collaborative transborder network that includes community-based organizations, universities, government agencies and industry groups. The TBRN is establishing new collaborative models for education, learning and workforce development. This involves Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) guided by integrative frameworks for linking knowledge to action including *Bioregionalism* and *One Border, One Health.*	**The TBRN has created social and intellectual capital** that makes it easier for groups to collaborate across the U.S.-Mexico Border—especially on issues linking the environmental health sciences, urban-regional planning, and environmental justice. This helps address a gap identified by those advocating "Healthy Cities". The CEC brings its TBRN connections and insights into play as a working member of the One Border, One Health binational network, and the California Border Health Collaborative, among other groups.
Ongoing study tracking the transport of solid and hazardous wastes across the U.S.-Mexico border. Alter Terra, the CEC's community partner in Mexico, embedded 2000 trackable sensors (small containers with radio frequency chips inside them) in a sample of the 87 illegal dumpsites along Los Laureles Canyon. The sensors are geolocated and tracked as they migrate south-to-north thru the canyon –mainly propelled by storm water flows.	**This is the first field study to track transborder waste flows** from geographically higher elevations of the Tijuana River Watershed into the lower elevations of the Tijuana River Estuary in San Diego. The effort has gotten significant media coverage. This has increased knowledge of sources and transport of hazardous substances, and underscored the importance of binational collaboration to get a handle on the problem from a bioregional watershed perspective.
New Community Science Center CEC's main community partner in Mexico, Alter Terra, built a new Community Science Center in Los Laureles Canyon. Over the period 2010-2012 it has grown to includes a building and open areas to accommodate community meetings and workshops, environmental monitoring/data collection equipment, and administrative space for planning and managing projects. http://usa.alterterra.org/	**The Community Science Center is a vital resource for community-based education and training** that serves as a major point of contact for the CEC. The CEC works with the organizers of the Center on projects involving education, training, and environmental data collection. Hundreds of local residents in communities of Los Laureles Canyon, as well as hundreds of university students from around Tijuana and San Diego have gained ecological literacy through participatory hands-on opportunities the Center excels at creating (e.g., opportunities to collect weather data and sediment samples, recycle, and build green infrastructure including bioswales, erosion control retention walls, and pervious pavement for storm water control and pollution prevention)

Reports and Brief Articles (cont.)

Outputs	Outcomes
The Global Action Research Database. The CEC has collaborated closely with the nonprofit Global Action Research Center (The Global ARC) in the creation of a web site for scholarship of engagement. The Global ARC's interactive database uses social media to enable knowledge networking among researchers, community-based organizations, planners, and social entrepreneurs. http://theglobalarc.org	**The Global ARC's database is a resource for faculty and students** seeking opportunities to do globally-minded, civically-engaged research along the U.S.-Mexico border, among other places. The database, including over 60 multimedia recordings of sustainability best practices, has inspired interest in crossborder projects linking planning and environmental public health. Hundreds of students enrolled in San Diego and Tijuana based universities have taken advantage of the web sites information resources and links to global planning networks worldwide.
Leadership Training and Green Workforce Development Program. Alter Terra, with active input from the CEC, has created a very successful "Building Assets through Community Mobilization" program in Los Laureles Canyon. The program empowers local residents to become leaders. The trainings and workforce development are geared around an asset-based approach to community development that improves the canyons ecosystems and environmental public health at the same time.	**Over a one year period (2011 to 2012) a group of 40 individuals living in Los Laureles Canyon benefited** from a series of 12 leadership development and training workshops (one of which the CEC conducted) focused on meeting two interrelated challenges: (1) improving community-based development and civic participation (including how to work with government agencies), and (2) designing the community to be ecologically sustainable and conducive to healthy living in a shared binational watershed. The program generated a community needs assessment and "project catalog" of prospective solutions-based endavors deemed a high priority.
The Bioregional Workbench. The BRW is an online resource that provides community-based organizations and civically-engaged action researchers with planning and decision support tools, asset maps (e.g., of vacant lots for possible use as community gardens), and new multimedia technologies for visualization and knowledge integration.	**The Bioregional Workbench facilitates science communication, fund raising, education and training** by easing the burden on organizers who need to assemble, analyze, visualize and share spatial information pertinent to improving living conditions along the U.S.-Mexico border and beyond. The effort builds on lessons learned by the CEC in the creation of the NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Data Resource Portal.