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Watching Rising Seas: Digital Curation of SLR Communication

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Media & Citizen Science



FIU students talk with local and national press in 2014, including on NBC's TODAY and The Weather Channel. Journalists across the globe continue to cover FIU's work.

Community Engagement



Dr. Juliet Pinto (SJMC) speaks at a Miami Beach convention. FIU Faculty collaborate with multiple municipalities to create community projects about sea level rise in South Florida.

Digital Storytelling



SJMC students and experts produced this documentary in 2015. FIU Faculty and Staff also express sea level change through art and music.

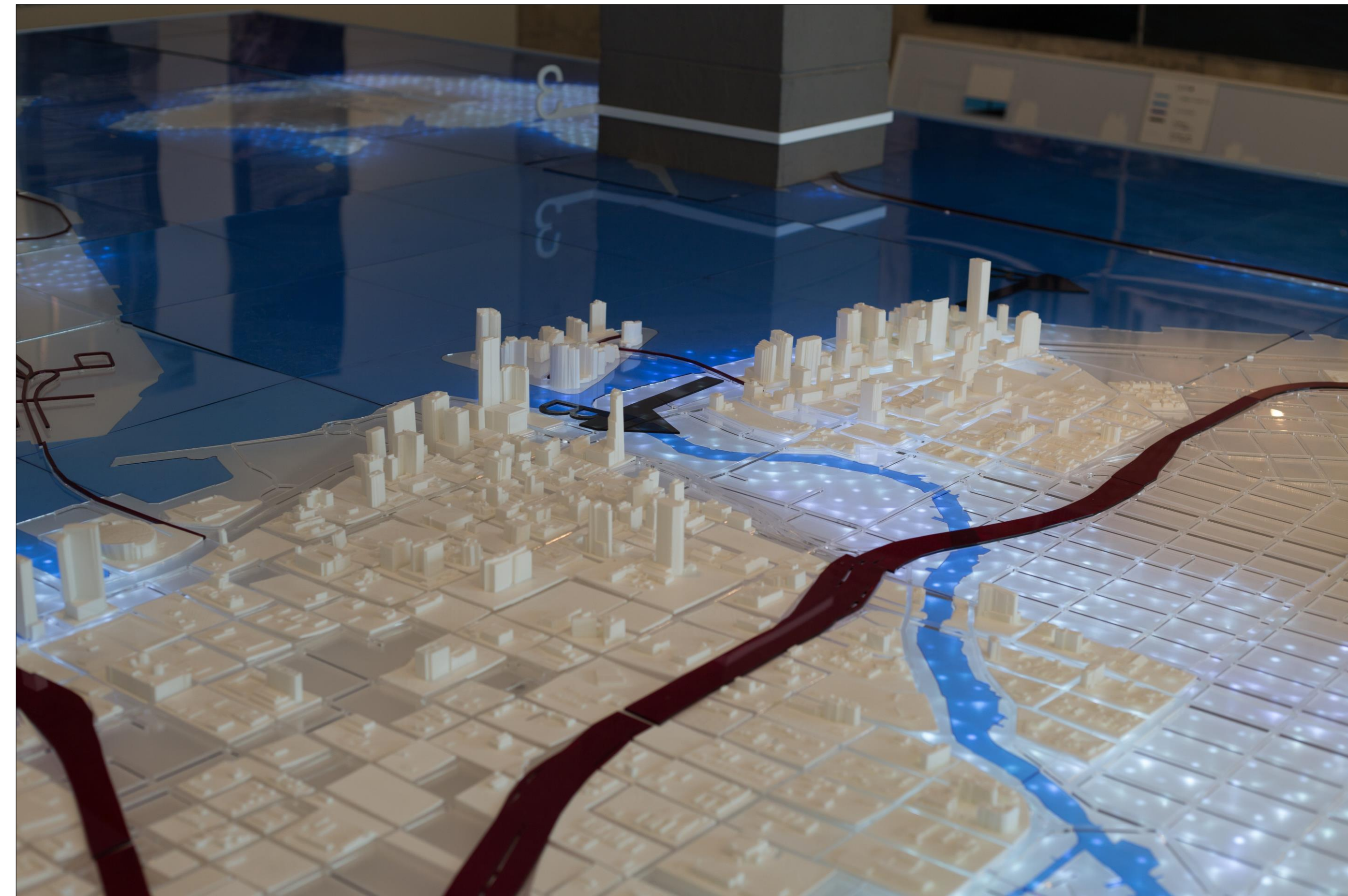
WATCHING RISING SEAS: DIGITAL CURATION OF SLR COMMUNICATION

Research

RECIPROCAL (AND REDUCTIONIST?) NEWSWORK
 An examination of youth involvement in creating local participatory environmental news
 Robert E. Gutsche Jr., Susan Jacobson, Juliet Pinto, and Charnele Michel
 This paper builds upon previous research that examines participatory forms of "reciprocal journalism" and "public communication" led by high school and college students in Miami, Florida, USA, in the fall of 2014. In this study, the student assessment of local and national media coverage is used to reveal greater details inherent in examining participatory methods of newswork. Collectively, students said that media coverage emphasis on local and national public officials instead of residents and community members who experience sea-level rise first-hand, combined with a lack of scientific explanation of and solutions for sea-level rise reduced the event's potential to build reciprocal relationships with younger audiences.
 KEYWORDS: environmental journalism; local news; participatory newswork; public communication; reciprocal journalism
 Introduction
 In October 2014, 70 college journalism students from Florida International University and high school students from MAST@FIU-BBC, a science-based magnet school, took to the public streets of Miami Beach, Florida, USA, to measure the effects of local sea-level rise on one of the days of the year marked with having the highest tides—King Tide Day. Armed with water sensors that they had built to measure the salinity of water expected to flood city streets, the morning's experience was one of "reverse journalism"—a blend of participatory journalism and public relations—to bring attention to the region's changing climate. As part of a project (eyesontherise.org) funded by the Online News Association's 2014-2015 Challenge Fund for Innovation in Journalism Education, the students had spent weeks promoting a press conference and public environmental event to tell stories about local environmental issues and to educate citizens about the potential involvement of youth in examining rising seas. Overall, students had several goals: to inform journalists about their efforts to examine local environmental issues through student-led sensor journalism (Wikipedia 2015) and to influence news coverage of the public event in order to educate audiences about the science behind sea-level rise, to introduce solutions to combat its effects, and to empower citizens to become involved in a public discussion
 Journalism Practice, 2015
 http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17512786.2015.1111159
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Research is at the center of each sea level rise project.

Planning & Design



Students, Faculty, and Staff throughout FIU are planning for South Florida's future, designing model cities and spaces.

1 These and other FIU initiatives have boomed in recent years and add to a wealth of information internationally

2 SJMC students are capturing media, design, science, art, and policy from across FIU to tell stories of sea level research and action

3 Visit the sites below to see how narratives will expand FIU's digital archives to be used in future projects

Go to eyesontherise.org/curate to follow the progress and the growing collection of sea level rise initiatives

dPanther Digital Collections

dpanther.fiu.edu/dPanther/collections/SLR

Digital Commons

digitalcommons.fiu.edu/sea_level_rise

Sources: eyesontherise.org, slsc.fiu.edu, robertgutschejr.com/curate, digitalcommons.fiu.edu/sea_level_rise, dpanther.fiu.edu/dPanther/collections/SLR, *Journalism Practice*