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## Advancing an Agenda for Social Equity and Coastal Resilience through a Multi-Sectoral, Multi-Disciplinary and Applied Research Lens

Wie Yusuf  
*Old Dominion University*, [jyusuf@odu.edu](mailto:jyusuf@odu.edu)


Marina Saitgalina  
*Old Dominion University*, [msaitgal@odu.edu](mailto:msaitgal@odu.edu)

Jennifer Whytlaw  
*Old Dominion University*, [jwhytlaw@odu.edu](mailto:jwhytlaw@odu.edu)

Nicole Hutton  
*Old Dominion University*, [nhuttons@odu.edu](mailto:nhuttons@odu.edu)

Tom Allen  
*Old Dominion University*, [tallen@odu.edu](mailto:tallen@odu.edu)

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**Authors**

Wie Yusuf, Marina Saitgalina, Jennifer Whytlaw, Nicole Hutton, Tom Allen, and Joshua Behr



# **Advancing An Agenda for Social Equity and Coastal Resilience through a Multi-sectoral, Multi-disciplinary and Applied Research Lens**

Workshop website:

<https://sites.wp.odu.edu/workshop>



- Wie Yusuf, School of Public Service, Old Dominion University
- Marina Saitgalina, School of Public Service
- Jennifer Whytlaw, Dept. of Political Science and Geography
- Nicole Hutton, Dept. of Political Science and Geography, and Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience
- Tom Allen, Dept. of Political Science and Geography, and Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience
- Joshua Behr, Virginia Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center, and Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience



Coastal  
Communities



Beliefs  
Power  
Equity

Resilience

**EQUITABLE COASTAL RESILIENCE**

***“It is a moral duty, and it improves economic productivity, social cohesion, health and peace”*** (Pelling & Garschagen, 2019, p. 328).

Source: Pelling, M., & Garschagen, M. (2019). Put equity first in climate adaptation. *Nature*, 569, 327-329

# Equitable Coastal Resilience

Equitable resilience results from practices and processes that consider and account for “issues of social vulnerability and differential access to power, knowledge, and resources” (Matin et al., 2018, p. 202).

Sources:

Matin, N., Forrester, J., & Ensor, J. (2018). What is equitable resilience? *World Development*, 109, 197-205.

Yusuf, J.-E. W., Denckla Cobb, Andrews, E., Gladfelter, S., & Montrose, G. (2022). The Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) as an Approach for Incorporating Equity Into Coastal Resilience Planning and Project Implementation. *Shore & Beach*, 90(4), 53-63.



# Working Towards Equitable Coastal Resilience

## Recognitional justice

- Community-based and inclusive of those who have been historically underserved and excluded from planning and decision making processes

## Community-based

## Procedural justice

- Co-production approach with inclusive participatory processes and that encourages social learning

## Co-produced

## Distributional justice

- Systems approach that considers interdependencies and considers social, cultural, economic, political, and physical components
- Multifunctional and draws from different planning instruments and integrates across policy silos
- Whole-of-community framework that includes multiple sectors to address resilience within and across sectors

## Multi-dimensional

## Multi-functional

## Multi-sectoral

How can individuals and organizations from different sectors, reflecting various disciplines, and working in different domains or functions work together to address social equity in the context of coastal resilience while having an impact on the ground and in communities?

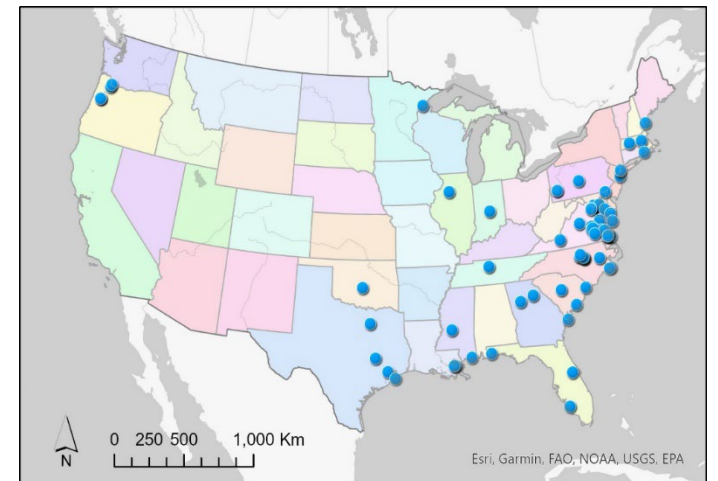
# Making Waves in Equitable Coastal Resilience: A National Workshop on Social Equity and Coastal Resilience

November 1, 2, and 10, 2022

Virtual workshop that brought together 113 researchers, practitioners, community organizations to develop a framework for applied and engaged research in coastal resilience and social equity.

## Outcomes:

- Research agenda
- Recommendations for research-practice collaborations and implementable, on-the-ground projects/ programs




# Plenary Presentations and Project Spotlights

Making Waves in Equitable Coastal Resilience Workshop • Norfolk, VA • November 1, 2022

## Setting ourselves up for success

Centering equity in engagement, resilience building, and hazard mitigation



Susanne C. Moser, Ph.D.



University of Massachusetts-Amherst & Antioch University New England

**NOTES FROM THE FIELD:  
EQUITABLE RECOVERY IN THE AFTERMATH  
OF HURRICANE IDA  
IRONTON, LOUISIANA**


Adapted  
Presented by:  
**Olivia A. Scriven, PhD**  
Federal Disaster Recovery Officer



At the  
Making Waves in Equitable Coastal Resilience  
A National Workshop on Social Equity and Coastal Resilience  
Old Dominion University  
02 November 2022 | 1PM ET | Virtual

## Lesson Learned to Assist with Building Trust

Cassandra R. Davis, Ph.D.  
November 2, 2022



## Community Project Spotlight

### THE RAFT

(RESILIENCE ADAPTATION FEASIBILITY TOOL):  
LESSONS LEARNED FOR EQUITABLE RESILIENCE

Slides and videos available on workshop website





# Breakout Sessions

Research Topic	%
Infrastructure planning (green-grey, built environment) for equitable coastal resilience	44%
Inclusion in decision making: Under-served, under-resourced, or invisible communities (rural communities, tribal communities, low-wealth communities, marginalized communities)	42%
Metrics and mapping of social equity and coastal community resilience	35%
Coastal squeeze, climigration, and equity implications	27%
Equity concerns underpinning policy analysis and decision making (e.g., benefit cost analysis, BRIC, flood insurance, etc.)	26%
Emergency/disaster management challenges for equitable mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery	23%

\*\* Out of a total of 130 registered participants for the workshop.



# Four Major Themes



**Definition**



**Measurement**



**Research/project  
Execution**



**Research/project  
Infrastructure**

# Definition and Measurement

- What does equity mean in the context of coastal resilience?
- Who decides the definition?
- What does success in advancing social equity in coastal resilience look like?
- What does a successful engaged research or on-the-ground project look like?
- How do we track equity across time and space, recognizing the need for comparison while acknowledging the local context?
- How do we know that we are making a difference in advancing equity while building coastal resilience?



# Research/Project Execution

Increase funding for engaged or applied research and allow more flexibility for research to be co-produced with communities or community partners

- Build long-term focus and requisite resources into funding and programs/grants requirements (e.g., time to build relationships, compensate community participants, long-term monitoring)
- Explicitly call out the need for co-production and two-way engagement with communities in RFPs.
- Fund action-based research or funding to implement research findings.

Ensure equity in prioritizing, evaluating, streamlining, and awarding on-the-ground projects and programs that benefit underserved communities

- Conduct equity assessments before funding programs or funding opportunities are created.
- Assess the equity focus of current funding programs, and the extent to which funding distributions consider equity.
- Create flexible funding application processes with reduced application and administrative burdens (e.g., simpler grant applications, reducing cost share requirements).

Provide institutional support and incentives to encourage and foster community-based, engaged, and applied research

- Educate university leaders/administrators on the importance of engaged and applied research and the need to provide institutional support and resources.
- Create incentive structures and guidelines to recognize, reward, value, and prioritize community engagement activities.
- Establish staff positions to support community engagement activities (e.g., extension or engagement specialists, community liaisons, community coordinators).

# Research/Project Infrastructure

Create and disseminate tools and metrics for project assessment that emphasize equity and mechanisms for collaboration-building processes

- Develop partnerships with professional organizations to disseminate research findings, project results, etc.
- Establish mechanisms for connecting universities, communities, government and nonprofit agencies, funding programs, and industry.
- Identify examples of successful programs, determine how they can be replicated or scaled-up, and disseminate information from these programs.
- Create a repository for data collection and information sharing (e.g., data on mitigation funding and mitigation projects).

Create paths and resources for community empowerment and advocacy

- Emphasize research/project activities that enable communities to develop tools, resources, knowledge, and capacity to advocate for themselves beyond the project.
- Provide resources or support for communities to apply for and manage grants.
- Create a framework for what communities should expect from researchers and the types of partnerships that can be pursued.



User Needs Have to be Defined – What Change Do You Seek to Enable With the “Flooding Information?”

## “Flooding Information”

- Who is end user?
  - City Council member
  - Researcher/modeler
  - Emergency manager
  - Transportation Manager
  - Etc.
- What Level of Detail, How Accurate, and How Timely?
- Longitudinal/constant and consistent data needs?

# Research Questions

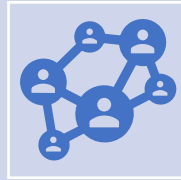
1. How can we assess that equity-related efforts are making a difference? What metrics are appropriate?
2. How can we develop metrics for universality and comparative value while also ensuring their local salience?
3. How do we address the implications of labeling a community (e.g., marginalized, vulnerable, underserved, etc.)?
4. How can we detect when dynamics and/or outcomes are shifting and determine the effects?
5. What meta-level analysis is needed? How do we approach this analysis?



# What's Next?



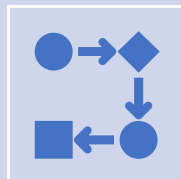
**Goal:**  
Encourage applied and engaged research in coastal resilience and social equity



Create frameworks to facilitate community and researcher collaborations and partnerships.



Provide guidelines and best practices for researchers and community partners.



Identify gaps in research and practice that can be filled by data-driven solutions.

# Acknowledgements and Disclaimer

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Workshop website:

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**Questions? More information?**

Contact:

Dr. Wie Yusuf, School of Public Service  
Old Dominion University  
E-mail: [jyusuf@odu.edu](mailto:jyusuf@odu.edu)

