Early Career Faculty Innovators Seminar Series

Decision support systems for city planning: How can climate science contribute?

Donovan Finn, Stony Brook University

Tuesday, July 9, 2019, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

ML-239 Damon Room

Join remotely by Hangouts Meet: meet.google.com/gqv-gdzr-gfz
or by phone +1 216-525-9483 PIN: 263 275#

Abstract: There are many decision support tools for urban planning in existence, but few are in widespread use. Despite advances in computing and related technologies in the last few decades, most communities tend to make long-term land use planning decisions based on some combination of tradition, hunches, best guesses, politics, and back-of-the-envelope calculations. However, climate change and associated risks may be a useful lever for finally integrating more robust risk analysis, forecasting and scenario-building tools into the planner's toolkit. An overview of existing approaches and tools including applications of planning support tools in the Chicago region will illustrate the opportunities and challenges of integrating science with city and regional planning. The talk will conclude by discussing a proposed framework for beginning to better integrate climate science into local planning.

Bio: Donovan Finn is an urban planner who teaches in Stony Brook University's School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and Sustainability Studies Program, where he also directs the undergraduate program in Environmental Design, Policy and Planning. His research focuses primarily on policy and planning innovations to address issues of sustainability, resilience, long-term disaster recovery, participatory decision-making and environmental justice, particularly in coastal communities. He holds a masters and PhD in urban and regional planning, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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