SYRR Risk and Resilience Hub

Wednesday 10 September, 14:00-15:00

Raiffa and online

Understanding Systemic Risk and Resilience of Coastal Cities

Abstract: Cities are increasingly exposed to complex and cascading risks driven by climate change, urbanization, and socio-economic interdependencies. This session explores the systemic nature of these risks through the lens of compound events and cascading impacts. A particularly challenging topic of relevance to the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities given the diversity of urban contexts and how climate change risk propagates within and across them. The talk will examine how multivariate climate hazards interact with urban vulnerabilities to produce concentrations of impacts, and how resilience can be understood as a dynamic property of urban systems under stress. The session proposes an integrated approach to modeling, assessing, and governing systemic risk in coastal cities and will highlight some bright spots on how we can best respond to them. The goal is to advance a transdisciplinary understanding of resilience and curate adaptation capability that is responsive to uncertainty, complexity, and the realities of resource-constrained urban contexts.

Dr Nicholas Simpson

Co-Director of the Climate Risk Lab, African Climate and Development Initiative, University of Cape Town.

Bio: Dr Nick Simpson is Chief Research Officer and co-Director of the Climate Risk Lab in the African Climate and Development Initiative at the University of Cape Town. An IPCC author on the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities and on AR7 Working Group II, his work on complex climate change risk advanced our understanding of compound and cascading climate risk, including response risk. He is currently working on research

programmes that empirically extend our understanding of how we can best anticipate and respond to current and projected impacts of climate change impacts across education, sport and heritage. Nick is also leading multiple global evidence synthesis projects on adaptation

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