Scoping Practitioner Conceptions and Their Implications

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Risk and Resilience in the Face of Global Change
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Quick Points

- There’s already a lot of activity going on out there in the world
- Decisionmakers are continuously busy dealing with issues potentially related to risk and resilience
- They have and actively update their own mental models
- They have built support structures to assist them in this work
- Don’t reinvent the wheel – refine it
Three Studies

1. Perceptions about issues related to policies
2. Professional networks that decisionmakers draw support from in the process of developing their understanding about issues
3. Partnerships that represent efforts to scale up outreach
Perceptions

- Survey of city staff conducted in Summer 2015
- ~ 450 cities with population between 5k and 500k across the eight Great Lakes states
- Asked whether particular policies had been pursued and what issues were considered by the city when working on the issue
## Perceptions

### Summary of Policy Activities and Issues Considered

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Professional Networks

- What relationships might create these perceptions?
- Broader effort looking at co-production around climate change in the Great Lakes region
- How do the interactions around these documents influence the pursuit of adaptation in everyday work
- Searched for documents and events about climate change explicitly designed to inform policy production and practice
- Included all participants in documents and events
- Coded participants with “scale of focus”
- Coded documents/events with year of publication/when held
Professional Networks

- Our interviews with water quality decisionmakers described that they sought different resources from different scales
  - Regional network: awareness, credibility
  - Specialized networks: tailoring for usability
- These organic specialized networks function like “communities of practice”
- Learning experiences that emerge in collaborations around solving reoccurring issues that are held in common
- There is an iterative productive tension between general discussions and the applied experiences that members have
Professional Networks

Regional Network

Regional Resources

Scales of Application

Specific Resources

Specialized Networks

Tailoring

Usable Information

Regional Flexibility

Boundary Spanning

Applied Flexibility

Learning and Reflection?
Partnerships

• What might more formal relationships look like?
• Boundary organizations span and protect the divide between producers and users
• Boundary chains: adaptive collaborations between two or more boundary orgs across a shared boundary
• Reduce transaction costs through sharing of resources and leveraging existing trust
• Allow for a high level of customization without sacrificing diversity
Partnerships

Climate Science

GLISA

Boundary Partner
Information Users

Boundary Partner
Information Users

Boundary Partner
Information Users
Partnerships

• What opportunities exist for understanding:
  • Building capacity in partnering organizations over time and the potential for handoff
  • Controls needed after handoff to avoid misinformation and errors or biases spreading
  • How knowledge transfers back into the initial organization and how the perspective of partners eventually informs the initial organizations’ broader work
Partnerships
Thank You

Publications
