

# **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

Policies			ED		Sustainability		Mitigation		Adaptation	
	Yes	No	Yes	%	Yes	%	Yes	%	Yes	%
Increased Building Efficiency	206	60	62	30	125	61	74	36	39	19
Alternative Energy on Buildings	90	174	30	33	52	58	35	39	21	23
Water Recycling/Reuse	72	180	15	21	38	53	28	39	14	19
Altered Building Codes	107	150	52	49	44	41	28	26	30	28
Enhanced Density	128	119	79	62	41	32	32	25	48	38
Promoted Brownfield Reuse	187	66	109	58	52	28	41	22	66	35
Increased Tree Canopy	141	112	41	29	72	51	53	38	31	22
Enhanced Parks	236	37	101	43	92	39	58	25	57	24
Enhanced Public Transportation	114	139	61	54	43	38	36	32	37	32
Made Changes to Fleet Vehicles	122	140	31	25	59	48	36	30	19	16
Increased Biking/Walking	251	36	134	53	111	44	74	29	72	29
Developed Alternative Energy	56	191	22	39	27	48	25	45	18	32
Altered Stormwater Management	188	68	62	33	95	51	62	33	32	17
Altered Wastewater Management	135	107	43	32	68	50	41	30	29	21
Altered Emergency Management	100	135	26	26	49	49	21	21	15	15
Reduced City Energy Use	208	59	56	27	119	57	66	32	38	18

# 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

**Year**

□ 1997 - 2004

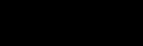
△ 2005 - 2008

⊠ 2009 - 2011

**Scale**

**Color**

Undetermined



International



National



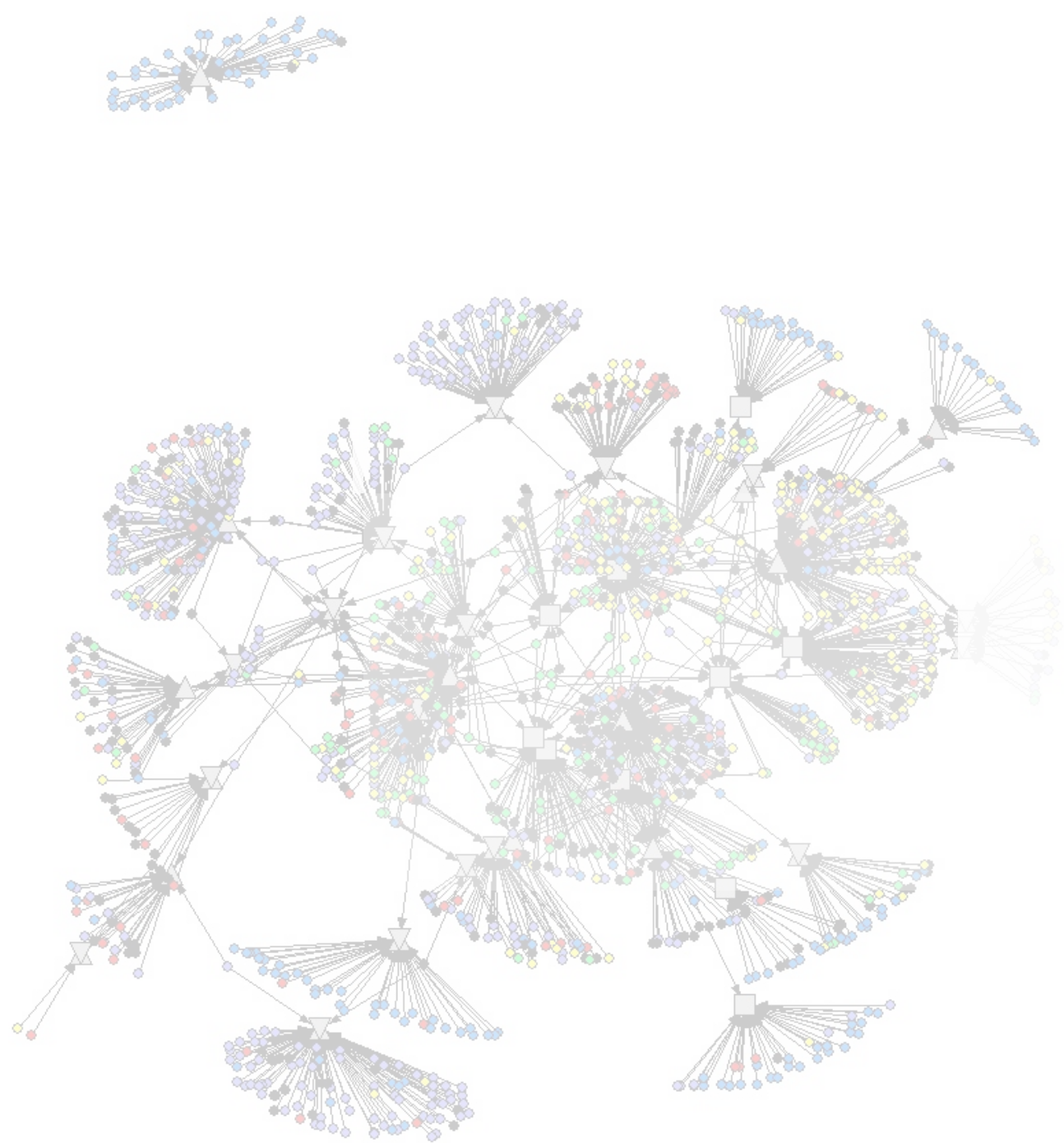
GL Region



State/Province



Local

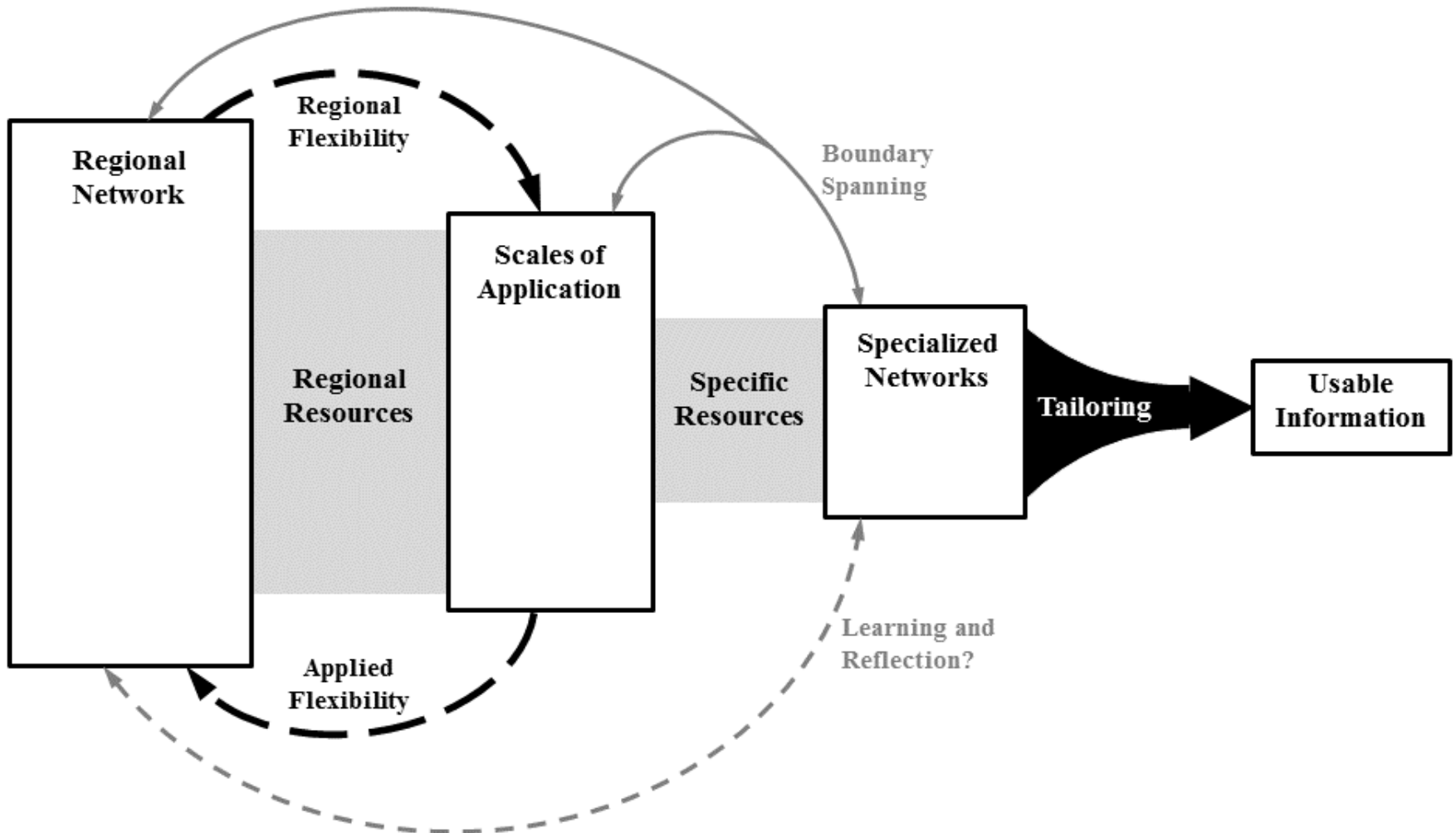


# Professional Networks

- 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



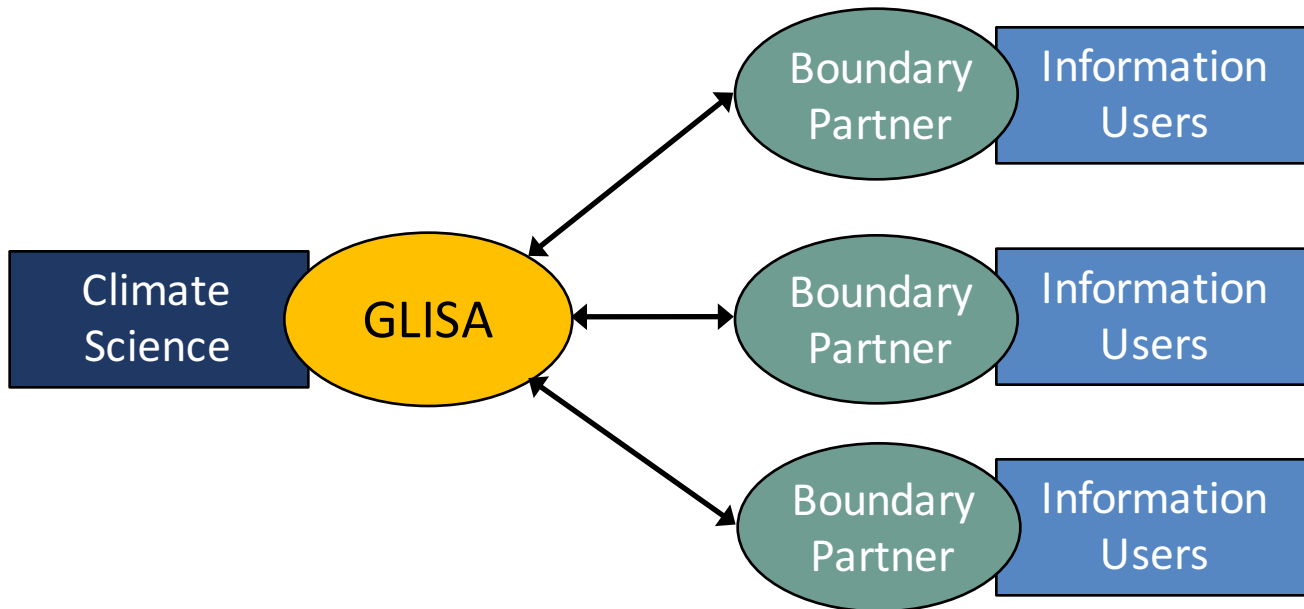
# Professional Networks



# 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

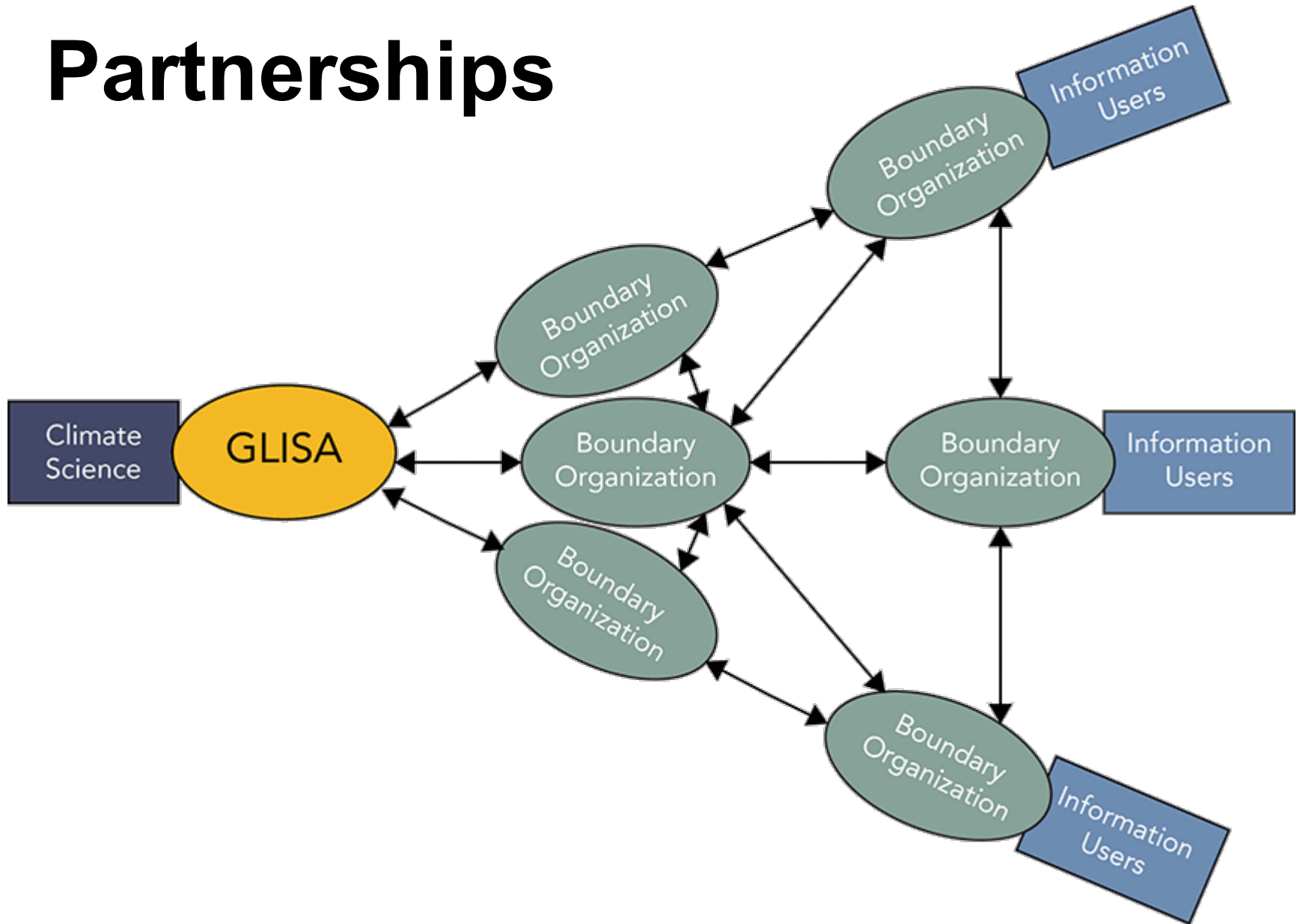
# Partnerships



# 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

Kalafatis, S. E., M. C. Lemos, Y.-J. Lo, K. A. Frank. 2015. "Increasing Information Usability for Climate Adaptation: The role of knowledge networks and communities of practice." *Global Environmental Change*. 32: 30-39.

Lemos, M. C., C. J. Kirchhoff, S. E. Kalafatis, D. Scavia, R. B. Rood. 2014. "Moving climate information off the shelf: Boundary Chains and the role of RISAs as adaptive organizations." *Weather, Climate and Society*. 6(2): 273–285.