



DUPONT SUMMIT 2013

..... Pressing Issues, Economic Realities

December 6, 2013 * Historic Whittemore House, Washington, DC

The Policy Studies Organization

Speakers

Michael Orbach - *Duke University*

Grit Martinez - *Ecologic Institute*

Moderator: Dominic Marcellino - *Ecologic Institute*

“Community-level Climate Adaptation in Coastal Regions: A Transatlantic Exchange”

The session will take the form of a panel discussion with two presenters and a moderator. The presenters will discuss recent results and experiences from transatlantic research on community-level climate adaptation strategies in two case study areas: the East Coast of the US and the Baltic Sea Coast in Germany.

Justification: Coastal communities in the US and in the EU are increasingly aware of the existing and possible impacts of climate change. Over 123 million Americans and nearly half of European citizens live on or near their respective coasts. Adapting to ongoing and future climate change in coastal communities is an area of common concern between the US and the EU, and it is an area where the two can pursue common approaches that build on learning and best practices. Further, climate change adaptation for coastal communities must be considered in the context of already existing constraints and challenges to these communities.

In some places, often in the EU, national and regional governments drive coastal communities to increase their resilience and adapt to climate change, through the development of climate adaptation plans and the provision better estimations of projected risks in the short and longer term. In other areas, often in the US, coastal communities are actively aware of increasing risks and have begun to organize themselves to strengthen their resilience to potential and existing threats through e.g. improved information sharing and developing alternatives to cope with perceived and estimated risks. These self-organized processes consist in a variety of grass-root oriented dialogues and action. These communities, policymakers, and researchers have much to learn from each other.



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Biographies

Dr. Grit Martinez is a humanities and economics scholar by training and works across the borders of scientific disciplines in the social-ecological context. She focuses on adaptation to climate change with particular interests in the influence of cultural values on the governance of adaptation, the interaction between scientists, political decision makers, and the public, social change, and decision support. At Ecologic Institute Berlin, she currently coordinates the project Regional Adaptation Strategies for the German Baltic Sea Coast (RADOST). RADOST represents one of seven model regions in Germany that are supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) through the funding initiative Managing climate change in the regions of the future (KLIMZUG).

Mike Orbach is Professor of Marine Affairs and Policy and Director of the Coastal Environmental Management Program in the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. Mike has performed research and has been involved in coastal and marine policy on all coasts of the U.S. and in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, Europe, Alaska and the Pacific, and has published widely on social science and policy in coastal and marine environments. For the past five years he has been working with the Ecologic Institute of Germany on trans-Atlantic marine policy issues and adaptation to climate change in the U.S. and Germany. He has recently completed work in association with the RADOST project, adding U.S. comparative case studies.