

Resilience Research School

Course: Conducting resilience assessments in social-ecological systems
(1,5 cr)

Time period: 14-16 May 2012

Course leader: Lisen Schultz and Cathy Wilkinson

Invited lecturers and facilitators: Brian Walker (CSIRO, Australia) and Paul Ryan (Australian National University and Interface NRM, Australia)

COURSE OUTLINE

Brief description of course content

This course is intended to introduce students to conducting resilience assessments of social-ecological systems, adapting the Resilience Assessment Workbook to various settings. We have invited Paul Ryan and Brian Walker, who have vast experience of applying the workbook in a range of settings, to guide us through an assessment of a selected case. In addition to conducting an assessment together, gaining first-hand experiences of challenges and opportunities involved with this approach, we will be presented with experiences from other resilience assessments for comparison. A large part of the course will focus on reflecting on successes, failures and keys to making resilience assessments useful. Students will also get an understanding of when resilience assessments are more or less appropriate, and how the workbook can be adapted to various contexts.

Theory, method and applications to be used in the course

Concepts	Methods	Applications
Resilience, social-ecological systems, adaptive cycle, panarchy, thresholds, disturbance, multiple states, cross-scale interactions, governance	Participatory Resilience Assessment	Assessing social-ecological resilience of a selected region

The course stretches across three full days (see schedule below). Students are expected read the RA workbook as well as distributed material on the selected region beforehand. Students are also expected to hand in a course evaluation during Wednesday afternoon. The SRC intends to develop in-house capacity to give resilience assessment training courses over time and this course is an important step in this endeavor.

Course schedule:

Day	Duration	Activity	Assignment
Monday 14	9.30-16.00	Introduction, beginning of assessment. Social event in the evening.	To be decided
Tuesday 15	9.30-16.00	Continuing the assessment	To be decided
Wednesday 16	9.30-16.00	Finishing the assessment. Reflection and discussion of lessons learned.	Hand in course evaluation

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course students should:

1. Have a deeper understanding of when and in what contexts resilience assessments are useful, and
2. Have a gained personal experience and theoretical understanding of how the resilience assessment workbook can be applied and adapted to various settings.

Assessment and grading criteria

Participation in the full course is compulsory. Participation does not only mean attendance, the participant must take an active role in the seminar. Failure to attend a seminar will result in a grade of Fail.

Criteria for assessment:

The following grades are issued:

- P Pass – student shows proficiency in stipulated goals, and has full attendance
F Fail - poor or insufficient conduct