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INTEGRATED
MULTISECTOR
MULTISCALE
MODELING

MultiSector Dynamics Community of Practice: Science Challenges and Research Vision for 2030

Patrick M. Reed and Chris R. Vernon
on behalf of the MSD CoP facilitation team

This research is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, as part of research in MultiSector Dynamics, Earth and Environmental System Modeling Program



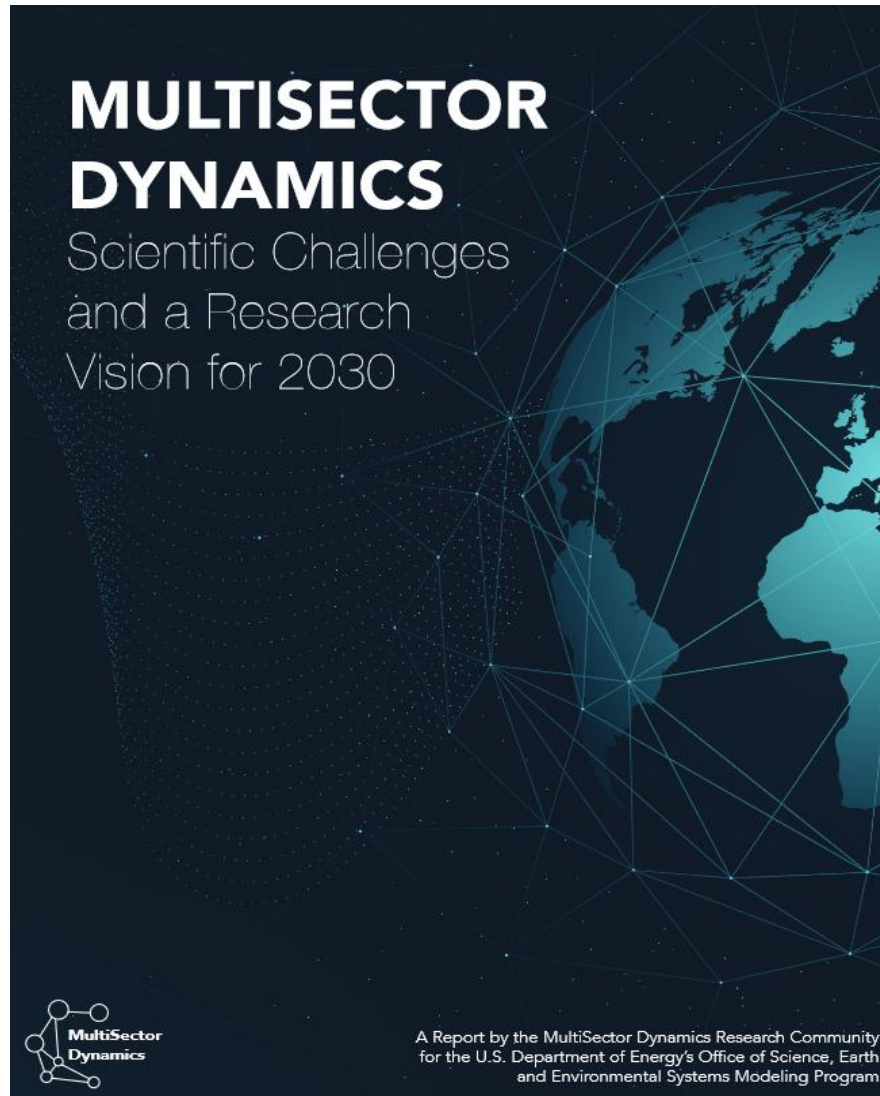
Cornell University



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



REPORT: SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGES AND A RESEARCH VISION FOR 2030



Scientific Challenges and a Research Vision for 2030

Released January 2022

Over 2000 Downloads

<https://multisectordynamics.org/vision/>



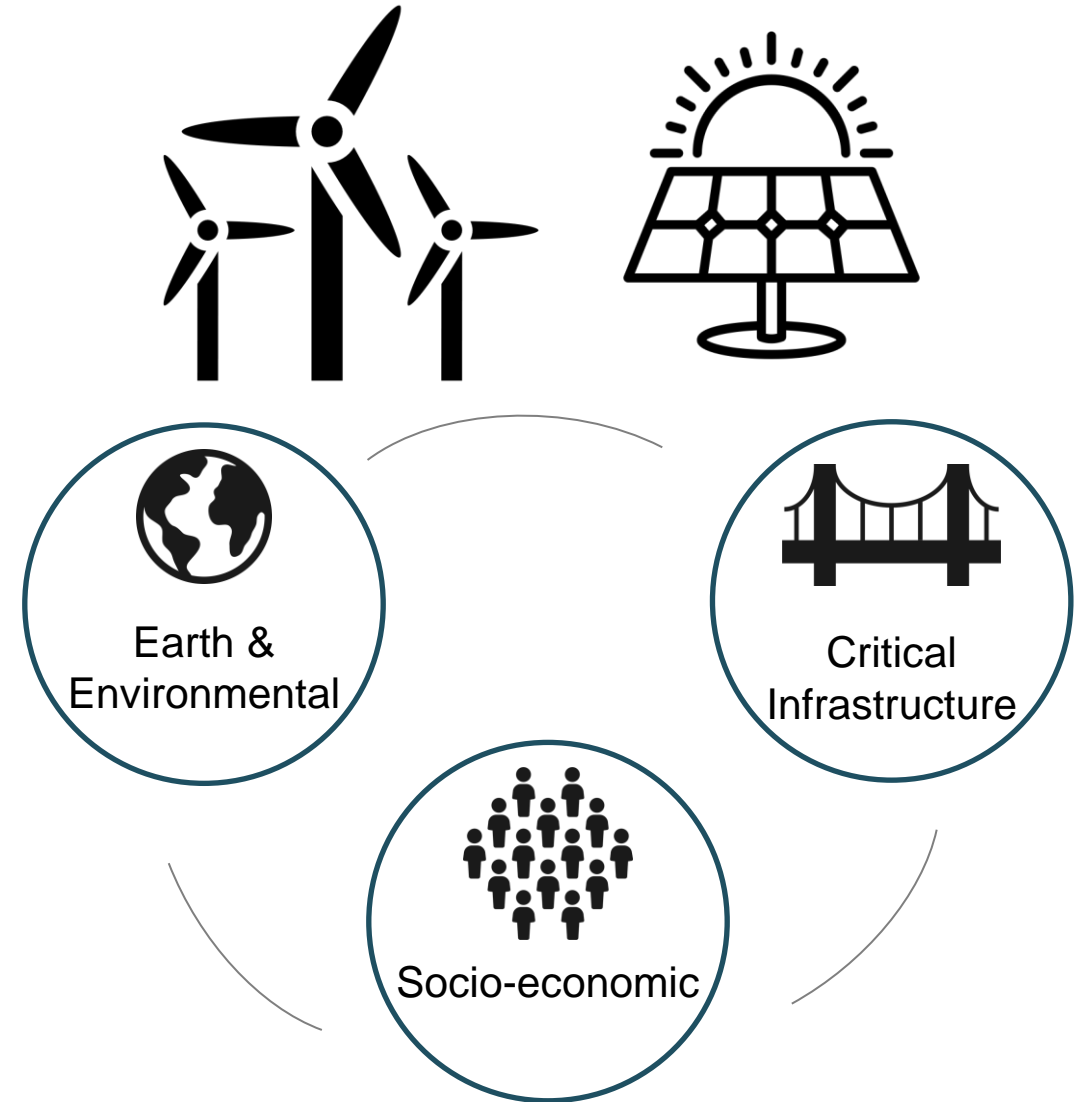


THE MSD VISION REPORT IN BRIEF

Managing Risks and Transitions in Complex Systems

The next decade represents a tremendous opportunity to **address climate, energy, and interrelated sustainability challenges**

Navigating these **transitions** will require a better understanding of the **interdependence of Earth and environmental systems** with **critical infrastructure** and **socio-economic systems**.



A recent example...

Source:
<https://twitter.com/planet/status/1362183935309021185/photo/2>

The temperature extremes and energy demands during the event were equivalent to past winter storms in Texas¹ but caused \$195 billion and 246 deaths in Texas alone.

Winter Storm Uri
February 13–17, 2021

AUSTIN, TEXAS · February 16, 2021



¹ Doss-Gollin et al. (2021) <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ac0278>



Besides the environmental hazard, these impacts were due to several institutional, infrastructural and socio-economic reasons:

- Texas operates on an isolated power grid
- Power generation systems were not sufficiently weatherized
- Insufficient planning for high demands

Human response:

- Increased energy demands
- Buying additional fuel and generators
- Storing food and water
- Electricity scarcity pricing



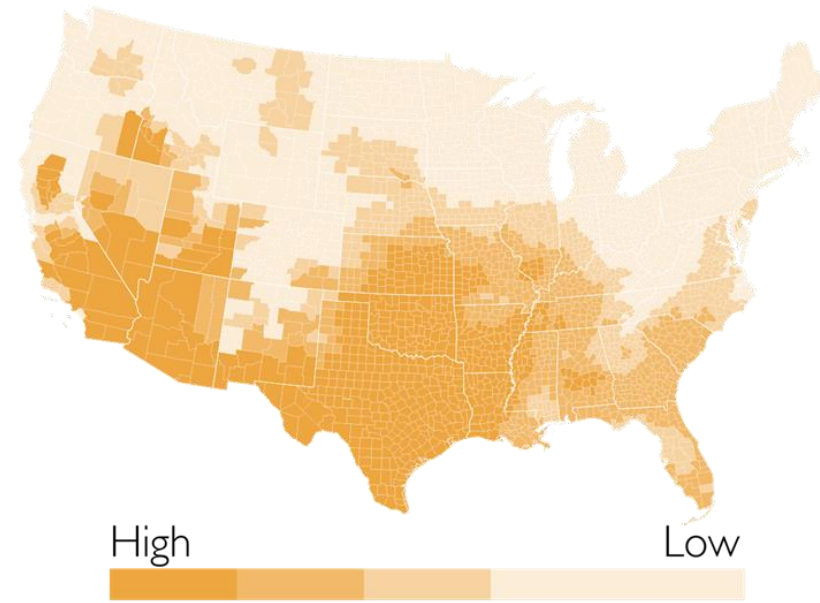
Propane tanks are placed in a line as people wait for the power to turn on to fill their tanks in Houston. (Mark Felix for The Washington Post)

Risk emerged as a result of many **dynamic processes** and actions across many **systems** and across different **scales**

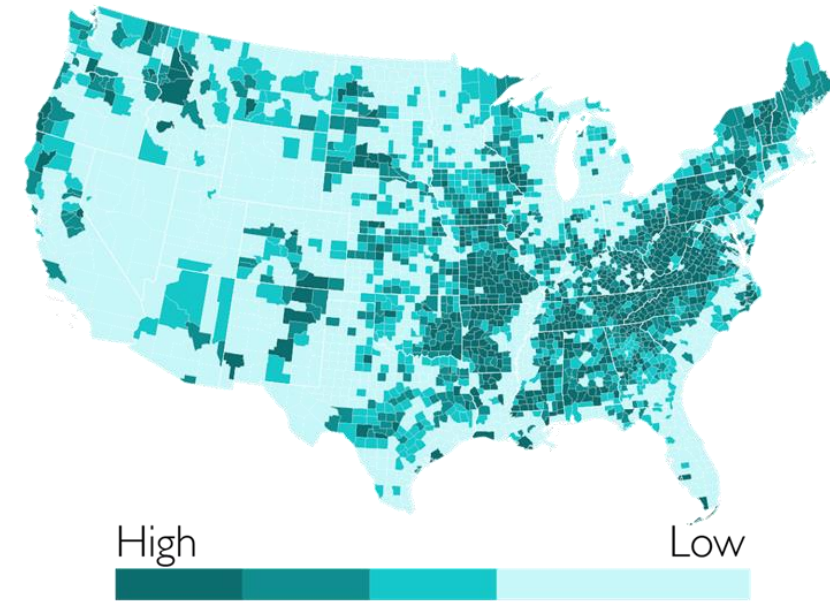


Winter storms are only one type of hazard potentially facing a region

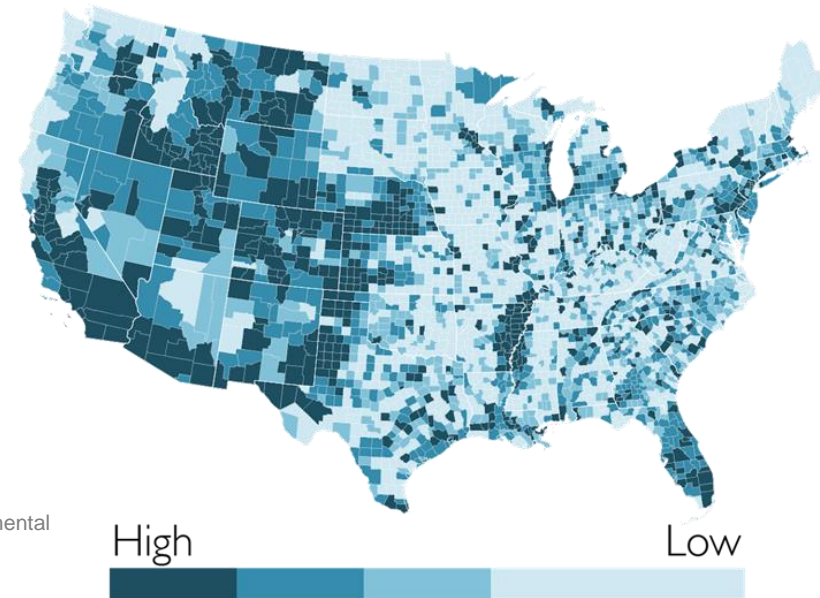
Temperature Stress



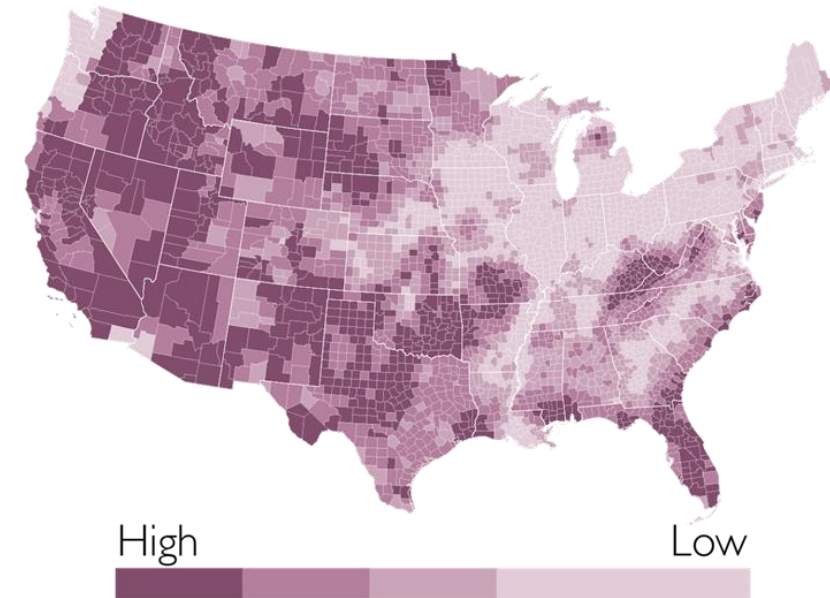
Flood Risk



Water Stress



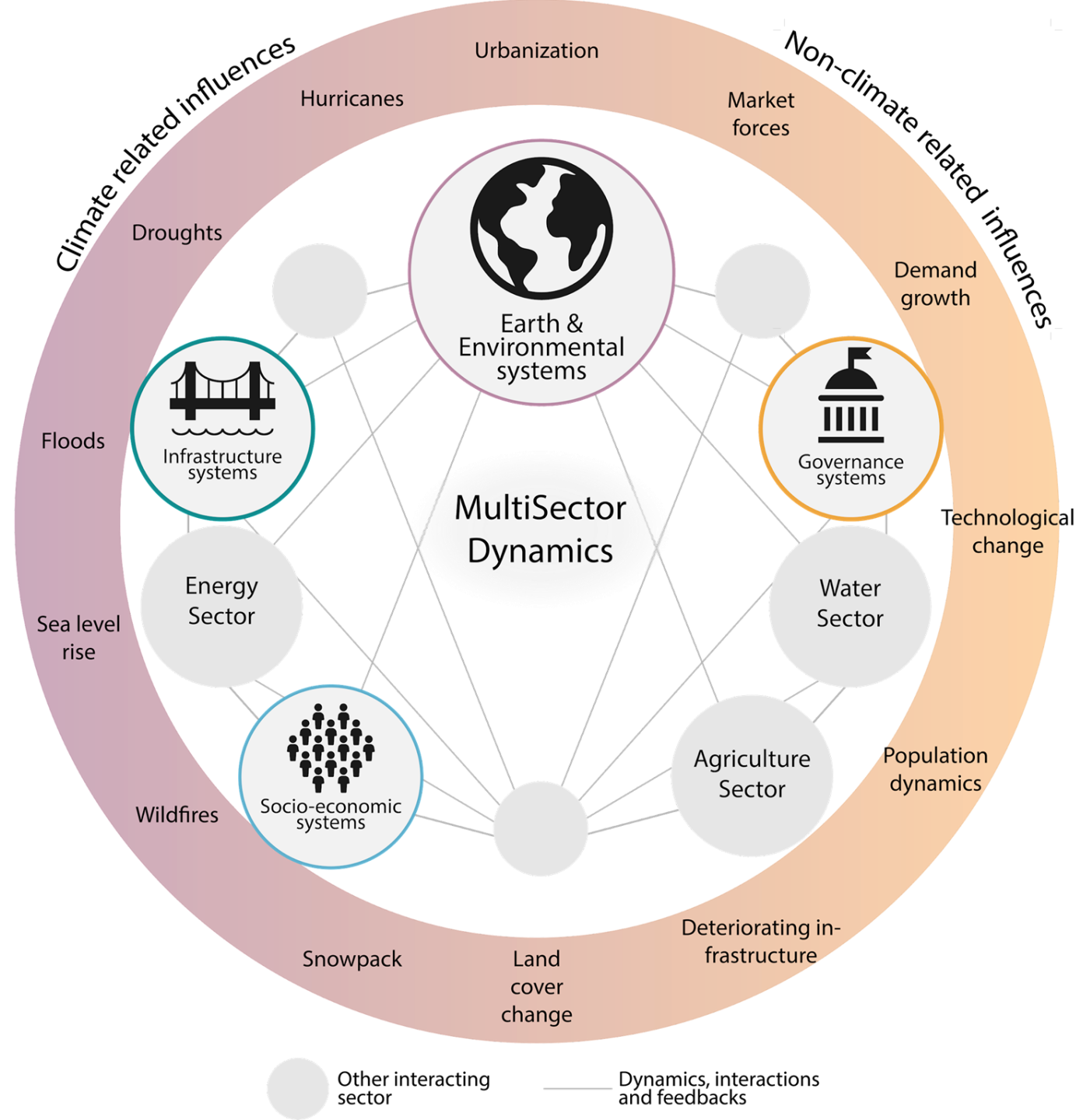
Wildfire risk



What is MSD?

The study of how complex built, natural, and socio-economic systems **co-evolve in response to change.**

MSD is a transdisciplinary research area that seeks to advance our understanding of how **human-Earth system feedbacks shape interdependent pathways of societal change across scales and uncertainties.**



Globally, we are facing interconnected, multisectoral risks.



A group of refugees and migrants walk towards the border of Greece and North Macedonia. Credit: UNHCR

Need to Capture Compounding or Cascading Risks

Interacting risks can **emerge** across scales, systems, and sectors

Human responses can be strong determinants of risk

Combinations of multiple risks pose challenges for model-based insights

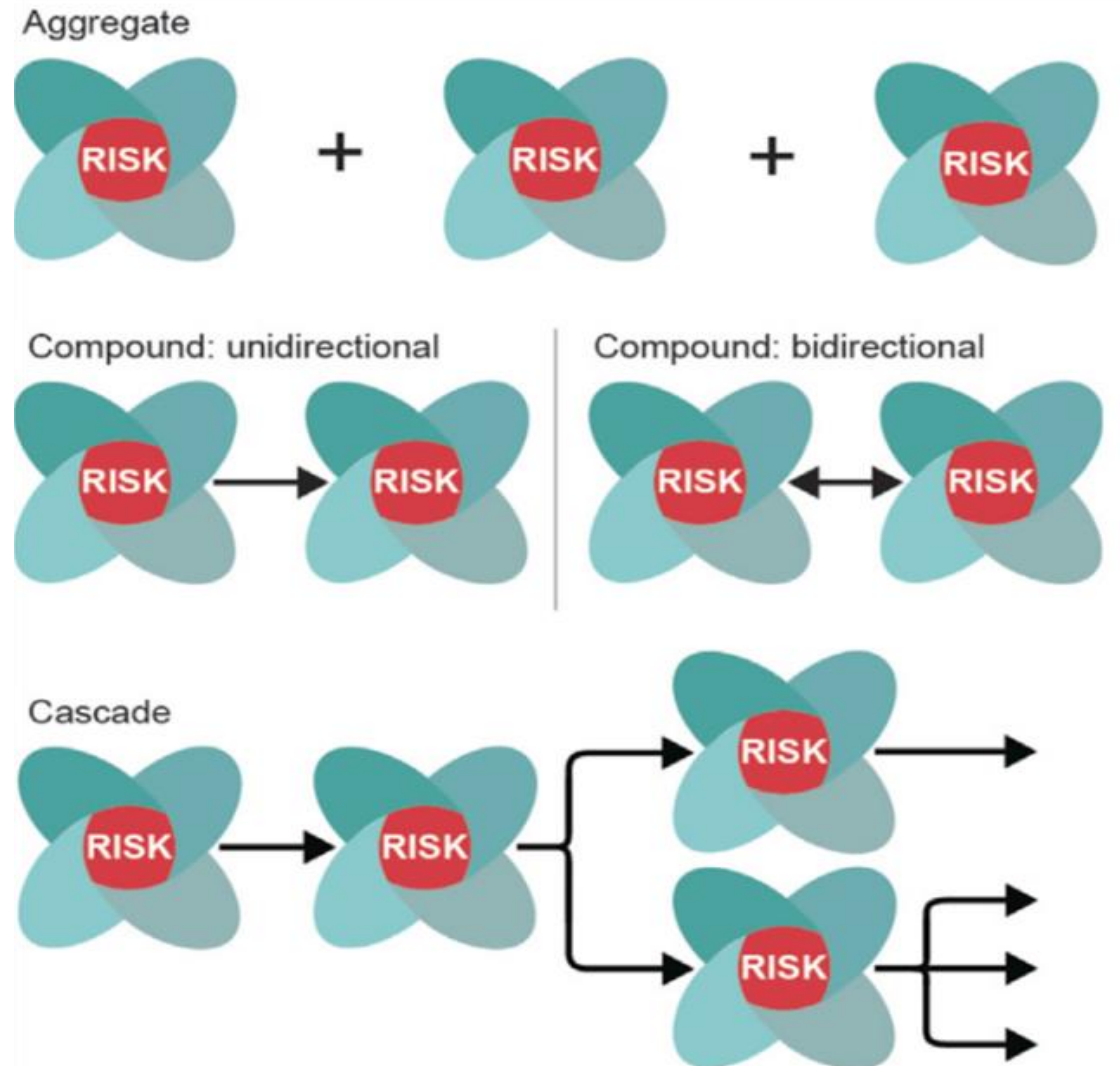


Figure adapted from Simpson et al. (2021). "A framework for complex climate change risk assessment". In: One Earth 4.4, 1648 pages 489–501. ISSN: 2590-3322.

The **MSD Community of Practice (MSD CoP)** represents an effort to accelerate development of needed foundational capabilities to address these challenges through open science and growing a diverse transdisciplinary workforce.

<https://multisectordynamics.org/join-us/>



MSD COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE STRATEGIES

Communication

- Website
- Newsletter
- Webinars
- Outreach

Coordination

- Workshops
- Conference forums
- Linking research communities

Conceptual Framework/SSG

- Vision reporting
- FT & SSG drafting
- Review process

Technical coordination

- Working groups



MSD COP FACILITATION TEAM



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Hamsa Ganapathi
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MSD COP SCIENTIFIC STEERING GROUP (SSG)



**Nathalie Voisin,
PNNL
Core Member**



**Klaus Keller,
Dartmouth
Core Member**



**Nicole Jackson,
Sandia
Core Member**



**Casey Burleyson,
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**Andy Jones,
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U. of Waterloo
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**David McCollum, Oak
Ridge
WG Representative**



**Wei Peng,
Princeton University
WG Representative**



**Julia Szinai, LBNL
WG representative**



**Vivek Srikrishnan, Cornell
University
WG representative**



**Christa Brelsford,
LANL
WG representative**



**Jim Yoon, PNNL
WG representative**

ESTABLISHED 8 THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS



Connecting MSD Research to
Operations



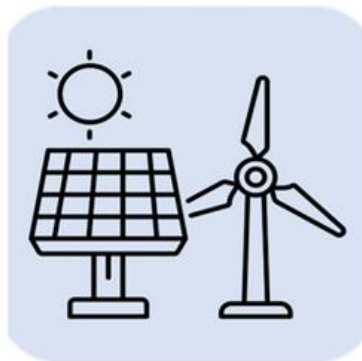
Early Career Development



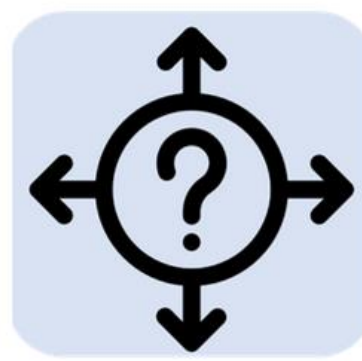
Equity in MultiSector Dynamics



Human Systems Modeling



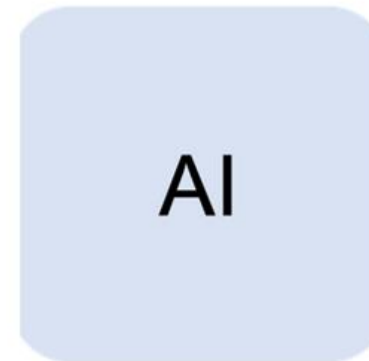
Multisector Impacts of Energy
Transitions



Uncertainty Quantification and
Scenario Development



Urban Systems

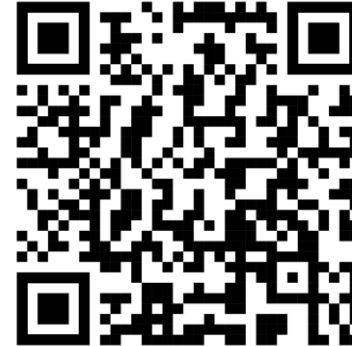


Using AI to Enhance MSD
Research



David McCollum (ORNL), Gokul Iyer (PNNL)

Aims to further the **R2O2R** (**‘research-to-operations-to-research’**) mission by identifying **collaborations**, **communicating insights**, and **bridging expertise**. Reaching out to federal and subnational agencies and multilateral institutions down to individual US- and non-US-based researchers, domain experts, and implementation specialists.



Julia Szinai (LBNL), Tom Wild (PNNL)

The mission of this WG is to support the success of early career researchers in fields related to MultiSector Dynamics. Foster **capacity building across institutions and scientific focus areas** through hosting professional development workshops and forming a community of practice for MSD researcher-teachers.

AGU Fall 2023 MSD Meet Up: had over 60 participants. Ongoing plans for 2024.





Rebecca Saari (Univ. of Waterloo), Sarah Fletcher (Stanford), Amanda Giang (University of British Columbia)

This WG is focused on assessing the current status of MSD equity research, identifying key research frontiers, and supporting community members in advancing these frontiers. Strong focus on **modeling advances** that are needed to capture distributive **social impacts** on systems with **multiple stressors** and **interconnected risks**



**Jim Yoon (PNNL), Christian Klassert
(Helmholtz-Centre)**

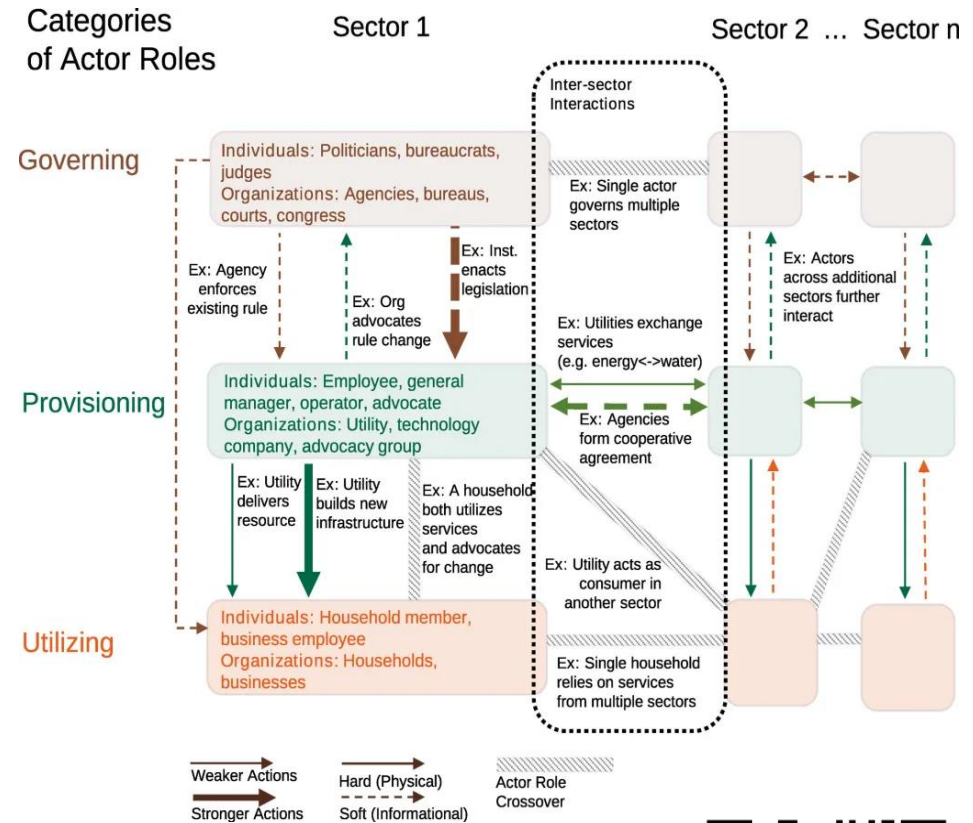
This WG explores **state of the art modeling methods** that can improve **representation of human decision making** and **adaptation** in multi-sector systems, drawing from advances in economics, social sciences, computer science, and statistics. Investigates a range of modeling techniques and their integration with physical energy-water-land models for capturing human response to **short-term shocks** and **long-term change**.

A TYPOLOGY FOR CHARACTERIZING HUMAN ACTION IN MULTISECTOR DYNAMICS MODELS

Human Systems Modeling WG

Lays out typology for classifying how human systems are represented in models

Provides a review of human systems abstractions in different bodies of literature





Wei Peng (Princeton), Jordan Kern (NC State)

This WG is focused on advancing understanding of the multisectoral impacts of energy transitions by building a diverse team to identify what human-natural systems **feedbacks**, **sectors**, and **societal constructs** are **missing** from existing analytical approaches and **define new research pathways** towards a more holistic understanding of the **multi-sector impacts of energy transitions**.



Vivek Srikrishnan (Cornell), John Lamontagne (Tufts)

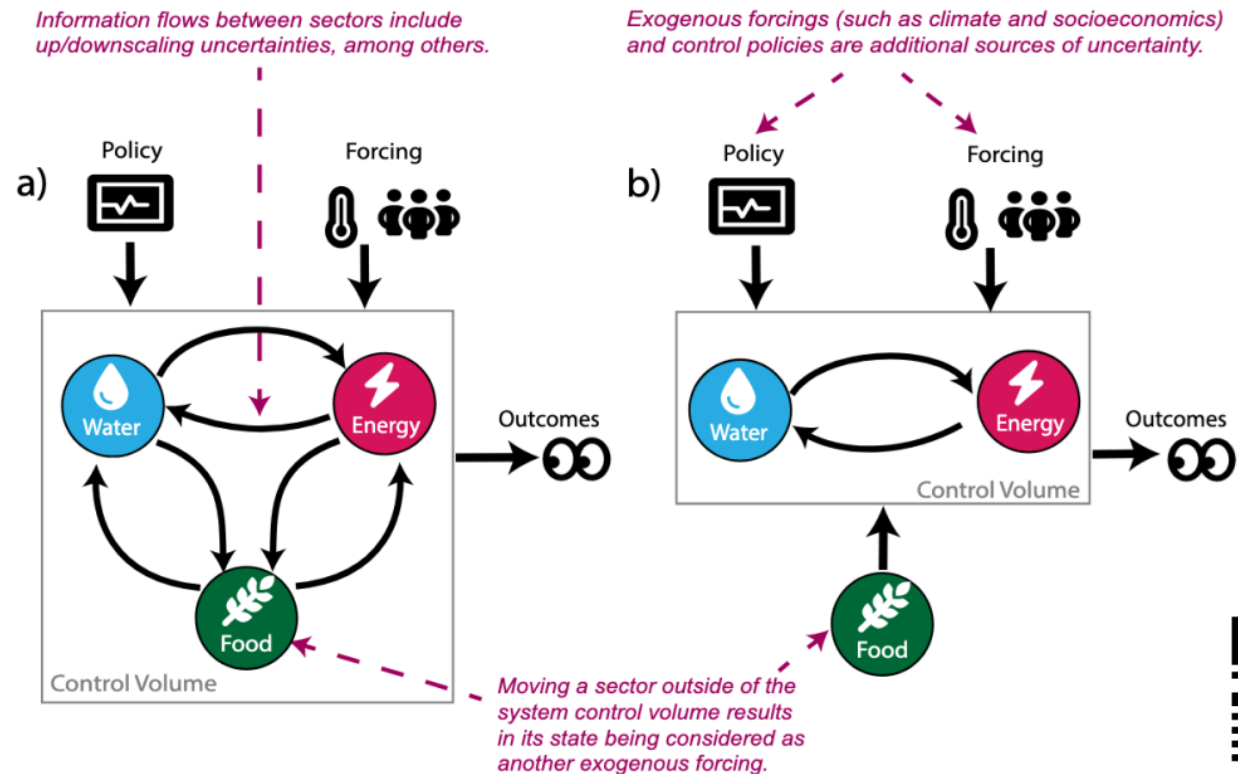
This WG studies the **propagation of uncertainties**, including deep uncertainties, **through multi-sector systems**. We are interested in understanding how uncertainty interacts with complex system dynamics and **cross-sectoral feedback mechanisms** to affect the **robustness and resilience** of these systems. We also conduct research into the construction of scenarios to capture the range of uncertainties in outcome space in the presence of deep uncertainty.

UNCERTAINTY ANALYSIS IN MULTI-SECTOR SYSTEMS: CONSIDERATIONS FOR RISK ANALYSIS, PROJECTION, AND PLANNING FOR COMPLEX SYSTEMS

Formal review article

Focuses on challenges for
quantifying MSD uncertainties

- Inference
- Model calibration
- Projecting outcomes
- Scenario discovery
- Identification of risk regimes



Srikrishnan et al (2022) Earth's Future, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021EF002644>

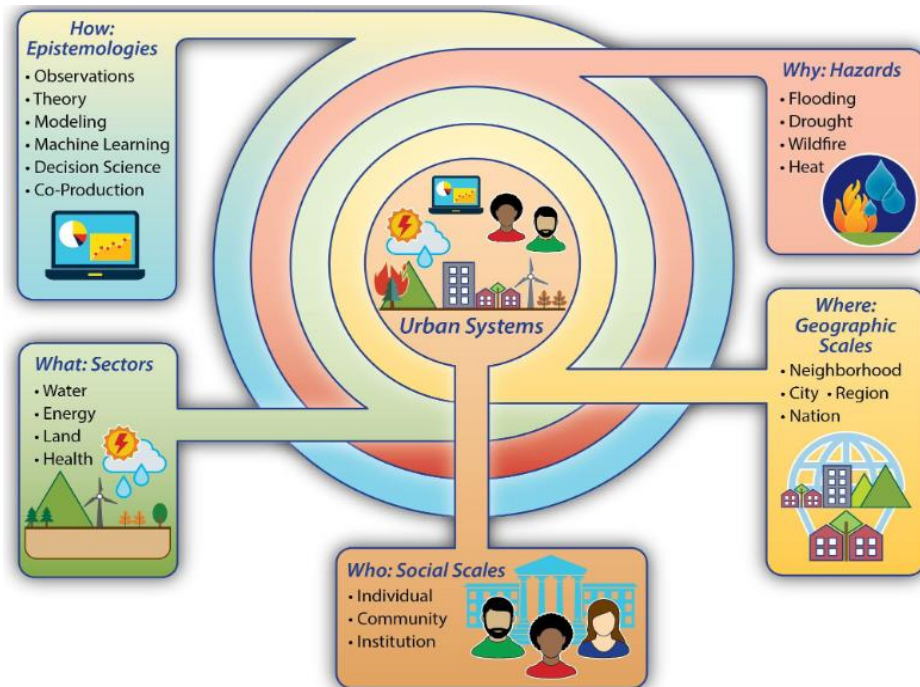


Christa Brelsford (LANL), Pouya Vahmani (LBNL)

This WG studies **cities as focal points** for addressing questions related to **system dependencies, tipping points, and uncertainties**. Cities are also a fruitful context to explore **model coupling across sectors and scales**. However, efforts to combine multi-sector urban tools and insights to examine key uncertainties, interactions, and tradeoffs.

Publication in-review with Earth's Future:

“Cities are Concentrators of Complex, MultiSectoral Interactions within the Human-Earth System.” (Brelsford et al.)



IFRA01-046

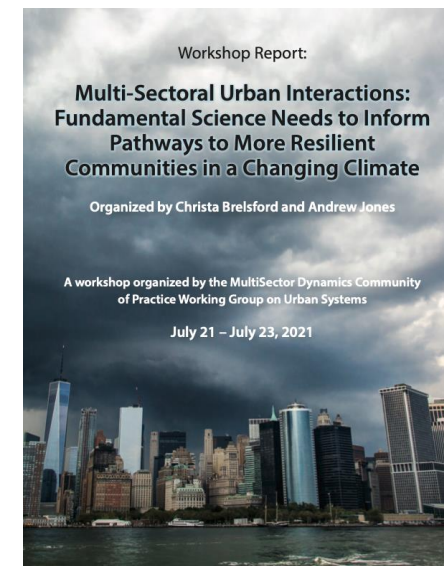


**MultiSector Urban Interactions:
Fundamental Science Needs to Inform Pathways to More
Resilient Communities in a Changing Climate**

Urban Science Workshop - July 21st - 23rd 2021

KEYNOTE PANEL: JULY 21ST 2021 from 10 am – 12 pm (PT)

Anu Ramaswami Civil Engineering Princeton University	Luis Bettencourt Mansueto Institute University of Chicago	Karen Seto School of the Environment Yale University	Paul Waddell City & Regional Planning UC Berkeley





Stefano Galelli (Cornell), David Gold (Utrecht University)

This WG is exploring AI techniques that **expand the current tools** available for **control problems** (e.g., **Reinforcement Learning**), thereby allowing us to operate and plan **highly nonlinear and interconnected Human-Earth systems**. We seek to clarify opportunities and risks associated with recent AI advances and their implementation in MSD science.



MSD EARTH'S FUTURE SPECIAL ISSUES

18 open-access research articles submitted from a mix of MSD supported researchers and other global researchers

Published September 2020 – April 2023



Earth's Future

AGU
ADVANCING
EARTH AND
SPACE SCIENCE



Organizers

Patrick Reed (Cornell)

Nicole Jackson (Sandia)

Katharine Mach (U Miami)

Nicholas Simpson (U Cape Town)

Nathalie Voisin (PNNL)

Jennifer Morris (MIT)

Ryan McManamay (Baylor)

Marjolijn Haasnoot (Deltares)

***Submission window: May 2023-December 2024,
Published 12 papers so far***



Multi-Sector Dynamics: Advancing
Complex Adaptive Human-Earth
Systems Science In a World of
Interconnected Risks

Earth's Future

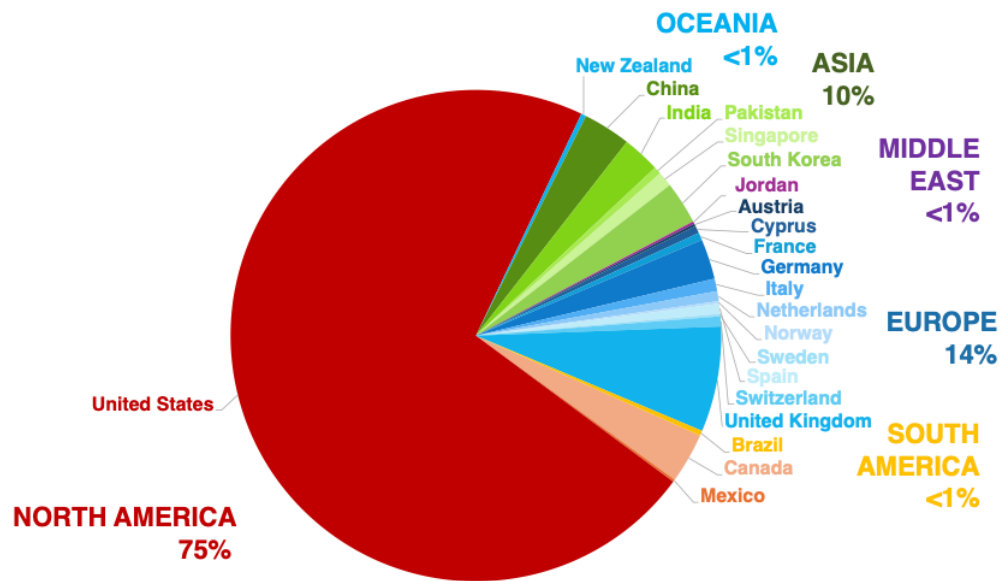
AGU ADVANCING
EARTH AND
SPACE SCIENCE





AGU HIGHLIGHTS

One of the largest coordinated topical areas in Global Environmental Change!

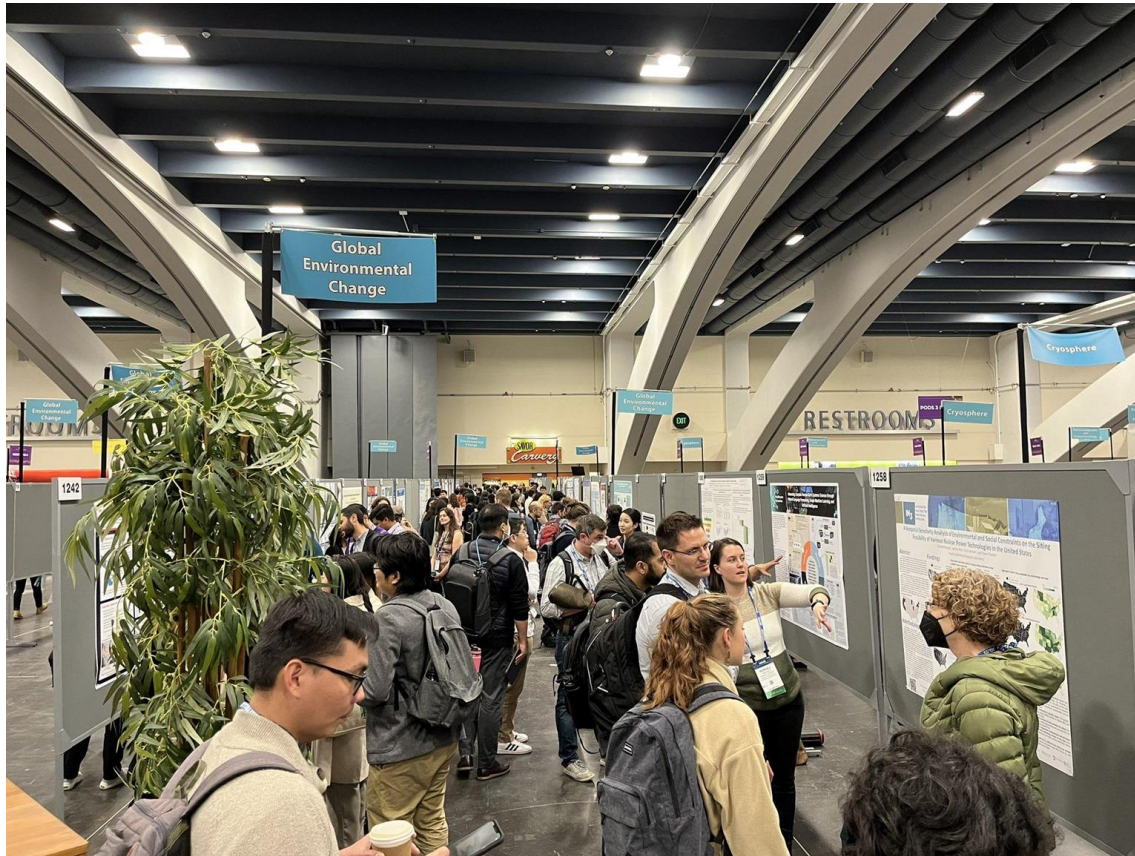


- 22 countries
- 37% student presenters
- 28% international authors



- 7 oral sessions
- 8 poster sessions
- 133 abstracts from 606 authors

2023 AGU FALL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

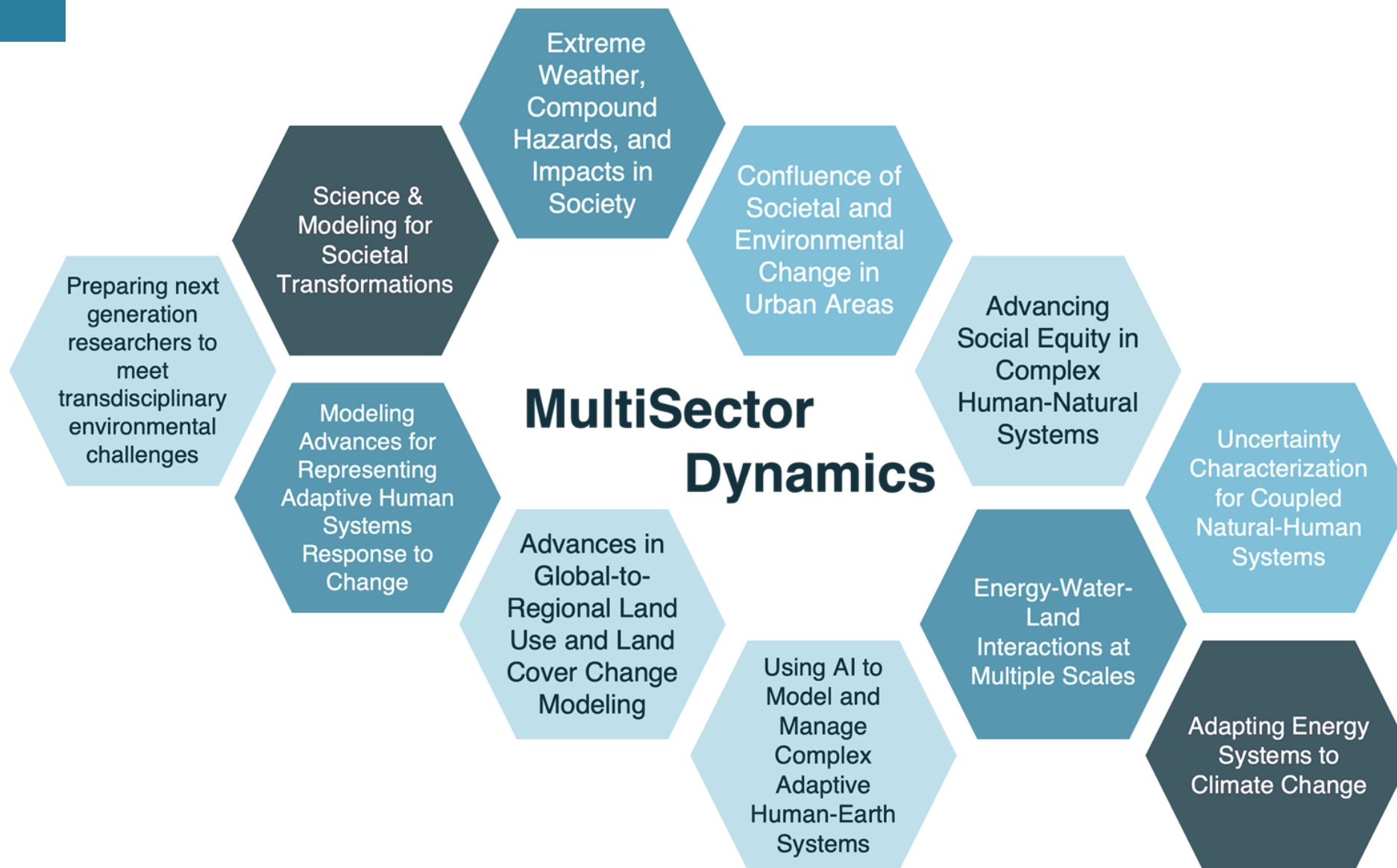


MSD Global Environmental Change Poster aisle at AGU 2023



MSD meetup snapshot at AGU 2023

AGU 2024 SESSIONS





INAUGURAL MSD WORKSHOP (UC DAVIS, OCT 3-5, 2023)

WORKSHOP TURNOUT (DAVIS, CA)

- 96 attendees
- 29 students, 43 early career
- 6 DOE National Laboratories
- 25 U.S. Universities
- 5 International Universities
- 1 Federal, 1 State Agency, 1 NPO



Key Themes:

Improving the operational relevance of MSD research related to climate change and energy transitions

Better capturing human actors' responses to emergent risks

Understand how human and natural drivers and uncertainties shape global-to-local dynamics

Challenges to analyze equity in MSD research

Using AI to advance modeling of complex adaptive Human-Earth systems





CURRENT RESEARCH

MORE INFORMATION



Issue 24 - July 2024

MultiSector Dynamics Community

IN THIS ISSUE

- [MSD @AGU2024 Sessions](#)
- [Urban Systems Upcoming Webinar](#)
- [Earth's Future Call for Papers](#)
- [Research Spotlight: Adam Pollack](#)
- [Working Group Webinar Speaker Series](#)
- [Relevant Publications](#)
- [MSD Jobs](#)

Welcome to the newsletter of the MultiSector Dynamics Community

Hello MultiSector Dynamics (MSD) Community!

We've had an action-packed first half of 2024 so far. In this issue, we highlight our (twelve!) accepted sessions at the 2024 AGU Fall Meeting now seeking abstract submissions by 7/31. We provide some highlights from our 2024 webinar series. Look out for the upcoming Urban Systems WG webinar featuring Dr Harini Nagendra. Your contributions are welcome for our Earth's Future Special Collection. Be sure to also check out our research spotlight on Adam Pollack, a postdoctoral researcher at Dartmouth College!

www.multisectordynamics.org



JOIN US

<https://multisectordynamics.org/join-us/>

MSD Sessions at AGU 2024

The MSD CoP is seeking abstract submissions for **twelve sessions** at the 2024 AGU Fall Meeting in Washington, D.C. this December. The following graphic summarizes the titles of each session and will help you start planning your attendance at the Meeting. Details on timing and content of each session will be released in the following newsletters. (Folks can click on the figure)



Issue 24
July 2024

Sunset Working Group**Open Science and FAIR Data**

Casey Burleyson (PNNL), Adam Schlosser (MIT)



THANK YOU