

ResilientAmerica Roundtable Meeting

**September 4-5, 2019
Beckman Center, Huntington Room
100 Academy Way
Irvine, CA**

Speaker Bios**Robin Bronen, Executive Director, Alaska Institute for Justice**

Robin Bronen lives in Alaska, works as a human rights attorney and has been researching the climate-forced relocation of Alaska Native communities since 2007. She is a senior research scientist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Institute of Arctic Biology. She is also the cofounder and executive director of the Alaska Institute for Justice, a non-profit agency that is the only immigration legal service provider in Alaska, houses a Language Interpreter Center, training bilingual Alaskans to be professional interpreters, and also is a research and policy institute focused on climate justice issues. She worked with the White House Council on Environmental Quality to implement President Obama's Climate Change Task Force recommendation to address climate displacement. She works as an expert on climate-forced planned relocations as a member of the advisory group for the Platform on Disaster Displacement, an international national government-led consultative process intended to build consensus on the development of an international human rights and protection agenda addressing the needs of people displaced in the context of natural hazards, including the effects of climate change. Her research has been featured in the Guardian, CNN, Climate Wire and Nature magazine. She regularly presents her research at conferences focused on climate change adaptation, disaster relief reduction and climate change and population displacement. The Alaska Bar Association awarded her the 2007 Robert Hickerson Public Service award and the 2012 International Human Rights award. The Federal Bureau of Investigation awarded the Alaska Institute for Justice the 2012 FBI Director's Community Service award, the International Soroptimist's awarded her the 2012 Advancing the Rights of Women award and Victims for Justice awarded her the 2014 Advocacy Award.

Craig Clements, Director and Associate Professor, Fire Weather Research Laboratory, San Jose State University

Dr. Craig Clements is a Professor of Meteorology at San José State University and Director of the Fire Weather Research Laboratory. He leads research on fire weather, extreme fire behavior, fire-atmosphere interactions, and conducting wildland fire field experiments. Dr. Clements has over 20 years of experience in meteorological field observations and teaches courses in Fire Weather, Wildfire Science, Mountain Meteorology, Climate Change, and Meteorological Instrumentation. He received his PhD in Geophysics from the University of Houston, his MS in Meteorology from the University of Utah, and a BS degree in Geography from the University of Nevada, Reno. In 2012, Dr. Clements received the National Science Foundation's CAREER Award for his research on wildfire dynamics and fire weather. His current research focuses on obtaining meteorological measurements using state-of-the-art Mobile Atmospheric Profiling Systems such as Doppler Lidar and Radar at active wildfires in the western US and his research has been featured in PBS NOVA, Rolling Stone, The New York Times, Time, CNN, and Scientific American.

James Gore, Sonoma County Supervisor

James Gore is the Fourth District Supervisor for the County of Sonoma in California. His district was hard hit by the 2017 Tubbs Fire, which destroyed more than 5,600 structures and took 22 lives, and Mr. Gore has emerged as a force for resilience both in Sonoma County and throughout the region. Mr. Gore is the chair of the Resilient Counties initiative and currently serves as second vice president for the California State Association of Counties, he also serves as the nationwide chair of the Resilient Counties Advisory Board (RCAB) for the National Association of Counties (NACo). Previously, he secured an appointment from President Barack Obama's administration as Assistant Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). During this service, Mr. Gore led nationwide conservation efforts at the intersection of agriculture, business, and the environment. In an effort to enhance both a vibrant economy and protect our nation's natural resources, Mr. Gore advocated for and led efforts to expand services in persistent poverty areas with underserved communities – leading to the creation and deployment of USDA's persistent poverty initiative, StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity. Mr. Gore also helped lead efforts on climate change mitigation and the protection of Pacific salmon habitats. Mr. Gore earned a master's degree from George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Andrew Kruczkiewicz, Senior Staff Associate, International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Earth Institute, Columbia University

Andrew Kruczkiewicz is part of the Environmental Monitoring Program and Disasters Team at the Columbia University Earth Institute's International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate and Society where he aids in the development and integration of environmental remote sensing products into early warning systems for human health, agriculture and disasters. He also aids the IRI Data Library in the development of map rooms and supports the ACToday Project managing relationships with the humanitarian community, including Red Cross. He is the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre focal point at the IRI. Kruczkiewicz graduated from Columbia University specializing in remote sensing and mapping of atmospheric and meteorological variables. He interned for NASA and IRI developing algorithms to monitor inundation and land cover in East Africa, with a focus on applications for the health and humanitarian sectors. Before Columbia, Kruczkiewicz studied finance at Fairfield University and meteorology at Western Connecticut State University. Kruczkiewicz is interested in the role of satellites and remote sensing technology and data for sector-specific applications, specifically the development and assessment of algorithms to detect and map spatial and temporal patterns of precipitation, temperature and other climatic and geophysical variables. This includes analyzing their impact on infrastructure, public health and agriculture, on different timescales, to increase the understanding of risk for decision making. He is also interested in the intersection of the social and physical sciences, especially pertaining to the integration of remote sensing into early warning systems for extreme events such as floods, storm surge from tropical cyclones, wildfires and landslides to inform preparedness actions and risk assessment within the humanitarian sector.

Dr. Shanna N. McClain, Program Lead for Risk Reduction and Resilience, NASA's Earth Sciences Division.

Dr. McClain holds a PhD in Environmental Resources & Policy from Southern Illinois University. Her doctoral research examined the challenges of integrating three policy priorities – climate change adaptation, response to disasters, and resilience – into transboundary multilevel governance frameworks. At NASA, she manages resilience-based programs in fragile and crisis-affected contexts, and identifying opportunities to integrate Earth observation data into community-level decision making

for improved understanding and management of risk. Dr. McClain also works as a Visiting Scholar for the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) on issues of environmental migration and environmental peacebuilding. Since 2011, she has worked as a consultant with the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit in Geneva, Switzerland, focused on the integration of environmental variability in sudden-onset and protracted humanitarian crises.

Max Moritz, Statewide Wildfire Specialist in UC Cooperative Extension, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California at Santa Barbara

Max Moritz is an adjunct professor at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) and has been a statewide wildfire specialist within UC Cooperative Extension for the past 15 years. He holds a PhD in biogeography from UCSB and has research expertise in wildfire, biogeography, climate change, and spatial analysis. Much of his research is focused on understanding the dynamics of fire regimes at relatively broad scales and applying this information to planning and management of fire-prone landscapes. Recent interests include climate change adaptation, the role of land development on past and future fire patterns, and how urban planning and design can be improved to reduce human losses. Prior to his position at UCSB, Dr. Moritz was faculty at Cal Poly State University and co-founded the Center for Fire Research and Outreach at UC Berkeley, which is California's premier source for science-based solutions to wildfire-related challenges. He has also chaired the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Workgroup Association on Fire, as well as participated as a member on a number of other workgroups, including California Naturalist, Climate Change Adaptation, Forest Ecosystems and Communities, and the Oak Woodland Conservation.

Kristina Peterson, Co-founder, Lowlander Center

Kristina Peterson is an applied social scientist who studies scientist/community interaction including how to support and prepare both scientists and community members for working together and how that work transforms both parties. She is a co-founder of the Lowlander Center, a nonprofit organization that helps create solutions through education, research, and advocacy, beginning at the community level, for Lowland people and places in the bayous of Louisiana. Peterson was a founding board member of the National Hazards Mitigation Association and the Gender and Disaster Network. Peterson is currently a visiting lecturer in the planning department at the University of New Orleans, specializing in environmental and hazards planning, and was formerly the senior research assistant at the Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (CHART-UNO). She is an advisory board member of the Thriving Earth Exchange of the Geophysical Union and is a fellow in the Society of Applied Anthropology. Recent awards include the 2014 Distinguished Service to Rural Communities, from the Rural Sociology Association, for her years of advocacy and justice work in rural communities, and the William Gibson Environmental Award, from the PCUSA-Earth Care. Her most recent notable work has been to develop a team of topic experts to work with the Tribal experts of Isle de Jean Charles to create one of the winning proposals in the National Rockefeller HUD NDRC competition- \$52,000,000 for a 'proof of concept' culturally appropriate, sustainable resilient coastal resettlement community.

Nicholas Pinter, Professor, Associate Director of the Center for Watershed Sciences, University of California at Davis

Nicholas Pinter holds the Shlemon Chair in Applied Geosciences at University of California Davis, in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Center for Watershed Sciences. Professor Pinter studies earth-surface processes and hydrology applied to a range of problems. The main thrust of this research is on river dynamics, flooding, floodplain management, and mitigation of flood risk and other natural hazards. Pinter has worked primarily on large alluvial rivers and their floodplains, including the

Mississippi, Missouri, Rhine, Danube, and others. Recent work has focused on managed retreat and community relocation to mitigate floodplain and coastal flood risk. Pinter's research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, FEMA, MacArthur Foundation, von Humboldt Foundation, and the European Commission. Professor Pinter's work also involves assessing and guiding state and federal policy on rivers and flooding. As part of that policy focus, Professor Pinter has been the subject or a scientific source for over 250 articles in newspapers, magazines, radio and television interviews, and web-based media outlets in the US and around the world.

Chief Thom Porter, Director, CAL FIRE

Chief Porter was appointed Director of CAL FIRE on January 8, 2019. Previously, he was responsible for pre-fire and resource management programs and led the multi-agency Forest Area Safety Taskforce and Border Area Fire Council. Porter's work with CAL FIRE has spanned over two decades and impacted countless Californians, especially in the past couple of years as wildfires have become more frequent and more widespread across the state. In 2018 he managed the Camp Fire, which became the deadliest fire in California history. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Forest Management from the University of California, Berkeley and is a Registered Professional Forester.

Stephen Pyne, Regents Professor, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University

Steve Pyne is an emeritus professor at Arizona State University. He has been at ASU since 1985. In 1986 he joined the charter faculty at ASU West, where he remained for 10 years. He transferred to the School of Life Sciences in 1999. He has published 35 books, most of them dealing with fire, but others on Antarctica, the Grand Canyon, the Voyager mission, and with his oldest daughter, an inquiry into the Pleistocene. His fire histories include surveys of America, Australia, Canada, Europe (including Russia), and the Earth. *The Ice: A Journey to Antarctica* was named by the *New York Times* to its 10 best books for 1987. *Fire in America: A Cultural History of Wildland and Rural Fire* won the Forest History Society's best book award. He has twice been awarded NEH Fellowships, twice been a fellow at the National Humanities Center, enjoyed a summer Fulbright Fellowship to Sweden, and has received a MacArthur Fellowship (1988-1993). In 1995 he received the Robert Kirsch Award from the *Los Angeles Times* for body-of-work contribution to American letters. He now lives on an urban farm in Queen Creek, Arizona where he raises Tunis sheep, chickens, and citrus.

Scott Stephens, Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California at Berkeley

Scott Stephens is professor of fire science in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also a Henry J. Vaux Distinguished Professor in Forest Policy and co-director of Berkeley Forests. Stephens' research expertise and interests include fire ecology, fire behavior, forest ecology, and forest policy. He is interested in the interactions of wildland fire and ecosystems, which includes how prehistoric fires once interacted with ecosystems, how current wildland fires are affecting ecosystems, and how future fires, changing climates, and management may change this interaction. He also is interested in forest and fire policy and how it can be improved to meet the challenges of the next decades, both in the US and internationally. Stephens holds a Ph.D. in Wildland Resource Science from UC Berkeley and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Sacramento State University.