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Presentation Summary

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The Use of Visualization to Inform Resilience Planning for Small, US Great Lakes Communities

This presentation illustrates the role of visualization techniques as a component of local planning efforts in small, US Great Lakes communities, in the face of climate uncertainty. Visualizations can illuminate current land policy challenges and play a role in bridging the gap between the quantification and perception of climate variability. Specific graphics methods, including the use of archival imagery and the production of animations, are discussed relative to ongoing efforts to better inform coastal planning policies, transform municipal management practices and enable critical conversations across local communities, stakeholders, and decision-makers.

To illustrate these claims, this research examines the contributions and implications of visualizations as a key component of local planning efforts in three Lake Michigan coastal communities between 2013 and 2015: 1) City of Ludington, Pere Marquette Township, and Hamlin Township; 2) City of Grand Haven and Grand Haven Township; and 3) City of St Joseph. The research articulates how the visualizations of diverse future scenarios offer communities a more detailed understanding of the trade-offs between larger climate change impacts and localized community planning decisions.

Additional Resources

- Arquero de Alarcón, M., Maigret, J. "Visualizing the Dynamic Shorelands of the Great Lakes." Michigan Journal of Sustainability, Vol.4: (2016), pp. 47-60. At: <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/mjs/12333712.0004.005?view=text;rgn=main>
- MAde-Studio Website: www.MAde-Studio.org
- Resilient Michigan: Planning for Resilient Communities webpage, LIAA. www.liaa.org/projectinfo.asp?pjt=pv&pid=4