

## MAPPING COASTAL RISKS AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY: PRINCIPLES AND CONSIDERATIONS

*Shana Jones, University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government*

*Please note; this is connected to a panel proposed by Lisa Schiavinato.*

Disasters are heavily influenced by land use and infrastructure siting decisions, and incorporating social vulnerability data into geospatial modeling is one way to illustrate areas of increased risk and need so that appropriate planning and responses are developed. Including data such as race, income, age, and disability creates a more comprehensive picture of the impact of disasters. It may not only better predict risk, but also provide a basis for better planning decisions. Yet important science, legal, and policy questions arise when integrating such information at the local level. Over the past two years, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia scientists and legal experts have been exploring how we can best ensure that this information guides planning decisions to yield useful, equitable solutions to existing and foreseeable problems. This talk, Mapping Coastal Risks and Social Vulnerability; Principles and Considerations, arises directly out of this work.

Specifically, in the planning and coastal adaptation arenas, scientists, planners, government officials, and citizens are using data and increasingly sophisticated geographic information system (GIS) software to visualize more precisely coastal hazards and change. Including demographic data such as race, income, age, and/or disability as part of geospatial modeling creates a more comprehensive picture of the impact of disasters, such as flooding, and may not only better predict risks but provide a basis for better planning decisions. In the coastal adaptation context, however, an important question is how best to ensure that the geospatial information developed guides planning in a useful and equitable manner that advances decision-making and solves problems instead of creates them.

The purpose of this talk is to raise for discussion principles designed to guide adaptation policy when geospatial modeling of the environment incorporates social vulnerability data. This talk is designed to complement proposed talks describing a mapping tool developed by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) for coastal Virginia and why certain social vulnerability indicators were selected as well as a discussion of legal considerations. This talk will invite discussion on opportunities and challenges related to incorporating social vulnerability data into planning. A role-play designed to illustrate some of the issues and opportunities is planned.