



BREN SEMINAR

KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS, REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY, AND THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CONSERVATION BLUEPRINT



JOHN GALLO
Senior Scientist
Conservation Biology Institute

Monday, March 12, 2018 11:00 – 12:00
Bren Hall 1414

Watch live at <https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/715963314>

"The Santa Barbara County Conservation Blueprint is real-world conservation planning at its best: inclusive, pragmatic, science-guided, and forward-thinking. John Gallo has been a key member of the team, applying his sophisticated understanding of geographic knowledge support systems to create an online atlas that seamlessly delivers data, tools, and information. He makes it look easy. (Hint: it isn't)." — Frank Davis, Professor, Bren School

ABSTRACT One strategy for sustaining a healthy planet is to help people maintain the long-term health of their local region. Healthy regions can then interconnect. But many pressures challenge the ability of regional communities to sustain their economies, culture, and ecology. To counter this, communities increasingly recognize the importance of teamwork, including the effective sharing of multidisciplinary information. We call for "Knowledge Support Systems" that share such information in searchable and usable formats (such as a web-based platform) and also facilitate deep understanding of the issues. We offer a theoretical framework and several hypotheses for guiding the development of such systems. We present an emerging case study, the recently completed Santa Barbara County Conservation Blueprint, to illustrate how several of the hypotheses can be explored. The Blueprint highlights two flagship products: an interactive online mapping "gateway" on databasin.org that includes the Environmental Evaluation Modeling System (EEMS), as well as the written report, guided by hundreds of hours of input from local stakeholders. We briefly compare and contrast these to similar products developed elsewhere. We welcome research collaboration which could include evaluating hypotheses by engaging the on-the-ground partners and users in this and/or other regions. We close with a reflection about the goal of supporting communities in their work toward sustainability.

BIO Dr. Gallo has been doing "Action Research" for two decades, including the last four years as the Senior Scientist for Conservation Biology Institute (CBI). CBI is a non-profit organization helping bridge the science and practice of biodiversity conservation. Towards these ends, CBI has developed and maintains databasin.org, an open access web-mapping platform, as well as many customized products tailored for various clientele in the government, business, non-profit, and academic sectors. Dr. Gallo has degrees in Geography (PhD), Ecology and Evolution (BS), and Environmental Studies (BA), all from UCSB. He did post-doctoral research in South Africa looking at the creation and use of a spatial decision support system to build consensus among different organizations about conservation priority areas.

- To join the "bren-alerts" mailing list and receive announcements about Bren School news and events, go to bren.ucsb.edu/services/computing/bren-alerts.htm
- To see a list of currently scheduled Bren events, visit bren.ucsb.edu/news/all_events.htm
- For more information or for assistance in accommodating a disability, please contact [Aleah Van Woert](mailto:Aleah.Van.Woert@ucsb.edu)
- To find out how to support the Bren School, please contact [Lotus Vermeer](mailto:Lotus.Vermeer@ucsb.edu)