

Master Thesis

Fostering Climate Resilience in Cities: An analysis of adaptive policy strategies to mitigate urban flooding by utilizing multifunctional systems.

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ABSTRACT

The climatic changes due to global warming include unpredictable and torrential precipitation. This has made cities built in delta and coastal areas more vulnerable to floods. There are various technological solutions to mitigate against urban flooding. These are broadly categorized as retention or pumping options. The decision on which technology to employ and to what extent, requires cooperation between stakeholders with varied motivations, cognitions, resources and power. In instances where actors, resources and policies are able to merge and result in sustainable policy, boundary spanning through linkages has taken place. This research will investigate how adaptive policy strategies can enhance flood mitigation activities that employ multifunctional methods such as ecosystem services. The study will give an analysis of the influence of policy on effective use of eco-system services availed by flood waters in urban areas. The research will use comparative case study method to elucidate boundary spanning activities in three delta cities in Europe, USA and Africa.

Keywords: urban flood mitigation, adaptive policy making, Contextual Interaction Theory, Boundary spanning, boundary judgments and multifunctionality.