

JULIA BAIRD



Biography

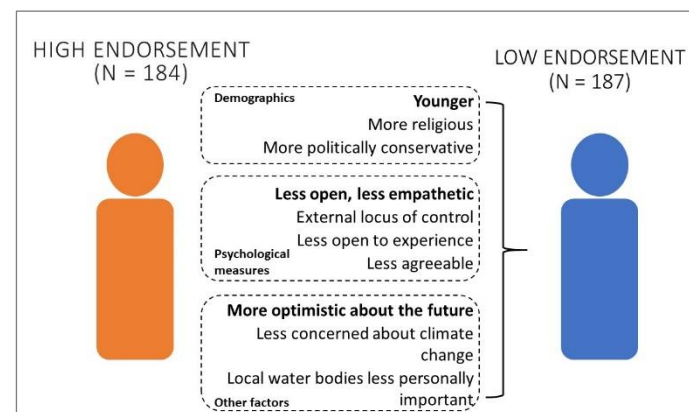
Dr. Julia Baird is a Canada Research Chair and Associate Professor in the Environmental Sustainability Research Centre and the Department of Geography and Tourism Studies at Brock University. Her research interests are focused on human dimensions of water resources management and governance at a range of levels from individuals to groups, and she uses a resilience lens in her work. The contexts within which Baird's research is conducted are varied, ranging from biosphere reserves to watersheds to production landscapes. Baird's interdisciplinary research is supported by her education in the social and natural sciences. She holds a PhD in Environment and Sustainability and a MSc and BSc in Soil and Crop Science, respectively.

Water resilience endorsement as a lever for system change

Abstract

Resilience has been identified as a promising concept for water governance and management in the Anthropocene. Enthusiasm for resilience is evident in scholarship and (importantly) in practice, with the term 'resilience' becoming increasingly common in relation to goals of organizations, government agencies, and other actors. However, there are multiple definitions of resilience, and

not all are considered equal when confronted with the complexity and uncertainty of the present day. I will describe a line of research I have led to assess how individuals understand and think about their water resources, using a resilience lens. The focus on individuals is motivated in large part by the importance placed on fostering a complex systems mindset in the social-ecological resilience literature and the increasing focus on individuals' mindsets and worldviews as a deep leverage point for broader system change. I will describe on ongoing work to understand to what extent individuals in societies bring a water resilience lens to their perspectives of water social-ecological systems. And, I will share findings from recent survey work that identifies the strongest predictors (demographic, psychological, and other) of the extent to which individuals employ a water resilience lens, for the purpose of considering how we start to encourage more fulsome use of this lens.



**SPEAKER
SERIES**

DEPARTMENT OF
**Geography &
Environment**

Open to all interested individuals

Date: Friday, February 11th, 2022

Time: 3-4pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting ID: 920 1911 8555

Passcode: SPEAKER