

I am interested in participating in the workshops because their goals overlap with many of my research and career goals. Much of my research is dedicated to bridging the gap between the weather research and user communities, by seeking to understand how people use and interpret weather information and then translating that knowledge back to the atmospheric science community. In the projects I am involved in, I have worked hard to move societal impacts efforts from being a cursory add-on to being an integral part of projects. Sometimes this involves crossing traditional disciplinary boundaries and challenging the status quo, and I am not afraid to do so.

But as I have become involved in this area of research over the last 5 years, I have noticed that a major missing element is a vibrant, diverse community of researchers exchanging and discussing ideas. Without such a community, advances are slow, dependent on each individual developing and implementing their own interests and ideas (often in relative isolation). Without such a community, there is also a burden on the few people involved to "carry the torch" and convince others of this area's importance. If a community existed to debate ideas and push new ideas forward in collaboration, progress would be much faster and the importance of understanding the weather/ society interface would be more widely accepted. This would benefit the weather societal impacts community, the weather prediction community, and society.

Thus, my experience has taught me the importance of a revitalized community of physical and social scientists (and others) working together to advance societal impacts knowledge and integrate such thinking into the U.S. weather prediction community -- and WAS*IS will offer me a unique opportunity to participate in and help grow that community. WAS*IS will also expose me to a variety of new ideas and perspectives that I can integrate into my own research and bring back to the research communities that I interact with regularly. In addition, WAS*IS will provide me with the opportunity to meet a number of new people interested in this area, expanding my understanding of the weather/society interface and introducing me to a new potential set of collaborators and colleagues.

I don't know exactly what to expect from participating in WAS*IS, but I am certain that the experience will be engaging, motivating, thought-provoking, and valuable. I would really like to participate so that I can "jump on the bus" with a group of like-minded people and see where we end up.

Two aspects of the weather/society interface that I might be interested in focusing on for my interim research project:

- I have studied several cases of the interactions between weather

information and societal decision-making in flooding and would be interested in looking at similarities and differences between the cases to draw broader lessons.

- Even though Hurricane Katrina was forecast quite well and many people have known for years about the devastation such an event would likely cause, it still seems that individuals and all levels of government weren't adequately prepared. I would be interested in learning more about why humans don't deal with disasters well before they occur and examining this in the context of Katrina.