Dr. Elizabeth M. Cook
Postdoctoral Fellow in Urban Ecology, Environmental Studies Department, Urban Systems Lab, The New School

Thursday, March 7, 12:00 – 12:45 pm
403 Altschul Hall, 4th floor, Barnard College

“A Comparative Urban Systems Science to Improve Future Resilience and Sustainability”

Cities are increasingly threatened by changing climate, extreme events, and persistent inequities. A future-oriented urban systems science that integrates planning and action inspired by trans-disciplinary scientific and community-based knowledge are good tools for facing sustainability challenges. Dr. Cook will present her research investigating past, current, and future human-environment dynamics of cities—including people’s direct and indirect impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services and how future visioning shapes urban climate resilience—and use an interdisciplinary set of qualitative and quantitative methods, as well as comparative examples from diverse social-cultural-biophysical contexts in Latin and North America, including Valdivia Chile, New York City New York, and Phoenix Arizona. In her work, Dr. Cook will highlight how interdisciplinary urban systems science can be used to link knowledge to action and enhance the capacity of cities to implement long-term resilience planning.

Dr. Elizabeth Cook earned her PhD at Arizona State University where she was an NSF-Funded IGERT Fellow and was awarded a CONICYT Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia. She is an urban ecosystem scientist with interdisciplinary expertise in social and natural sciences, including ecology, cultural geography, and sustainability sciences. Her research focuses on future urban sustainability and human-environment feedbacks through the integration of trans-disciplinary frameworks, mixed methods, and a comparative approach with cities in Latin and North America.

For more information, please contact Catherine Cook, Environmental Science Department at ccook@barnard.edu.