

## Brief Biography

Katrina Brown is Professor of Social Sciences at the Environment and Sustainability Institute at University of Exeter, based in Cornwall in UK. Kate has a long-standing commitment to interdisciplinary analysis of environmental change and international development. Her research focuses on vulnerability, adaptation and resilience, and ecosystem services and poverty alleviation. She is interested in how people understand, perceive and respond to environmental and other changes, and her work takes a broadly defined political ecology approach. She works in different regions of the world and in different contexts, but with a focus on coastal and marine social ecological systems. Current projects include international collaborations on SPACES (Sustainable Poverty Alleviation and Coastal Ecosystem Services); MAGIC (Multi-scale Adaptations to Global Change in Coastlines); and an AXA Outlook award project, 'You me and our Resilience: Cross-cultural insights into sources of resilience and vulnerability in coastal communities'.

## Abstract:

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## **Constructing Resilience: Unpicking the politics and process of building capacities for change in coastal communities**

This paper examines the process of building capacity to manage and shape change in coastal communities. Coastal communities face momentous, multiple and interacting changes: fisheries depletion and resource scarcity; urbanisation and industrialisation; accelerating extraction and expropriation of marine and coastal environments; extreme weather and looming climate change. This paper explores how communities themselves understand the process of building resilience and what they identify as its key factors. It uncovers the micro-politics and power relations that unpin this dynamic process, adding to existing theoretical and empirical understandings of community resilience. Moving beyond identifying core attributes, it looks at how they are linked and how they are mediated by social relations. I extend current approaches to resilience by developing three core concepts that bring politics and social dynamics to the centre of analysis: resistance, rootedness and resourcefulness. I propose some of critical challenges and exciting avenues these suggest for research on people and the sea.