Associate Professor Lael Parrott, Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystem Services (BRAES), The University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus, Kelowna, BC, Canada

Abstract: While many of the global-scale environmental and social challenges that humanity faces today are daunting and difficult for individual policy makers to address, the regional landscape scale remains a scale at which regional governance systems can make meaningful change. By providing increased resilience, approaches to landscape management and planning that support and maintain social-ecological complexity may also lead to increased sustainability. This presentation explores the relationship between complexity, resilience, and sustainability the landscape scale and describes how a complex systems approach to management may nurture this relationship. The ideas will be illustrated with examples from multifunctional landscapes in British Columbia, Canada.

Presenter: Dr. Lael Parrott (PhD, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, McGill University) is Director of the Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience and Ecosystem Services (BRAES) at The University of British Columbia. Prior to joining UBC, she was an Associate Professor in Environmental Geography and Director of the Complex Systems Laboratory at Université de Montréal (2001-2012). She leads a multidisciplinary research program in modelling and characterising contemporary regional landscapes and ecosystems as complex systems. Practical applications of her research involve environmental management, conservation and monitoring as well as future scenarios analysis. Dr. Parrott works extensively with university, government and industry collaborators and has received Canadian federal and provincial funding for her work.

Date: Wednesday 13 May 2015
Time: 3:00-4:00pm
Venue: Gentilli Lecture Theatre in Geology & Geography Building
For more information: Doina.Olaru@uwa.edu.au on 6488 3908