

*Ashby Dialogue Year-End Report*

## Localization in a Global World: Exploring Local and Global pathways to Resilience

What would it look like to live in a society where the majority of our basic needs were met locally? And what implications would this lifestyle have for our stance as global citizens? This year-long Ashby Dialogue was dedicated to an exploration of localization as an environmental imperative with global ramifications. We covered topics from ecovillages to community garden spaces to local food systems. Collaborators across events include UNCG Sustainability and the UNCG Sustainability Film Series. A special thanks goes to the Department of Interior Architecture, Communication Studies, and the School of Public Health for lending faculty time, facilities, and allowing for curricular integration with dialogue events. The participating faculty members are listed below. We would like to thank the College of Arts and Sciences and the Ashby Dialogue series for this unique opportunity to engage in important and interesting questions with our campus community and beyond! The events, which were all free and open to the public, are described in this report.

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### **UNCG Faculty Dialogue Organizers**

Laura Cole	Interior Architecture
Corey Johnson	Geography
Aaron Allen	Music
Marianne LeGreco	Communication Studies
Amanda Tanner	Public Health
Kay Lovelace	Public Health
Sarah Dorsey	Music

## EVENTS

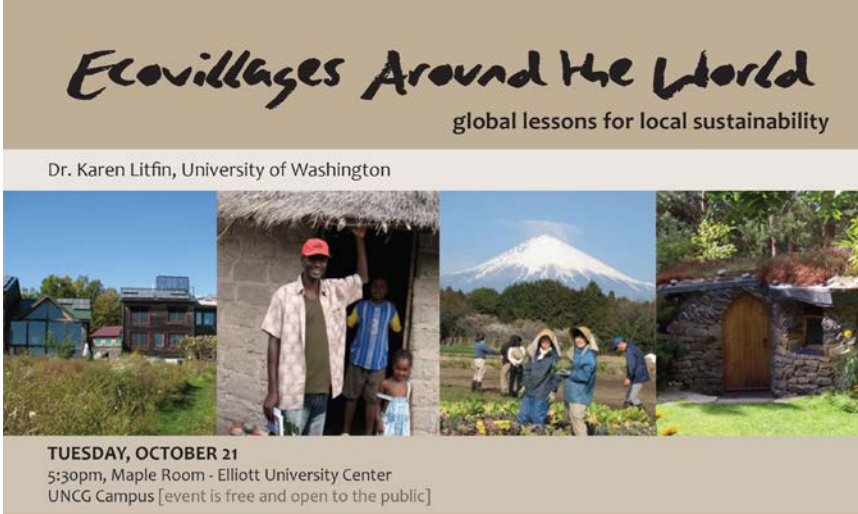
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### **Ecovillage Lecture** – October 21, 5:30

Ecovillage scholar Karen Litfin was invited from the University of Washington to give this illuminate lecture on ecovillages around the world. The Provost introduced the speaker and over 120 people attended the talk including a mixture of faculty, staff, students and interested community members. The dialogue funded Karen’s travels and food and refreshments for the event.

Speaker bio: After teaching international environmental law and politics for nearly 20 years, Karen Litfin embarked upon a journey to ecovillages around the world to find models of living that could work for the long haul. From rural to urban, high tech to low tech, and spiritual to secular communities, she learned that not only is another world possible, it is already being born in small pockets the world over. Join us for an inspiring slide presentation and discussion of how we can learn from ecovillages and scale up their lessons to existing social structures, from the local to the global.

Faculty Organizers: *Laura Cole, Corey Johnston, and Aaron Allen*




**Ecovillages Around the World**  
global lessons for local sustainability

Dr. Karen Litfin, University of Washington

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21**  
5:30pm, Maple Room - Elliott University Center  
UNCG Campus [event is free and open to the public]

After teaching international environmental law and politics for nearly 20 years, Karen Litfin embarked upon a journey to ecovillages around the world to find models of living that could work for the long haul. From rural to urban, high tech to low tech, and spiritual to secular communities, she learned that not only is another world possible, it is already being born in small pockets the world over. Join us for an inspiring slide presentation and discussion of how we can learn from ecovillages and scale up their lessons to existing social structures, from the local to the global.

ASHBY DIALOGUE SERIES: <http://aas.uncg.edu/ashby/>



### **Local Food Day of Action – October 22, 5:30**

The Department of Interior Architecture hosted a day of visioning and action around the concept of localized resilient communities, with a particular focus on local food. Interior architecture students partnered with community members and academics from across campus to work on their choice of one of the following projects:

1. **The Graffiti Garden:** This is a permaculture garden in the Glenwood neighborhood that aims to educate youth. Volunteers who worked on this project helped with hands-on tasks at the garden – primarily digging beds and building a fence out of used bicycles!
2. **The Serenity Garden:** Students and community members worked together to envision a garden space at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.





*Graffiti Garden: Digging holes for fence posts*



*Serenity Garden: Students working with a community member*

Faculty Organizers: *Laura Cole and Marianne LeGreco*

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### **Reading Group – Ongoing**

We formed a localization reading group and met several times over the course of the academic year to discuss chapters from the book “The Localization Reader” edited by Raymond De Young and Tom Princen. The highlight of our meetings was the session with Ecovillage scholar Karen Litfin who wrote a chapter in the book and was on campus in October for the Ecovillage lecture.

Faculty Participants: *Laura Cole, Corey Johnston, Aaron Allen, Sarah Dorsey, Sharon Bracci, and Maruja Torres*

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### **UNCG Sustainability Film Series**

The dialogue collaborated with the UNCG Sustainability Film Series to show localization-related films. Faculty members from the Ashby organizing team helped to facilitate post-film discussions.

- September 4: The Economics of Happiness
- October 9: Ethic of Fracking
- November 13: Shored Up

Faculty Organizers: *Sarah Dorsey, Laura Cole, and Corey Johnston*

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### **FoodSTORM Event – March 27, 2014**

Students, faculty, and community members across Greensboro were invited to this local brainstorm about Greensboro's food needs. The purpose of the event was to host interdisciplinary conversations about local food needs and then to catalyze action just in time to gear up for the 2015 growing season. The [El Azteca & Taco food truck](#) served lunch in the Gatewood parking lot.

Prior to the event, students from Public Health engaged community partners. These same students helped to advertise the event in the greater community and then helped to facilitate small group discussions and take notes the day of the event.

This event featured 17 different partner organizations that are currently working on some piece of the local food system puzzle. These organizations each presented 60-second pitches about their work. Attendees then joined small group conversations organized by topics. We reconvened to recap by creating a visual sketch of actionable ideas. We had a volunteer table for attendees to sign up to volunteer for partner organizations.

Faculty Organizers: *Laura Cole, Marianne LeGreco, Amanda Tanner, Kay Lovelace, Corey Johnston, and Aaron Allen*



ASHBY DIALOGUE SERIES <http://aas.uncg.edu/ashby/2014-15/localization>



*FoodSTORM recap session facilitated by Marianne LeGreco and illustrated by Laura Cole*