

the evolution of **COMPLEX
SYSTEMS**



LAEL PARROTT, Ph.D.



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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 holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering from McGill University. Dr. Parrott is also an associate editor of the journals *Ecological Complexity*, *Ecological Informatics*, and *PeerJ*.

Helen & Lee Gorsuch Lecture

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
7 p.m. ARTS BUILDING RM 150**

Slow Down and Save the Whales

In the St. Lawrence River estuary, almost 8,000 commercial ship transits per year pass through critical habitat of several species of large whales, causing concerns about impacts on the whales. A multipartite group of stakeholders worked together to find a consensus solution. Using an agent-based model of ships and whales in the estuary, the group simulated, tested, and evaluated scenarios for their effectiveness. In 2013, the group recommended voluntary measures for speed reduction and area avoidance to decrease the risk of whale-vessel collisions. Agreed-upon measures are communicated to mariners each year and have received high compliance—a successful example of how nonregulated solutions can be achieved through collaboration between diverse stakeholders.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Noon to 1:30 p.m. SSB 118**

***Building Resilient and Sustainable Landscapes:
Lessons Learned from Complex Systems Science***

While many global-scale environmental and social challenges are difficult to address, the regional landscape is a scale at which regional governance systems can make meaningful change. This presentation explores the relationship between complexity, resilience, and sustainability at the landscape scale. It describes how a complex systems approach to management may nurture this relationship, and is illustrated with a case study from the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada.

*Complex Systems is co-sponsored by
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