



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research
The Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental and Energy Research
Mitrani Department of Desert Ecology

Special Seminar

Wayne M. Getz

*Department of Environmental
Science, Policy, and Management
University of California, Berkeley*



Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 12:00

Seminar Room, Old Administration Building

Participants are invited to meet the seminar speaker at the MDDE meeting room immediately after the seminar (~ 13:00). Please bring your lunch; snacks will be provided.

**Appropriate Complexity Modeling of Zoonotic Disease:
Anthrax, Ebola and Zika**

Although all model building is implicitly guided by context, it is only in making this context as explicit as possible that can we begin to have confidence that we are conforming to Einstein's dictum: "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler." In particular, we need to make more explicit the assumptions regarding the inclusion and exclusion of processes, where the validity of these assumptions can then be evaluated in the context of model purpose, and simulation results appropriately interpreted. In this presentation, I will first present a systems view of zoonotic disease and then discuss how the appropriate complexity method (ACME), which I and my coauthors recently developed in the context of landscape modeling [1] can be applied to modeling Ebola, Anthrax and Zika.

[1]: Larsen, L., M. Eppinga, P. Passalacqua, W. M. Getz, K. Rose, M. Liang, 2016. Appropriate-complexity Landscape Modeling. *Earth Science Reviews* 160 (2016) 111–130.