

UNSCHEDULED • EVENTS

RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON the Sociology of DISASTERS—ISA RC39

NEWSLETTER SUPPORTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

ISSUE: 2016-2017



Welcome!

This is your publication!

We are the official newsletter of the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on the Sociology of Disasters, ISA RC39

Main Sections

Note from the Editors	1
Meet the 2014-2018 ISA RC39 Leadership	1
Meet the New Editorial Team	3
Meet the 2016 Dissertation Prize Award Winners	4
Recent Books by Members	5
2018 ISA World Congress in Toronto	7

Note from the Editors

Welcome to this issue of *Unscheduled Events* for 2016-2017. A new editorial team is helping revitalize this publication and share with you information about the committee, contributions and accomplishments by fellow members, and committee-related events. In forthcoming publications, we plan to include brief descriptions of your projects, research highlights, opinion pieces, job postings, and a wider range of other announcements of concern to the disaster research community. We hope that you consider us as a venue to further promote disaster-related research and your own work with other colleagues in the field.

We invite you to view *Unscheduled Events* is an opportunity for collaboration, networking and dissemination of information. As the new editors, we feel privileged to give something back to this community of scholars and want to welcome you and your contributions!

—Paula Lorente and Shannon Van Zandt, Co-Editors
plorente@tamu.edu and svanzandt@tamu.edu

Meet the 2014-2018 ISA RC39 Leadership



Every four years, the International Sociological Association (ISA) requires that all Research Committees hold open elections where a new executive is selected by all dues-paying members. The 2014-18 officers for the Research Committee on the Sociology of Disasters are as follows:

President

Lori Peek, Ph.D.
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado, USA
Lori.Peek@colorado.edu

**Vice President**

Sudha Arlikatti, Ph.D.
Rabdan Academy
Abu Dhabi, United Arab
Emirates
sarlikatti@ra.ac.ae

**Position A**

Joseph Trainor, Ph.D.
University of Delaware
Newark, Delaware, USA
jtrainor@udel.edu

**Position B**

Dewald van Niekerk, Ph.D.
African Centre for Disaster
Studies
Potchefstroom, South Africa
Dewald.VanNiekerk@nwu.ac.za

**Position C**

Jesús Macías, Ph.D.
Center for Research and
Advanced Studies in Social
Anthropology (CIESAS)
Mexico City, Mexico
macserr@att.net.mx

Continued from page 1

**Secretary-Treasurer**

William Lovekamp, Ph.D.
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, Illinois, USA
welovekamp@eiu.edu

Lori Peek is the 2014-2018 President of RC39; she is the first woman to be elected to this position. She is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and Director of the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder. Peek has published extensively on vulnerable populations in disaster, and is author of *Behind the Backlash: Muslim Americans after 9/11*, co-editor of *Displaced: Life in the Katrina Diaspora*, and co-author of *Children of Katrina*. Peek is former Chair of the American Sociological Association Section on Environment and Technology and is an appointed member of the National Academies Resilience Roundtable.

Sudha Arlikatti is the Vice President of RC39. She is an Associate Professor in the B.Sc. program in Integrated Emergency Management and Business Continuity Management at Rabdan Academy in Abu Dhabi. This program is the first of its kind in the United Arab Emirates, aimed at professionalizing the field of Emergency Management by inspiring early career uniformed officers in the United Arab Emirates to join. She has over a decade of university teaching experience in the United States and fourteen years of architectural and planning consultancy experience, in Oman and India.

Bill Lovekamp is the continuing Secretary-Treasurer of RC39 (2012-2016). Lovekamp is Professor of Sociology at Eastern Illinois University. He also serves as the Departmental Honors Coordinator and is a faculty affiliate in the Professional Science Master's in Geographic Information Sciences program. A disaster responder and advisory council member of the local American Red Cross, Lovekamp is co-editor and chapter author of *Social Vulnerability to Disasters* and he maintains an active research agenda in the areas of disaster research and cemetery studies. His recent work in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park combined the two research areas.

**Past President**

Walter G. Peacock, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas, USA
peacock@tamu.edu

Walter G. Peacock is the Past President of RC39. He is a Professor in Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A&M University. He is also the Director of the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center and an Associate Director of the Texas Census Research Data Center. Dr. Peacock is interested in urban planning, sustainability and resiliency issues, natural hazard, hazard mitigation, long-term disaster recovery, and quantitative methods.

Joseph Trainor is an associate professor in the School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware and a Core Faculty Member of the Disaster Research Center, where he, conducts research, provides consultation, teaches, and mentors students. Trainor conducts multi-disciplinary, mixed methods, qualitative, and quantitative research focused on many different dimensions of disasters and crises. His studies include "basic" science, applied research, and rapid reconnaissance post-disaster fieldwork studies. Recent projects have focused on: Disaster Researcher and Practitioner Integration; Warnings, Risk Perception, and Protective Action Decision making for short fuse hazards; Post Hurricane Housing Decisions; Household Insurance and Mitigation Decision, and Multi-organizational Response.

Dewald van Niekerk was elected to the Board of Directors of RC39, representing Category B, upper middle income countries. He is Director of the African Centre for Disaster Studies in Potchefstroom, South Africa. His research interests include disaster reduction, disaster risk reduction policy, climate change and adaptation, biofuels, and community-based disaster risk assessment. He has numerous article publications, and has a book, entitled *A Framework for Multi-Sphere Disaster Risk Reduction: The Case of South Africa* (Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing, 2010).

Jesús Macías is part of the Board of Directors of RC39, representing Category C, low and lower income countries. He is Full Time Researcher at Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS) in Mexico City, Mexico. Since 2007, Macías has served as Coordinator of Federal Commission on Tornadoes and Severe Storm Analysis (CIATTS). A member of the National Researchers System, Macías has authored more than 150 articles and books related to disaster and risk issues, mostly of which are focused on Mexico. He was founder of the Latin American Network for Social Studies and Disaster Prevention (La Red), and is former chair of the Advisory Committee on Social Sciences of the National Civil Protection System in Mexico.

Meet the New Editorial Team

Unscheduled Events welcomes two RC39 members affiliated with Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas as new editors: Paula Lorente and Shannon Van Zandt. The new co - editors bring a high level of energy, talent and experience to the editorial team. Some brief notes on the new editors follow.

Co-Editor

Paula Lorente, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas, USA
plorente@tamu.edu



Paula Lorente is Assistant Lecturer in Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning (LAUP) at Texas A&M University. Formally trained as an architect, urban planner and urban and regional scientist, she is an emerging scholar who specializes in spatial modeling, risk analysis, and land use-based adaptations to natural disasters and climate change. Extensions of her dissertation research titled "Flood-Proofing Communities with Land Use Planning and Design" have been presented at several conferences. Also, other applications of her work have resulted in extramural funding and a Post-Doctoral Research Associate position at Texas A&M Transportation Institute's Center for Transportation Safety where she led a study on the impacts of flood hazards on transportation safety and roadway conditions. Her current work focuses on creating links between community disaster resilience, urban environments, and green infrastructure to guide land use and policy decision-making under risk and uncertainty.

Co-Editor

Shannon S. Van Zandt,
Ph.D., AICP
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas, USA
svanzandt@tamu.edu



Shannon Van Zandt is LAUP Interim Department Head and Professor at Texas A&M University. She is an experienced administrator and prolific researcher. Since joining the Texas A&M faculty in 2005, Van Zandt has served on more than 140 graduate committees, including more than 40 outside LAUP. She has headed Texas A&M's Master of Urban Planning program and served as Director of Texas A&M's Center for Housing and Urban Development. A Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center faculty research Fellow and certified planner with the American Planning Association, Van Zandt also serves on the board of the Texas Low-Income Housing Information Service, the Texas Sea Grant Advisory Committee, and has testified numerous times to the Texas Legislature regarding disaster recovery. Her research work addresses equity issues related to the spatial distribution of housing opportunities for low-income and minority populations.

Meet the 2016 Dissertation Prize Award Winners

Every four years, the RC39 offers the **Samuel Henry Prince Dissertation Award** in recognition of notable accomplishments by emerging disaster researchers in the social and behavioral sciences. This Award is named for the Canadian, Samuel Henry Prince, who in 1920 successfully defended the first social science doctoral dissertation on a disaster topic. The RC39 committee established this award to encourage the early identification of exceptional research talent based on the quality of the doctoral dissertation. For this cycle, two dissertations were deemed truly exceptional and worthy of public recognition. Those two dissertations were Michelle Meyer and Susann Ullberg.



Award Winner

Michelle A. Meyer, Ph.D.
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA
mmeyer@lsu.edu

Michelle Annette Meyer has a Ph.D. in Sociology from Colorado State University. Her dissertation titled *"Social Capital and Collective Efficacy for Disaster Resilience: Connecting Individuals with Communities and Vulnerability with Resilience in Hurricane-Prone Communities in Florida"* used a mixed-method approach of mailed surveys and in-person interviews to answer two central questions: how does social capital and collective efficacy affect individual and community disaster resilience, and how do these aspects of resilience incorporate concerns for those most social vulnerable to disasters? Her study focused on two communities in Florida where she found that disaster-specific social networks were limited in terms of composition (mostly family ties), size and geographic extent. Meyer's analysis of organizational networks showed that disaster-specific collective efficacy was viewed as an extension of routine collective efficacy. Her dissertation highlighted theoretical contributions to understanding social capital and collective efficacy as aspects of disaster resilience, indicating that disasters create similarities and differences in how these concepts operate.

Meyer is currently an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Louisiana State University (LSU) where she teaches research methods and environmental sociology. She has worked on a variety of projects, such as analyzing organizational networks in long-term recovery; assessing earthquake protective action messaging in Haiti; understanding hurricane risk perception along the U.S. Gulf and Atlantic Coasts, and developing participatory GIS activities to assess environmental and climate justice in marginalized communities, among others. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, National PERISHIP Dissertation Fellowship, Midwest Sociological Society, and the Rural Sociological Society. She works with several nonprofit organizations including GeoHazards International, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, and t.e.j.a.s. for environmental justice. Meyer is a Fellow in the Next Generation of Hazard and Disasters Researchers Program sponsored by the National Science Foundation and also a Early Career Research Fellow with the Gulf Research Program. Her research interests include environmental sociology and community sustainability, disaster resilience and mitigation, climate change displacement, environmental justice, and the interplay between environmental conditions and social vulnerability.



Award Winner

Susan Baez Ullberg, Ph.D.
Uppsala University, CRISMART,
University of Gothenburg, Sweden
susann.baez.ullberg@antro.uu.se

Susann Baez Ullberg has a Ph.D. in social anthropology from Stockholm University. Her doctoral dissertation *"Watermarks: Urban Flooding and Memoryscape in Argentina"* was undertaken through a rigorous and long term ethnographic fieldwork. In her work, Ullberg documented how past flooding is remembered by flood victims, local bureaucracy and activists, as well as how inundation appears in local historiography, myths and contemporary media. She then used this information to examine how post-disaster remembering takes place and how pre-existing social relations and structures of power shape such memory and oblivion. Her work contributes theoretically to the anthropology of memory as much as to the multidisciplinary field of disaster studies, providing important insight on the relationships between memory, morality, politics and social inequity, particularly in the context of disaster vulnerability, resilience and adaptation.

Ullberg has recently been affiliated with the Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology at Uppsala University, the Center for Crisis Management Research and Training (CRISMART) at the Swedish Defense University, and at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. In her research, she has focused ethnographically on Latin America, mainly Argentina and Peru, but she has also carried out studies in Spain and Sweden. Her areas of teaching involve disaster risk reduction, societal security and the politics of disaster, and ethnographic methodology. She has offered advisory support for research programs in Argentina, Canada and Sweden, and is an affiliated researcher at different international research institutes. Ullberg is also a board member in a number of international research networks of disaster studies and one of the founders of DICAN Disaster and Crisis Anthropology Network of the

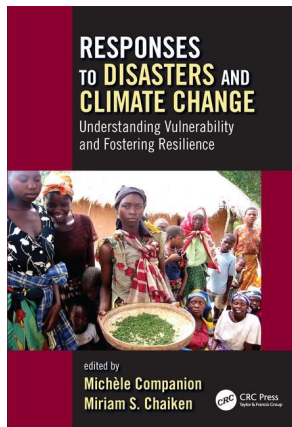
European Association of Social Anthropologists. Among her most recent publications are *Memory and Methodology: Translocal and Transtemporal Fieldwork in Post Disaster Santa Fe, Argentina*, (in *Governing Disasters: Beyond Risk Culture*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) and *Disaster Risk Reduction: Perspectives, Practice, Potential* (edited with Per Becker, Lund: Studentlitteratur, 2016. In Swedish). Her research interests are disaster, environmental and development anthropology, focusing theoretically on issues such as temporality, knowledge and expertise, morality and materiality in different types of disasters, crises and global challenges.

The dissertation award committee included Dr. Arleen Hill (Chair), Dr. Michele Companion, and Dr. Tristan Wu. The committee reviewed many outstanding applications and received several intriguing dissertations—all completed between the years 2010-2014.

Recent Books by Members

***Response to Disasters and Climate Change* Understanding Vulnerability and Fostering Resilience**

By Michele Companion, Miriam S. Chaiken
2016. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group

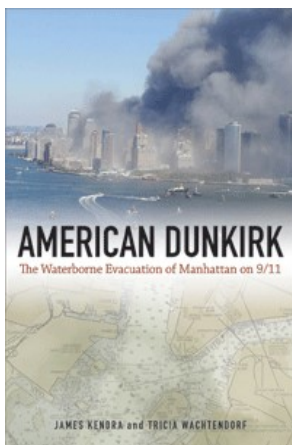


As the global climate shifts, communities are faced with a myriad of mitigation and adaptation challenges. These highlight the political, cultural, economic, social, and physical vulnerability of social groups, communities, families, and individuals. They also foster resilience and creative responses.

Research in hazard management, humanitarian response, food security programming, and other areas seeks to identify and understand factors that create vulnerability and strategies that enhance resilience at all levels of social organization. This book uses case studies from around the globe to demonstrate ways that communities have fostered resilience to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

***American Dunkirk* The Waterborne Evacuation of Manhattan on 9/11**

By James Kendra and Tricia Wachtendorf
2016. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press



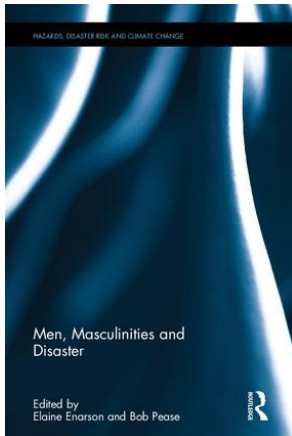
When the terrorist attacks struck New York City on September 11, 2001, boat operators and waterfront workers quickly realized that they had the skills, the equipment, and the opportunity to take definite, immediate action in responding to the most significant destructive event in the United States in decades. For many of them, they were "doing what needed to be done."

American Dunkirk shows how people, many of whom were volunteers, mobilized rescue efforts in various improvised and spontaneous ways on that fateful date. Disaster experts James Kendra and Tricia Wachtendorf examine the efforts through fieldwork and interviews with many of the participants to understand the evacuation and its larger implications for the entire practice of disaster management.

The authors ultimately explore how people—as individuals, groups, and formal organizations—pull together to respond to and recover from startling, destructive events. *American Dunkirk* asks, What can these people and lessons teach us about not only surviving but thriving in the face of calamity?

Men, Masculinities and Disaster

Edited by Elaine Enarson, Bob Pease
2016. New York, NY, Routledge

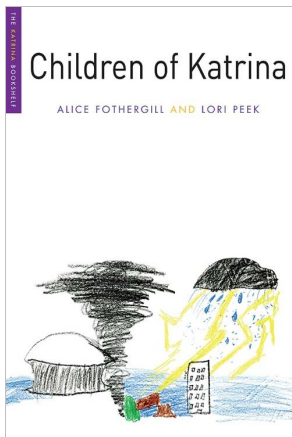


In the examination of gender as a driving force in disasters, too little attention has been paid to how women's or men's disaster experiences relate to the wider context of gender inequality, or how gender-just practice can help prevent disasters or address climate change at a structural level.

With a foreword from Kenneth Hewitt, an afterword from Raewyn Connell and contributions from renowned international experts, this book helps address the gap. It explores disasters in diverse environmental, hazard, political and cultural contexts through original research and theoretical reflection, building on the under-utilized orientation of critical men's studies. This body of thought, not previously applied in disaster contexts, explores how men gain, maintain and use power to assert control over women. Contributing authors examine the gender terrain of disasters 'through men's eyes,' considering how diverse forms of masculinities shape men's efforts to respond to and recover from disasters and other climate challenges. The book highlights both the high costs paid by many men in disasters and the consequences of dominant masculinity practices for women and marginalized men. It concludes by examining how disaster risk can be reduced through men's diverse efforts to challenge hierarchies around gender, sexuality, disability, age and culture.

Children of Katrina

By Alice Fothergill and Lori Peek
2015. Austin, TX, University of Texas Press



When children experience upheaval and trauma, adults often view them as either vulnerable and helpless or as resilient and able to easily "bounce back." But the reality is far more complex for the children and youth whose lives are suddenly upended by disaster. How are children actually affected by catastrophic events and how do they cope with the damage and disruption?

Children of Katrina offers one of the only long-term, multiyear studies of young people following disaster. Sociologists Alice Fothergill and Lori Peek spent seven years after Hurricane Katrina interviewing and observing several hundred children and their family members, friends, neighbors, teachers, and other caregivers. In this book, they focus intimately on seven children between the ages of three and eighteen, selected because they exemplify the varied experiences of the larger group. They find that children followed three different post-disaster trajectories—declining, finding equilibrium, and fluctuating—as they tried to regain stability.

The children's moving stories illuminate how a devastating disaster affects individual health and well-being, family situations, housing and neighborhood contexts, schooling, peer relationships, and extracurricular activities. This work also demonstrates how outcomes were often worse for children who were vulnerable and living in crisis before the storm. Fothergill and Peek clarify what kinds of assistance children need during emergency response and recovery periods, as well as the individual, familial, social, and structural factors that aid or hinder children in getting that support.

XIX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

Toronto, Canada | July 15-21, 2018 | Metro Toronto Convention Center



**POWER, VIOLENCE
AND JUSTICE: REFLECTIONS,
RESPONSES
RESPONSIBILITIES**

2018 ISA World Congress in Toronto, Canada

“Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses, Responsibilities”

“Since the inception of the discipline, sociologists have been concerned with power, violence and justice. Current social, economic and political challenges enhance their relevance. As capitalist globalization expands and deepens, corporate power increases along with global, national and local inequalities. New geo-political power configurations and confrontations are emerging, with violence being used as a tool to oppress and also to resist oppression. Colonial histories and contemporary land appropriations reflect the structures and cultural processes that perpetuate violence against indigenous and minority communities. States’ failures to meet their responsibility to provide basic resources are often deflected by blaming the most vulnerable. Both global economic and geo-political processes create crises and massive displacements of people and, at the same time, fuel racism, nationalism and xenophobia. We have also seen an increasing buildup of a culture of fear as a powerful tool used by states, corporations and other institutions to generate popular support for curtailing freedom in the name of security. Efforts to curtail the flow of desperate refugees, attest to the reinforcement of national and racialized borders.

Despite visible progress on equality issues, violence against women and intersectional violence point to the entrenchment of the gender border around the world. Equally significant is the need to consider the role of state and institutional power relations to ongoing everyday violence. In response to disempowerment, violence, and injustice we have also witnessed non-violent movements, humanitarian interventions, and peace processes that have empowered communities, reduced violence, and promoted justice. These diverse communities have built solidarities outside the neo-liberal frames of state-global capital nexus.

This XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology will focus on how scholars, public intellectuals, policy makers, journalists and activists from diverse fields can and do contribute to our understanding of power, violence and justice.”

—Margaret Abraham
ISA President

For more information, visit <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2018/>

Please feel free to submit your requests or contributions to:
Paula Lorente, Co-Editor, plorente@tamu.edu
Shannon Van Zandt, Co-Editor, svanzandt@tamu.edu

Next issue: Summer 2018

