NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to this issue of *Unscheduled Events*. We have all sorts of news and information for you to read about in this issue. But first, as the impacts of climate change intensify and geopolitical instabilities increase, our colleagues around the world are engaged in some incredible and challenging work. I want to send a shout out of respect, admiration, and support for all those who are responding to earthquakes, floods, fires, tornadoes, the impacts of wars and other aggressions, impelled population migration and dislocation, and other events all around the world. The work that all of you do is awe inspiring and often very dangerous. I am not eloquent enough to truly express my appreciation for your work and my absolute esteem of you as individuals. Thank you for all that you do.

As updates, it has been a very busy time since I reached out to you last. The IRCD/RC-39 board has voted to gift our archives to the University of Delaware Disaster Research Center, which is where they have been stored in boxes for decades. The gift will start a process of document preservation and digitization, resulting in searchable resources. Of course, more sensitive materials with protected data will be separated out. This information will become part of the archive, but access will be limited. I will be traveling to Delaware in the early fall to begin a general inventory of the materials and a preliminary organization of those boxes. Once this is completed, the legalities of the deed of gift can move forward. This is a very exciting opportunity, and we are grateful to both DRC and their incredible Assistant Director of Archives and Collections, Valerie Marlowe. In our next newsletter, I will update you on how this all went.

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NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT continued...

Speaking of the DRC, they are celebrating their 60th anniversary in May! In honor of this incredible milestone, they hosted an international workshop, “Disaster Research Workshop: Innovating for an Imagined Disaster Future.” Events included a graduate student workshop, and a researcher-in-residence program, two full days of a range of workshop activities, and an optional field trip. I wish that I could have attended! I was at a food security dialog in Kuala Lumpur, so I could not make it. You can learn more about the DRC at their webpage: University of Delaware Disaster Research Center (udel.edu)

Tricia and James (the amazing co-directors of the DRC if you haven’t had a chance to meet them)! I’m calling you out! Please send us some pictures and a blurb about the event. We will post the content to our social media and add it as a feature in our next newsletter. I will be introducing everyone to our new social media coordinator, Rosie Lin, later in the newsletter.

There are a number of other events that are upcoming. Registration is now open for the Natural Hazard Center Workshop (https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2024) and Researchers Meeting (https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2024/researchers-meeting). This year’s theme is “The Stories We Tell: Creative Strategies for Understanding and Communicating Disaster Risk.” The workshop is 14 – 17 July and the Researchers’ meeting is 17 – 18 July in Broomfield, CO, USA. Please check out the information sheet in the newsletter or go to the websites above for more information.

Last, we are in full preparation mode for the next World Forum in 2025 in Rabat, Morocco! The call for abstracts for sessions (those big blocks of topical presentation time in which papers are presented) is now open! All sessions must be submitted via the website: VISA Forum of Sociology (isa-sociology.org). Remember, YOU determine our program by creating the topical sessions. I will have more information on this in the newsletter below.

I am looking forward to working with you all and learning more about your work over the next few years. Stay safe and well!

With tremendous respect,

Michèle Companion 💖
5th WORLD FORUM!

It is time to start planning for the next ISA World Forum! We are going to Rabat, Morocco! Wow!

At this point, all RC-39 members should have received a Call for Session Abstracts. Marlon Era and I, your program co-coordinators, need YOU to build us an incredible program. The portal for submissions is now open at: V ISA Forum of Sociology (isa-sociology.org). The submission process is open until 1 July. You must use the online portal to submit sessions to RC-39.

The sessions are a vital component of the program, as these are the topical areas to which paper abstracts are submitted. These are the places to showcase the incredible work of our amazing colleagues. At the past World Congress in Melbourne, we had topical sessions that included Women Practitioners in Emergencies; COVID-19 impacts on DRR; Decolonizing Disasters Studies in the Global South; Urban Disasters; Overcoming Siloization Practices to Achieve All-of-Society-Based Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction; Livelihoods; Lgbtiqa+ People in Disasters; Health; Childhood; Business Community Resilience, Protecting Livelihoods and Safeguarding Services; Displacement, Migration, and Relocation; Crime; The Rise of the Professional: Emergency Management and Community Responses to Disasters and Crises; Cultural Heritage; special focus on Japan; community engagement; volunteers; preparedness; technological disasters; and more!

It would be incredible to have topical sessions on the earthquakes in Turkey and other locations, one on fires, one on Indigenous adaptations, one on specific countries, etc. If you are planning on attending, please do propose sessions. Have students coming? Have them propose and moderate a session! This is a great opportunity to get involved, make connections, and build a resume!

Encourage your colleagues to submit and attend!
See you in Rabat!

Social Media Coordinator

Introducing our new social media coordinator!

Part of our emphasis over the next few years is to really increase our social media presence and highlight the work our members are doing, along with opportunities such as information about conferences, grants, etc. Rosie Lin will be taking over from our wonderful friend and colleague Victor Marchzini. Victor was incredible and ran our social media for years. Thank you Victor!
I am so thrilled to be able to introduce you all to our new social media coordinator. Chih-Chun (Rosie) Lin recently earned her doctoral degree in emergency management from Jacksonville State University. Before coming to the US, she worked as a junior engineer in Taiwan’s Soil and Water Conservation Bureau. Rosie’s diverse background in engineering, emergency management, and urban planning fuels her passion for bridging the gap between research and practice.

Her research has focused on understanding how humans respond to extreme weather events, and she is seeking to enhance how we communicate risks and reduce losses. Rosie strongly believes in dealing with real-world problems such as climate change and extreme weather through interdisciplinary knowledge and collaboration across various areas of expertise.

Not just academically inclined, Rosie is also skilled in graphic design and photography. Joining us as the Social Media Director for RC39, she is enthusiastic about using social media platforms to share vital research and ignite conversations about the sociology of disasters. She is excited about the opportunity to bring her dedication and creativity to help us gain a better understanding of the impact of disasters on society!

Of course, to increase traffic and utility of our various platforms, we need content from you!! Please reach out with information to Rosie at isarc39disasters@gmail.com.

Follow us on X/Twitter
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ISA RC39
49th Annual Natural Hazards Workshop

Save the Dates!

Workshop
Sunday, July 14 - Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Researchers Meeting
Wednesday, July 17 - Thursday July 18, 2024

Practitioners Meeting
Thursday July 18, 2024

Since 1975, the Natural Hazards Center has hosted the annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop. Today the Workshop brings together federal, state, and local mitigation and emergency management officials and planning professionals; representatives of nonprofit, private sector, and humanitarian organizations; hazards and disaster researchers; and others dedicated to alleviating the impacts of disasters.

The theme of the 2024 Workshop is The Stories We Tell: Creative Strategies for Understanding and Communicating Disaster Risk. Join us to share how you are contemplating the deep interconnections between facts and values as we work to express our ethical obligations to the people and communities we study and serve.

For more information, visit: hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2024
For Workshop and other announcements, please sign up here: hazards.colorado.edu/signup

We envision a just and equitable world where knowledge is applied to ensure that humans live in harmony with nature.
In our last newsletter, I introduced you to the editor-in-chief, Walter Gillis Peacock, and the managing editor J. Carlee Purdum. Now I also want to be sure that I introduce you to some of the associate editors at the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*.

Shih-Kai (Sky) Huang is also doctoral program co-director at Jacksonville State University’s Emergency Management Program (USA). Sky has served as *IJMED* co-editor along with Tristan Wu for a number of years and has been instrumental in both the success of the journal and in the transition to Sage. Thanks Sky!

Dr. H-C. Tristan Wu is an Associate Professor of Emergency Management and Disaster Science at the University of North Texas’ College of Health and Public Service (USA). Like Sky, Tristan has served as *IJMED* co-editor for a number of years and has been instrumental in both the success of the journal and in the transition to Sage. Tristan is also IRCD/RC-39’s secretary/treasurer. Thanks Tristan!

Sudha Arlikatti is a Professor and Research Head in the School for Sustainable Futures at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in India. Sudha has a long history with IRCD/RC-39, serving as the program co-coordinator for the Toronto World Congress and in many other roles over the years. Sudha was a vital member of the *IJMED* negotiation and transition team. Thanks Sudha!
Bill Lovekamp should be a familiar face to everyone. Bill is a Professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology at Eastern Illinois State University (USA). Bill is our illustrious Immediate Past President. Bill spearheaded the move of the journal to Sage and did an immeasurable quantity of work and sat through soooo many meetings to make this happen. Thanks is just not enough. Standing ovation for Bill please!

Finally, Michelle Myer is the Director of the Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center and an Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A & M University (USA). Michelle has been an active member of RC-39 in many capacities and is currently a board member. Thanks Michelle!

We still have one more intro to make. Next newsletter, I will introduce you to Alex Greer, the Book Review Editor.
Great News!

We have the most amazing colleagues!

We seriously do. Take a minute to check out some of the incredible work our colleagues have been doing! Congratulations to all of you and thank you for sharing your news with us!

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nelly Sharpley, Acting Cluster Leader for Society and Social Change at the School of Social Sciences, College of Humanities, University of KwaZulu-Natal, has a new co-authored volume with Leslie Banks entitled *Covid and Customs in Rural South Africa: Culture, Healthcare and the State*. The book was published first through Hurst/Oxford University Press (2022) and then through UKZN Press in October 2023 (ISBN: 978 1 86914 543 9). This book explores the impact of Covid-19, and the associated state lockdown, on rural lives in a former homeland in South Africa. The 2020 Disaster Management Act saw the state sweep through rural areas, targeting funerals and other customary practices as potential “super-spreader” events. This unprecedented clampdown produced widespread disruption, fear and anxiety. The authors build on path-breaking work concerning local responses to West Africa’s Ebola epidemic, and examine the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to understand the impact of the Covid crisis on these communities, and on rural Africa more broadly. [University of KwaZulu-Natal Press](https://ukznpress.co.za)

Maria Cecilia T. Medina, Asian Center, University of the Philippines, has a new book chapter published (2023) entitled "Religion in the Public Sphere in the Aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan." Her work can be found as chapter 15 (pages 317 – 347) in *Disasters in the Philippines: Before and After Haiyan,* edited by Glenda Tibe Bonifacio and Rozanna Balbido Epe. Bristol University Press.

Great News!

Steve Matthewman and his co-authors have been really hard at work!


So has Lori Peek and her co-authors!


Andrea Lampis is a Full Professor at the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), School of Politics, Economics and Business (EPPEN). His research concentrates on the Governance of Contemporary Socio-technical transitions, with emphasis in the twin energy and climate crises. In connection with this more recent post 2018 research agenda Andrea has sought new cross-cutting fertilizations with some of his core earlier research interests, namely poverty dynamics, social vulnerability, disasters and social protection, using the lens of climate and energy justice as well as citizenship. Before his most recent appointment he completed two post-doctoral research programs, respectively, as a FAPESP research fellow, from the Institute of Energy and Environment (IEE/USP) of the University of São Paulo (2018-2023) and the Brazilian Centre for Analysis and Planning (CEBRAP) (2021). He holds a PhD in Social Policy from the London School of Economics (2009).

Andrea Lampis also has a co-authored two publications with Victor Marchezini:


AND, they had an additional collaboration on the disaster in Porto Allegre, Brazil:

“This is how unsustainability walks: roots of the disaster in Rio Grande do Sul,” can be found at the following link: https://theconversation.com/assim-caminha-a-insustentabilidade-raizes-do-desastre-no-rio-grande-do-sul-230001
Victor Marchezini is a sociologist at Cemaden/MCTI and coordinator of the Organizational Capacities for Preparation for Extreme Events (COPE) Project. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Natural Hazards Center/University of Colorado Boulder. He is currently a professor in the Graduate Program in Disasters (ICT/Unesp-Cemaden) and in the Graduate Program in Earth System Science (PGCST/INPE).

Emma Porio did this!
AWARDS


Jason D. Rivera is an associate professor of public management and the coordinator of the emergency management specialization within the MPA program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. His research focuses on the intersection of social equity, public administration, community development, and emergency and disaster management. Rivera teaches courses in research methods, public administration theory, organizational theory and behavior, and disaster and emergency management.

Jason Rivera | John Jay College of Criminal Justice (cuny.edu)

TRANSITIONS

Glenda Bonifacia, formerly Professor of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Lethbridge, has assumed the role of Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Lakehead University in Ontario, Canada.

Carlee Purdum, a postdoc at Texas A&M and IJMED Managing Editor, just accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Sociology for the University of Houston to begin this Fall of 2024.
CANDIDATES AND GRADUATES!

Let’s give a serious round of applause for our incredible colleagues who have completed their degrees or advanced their candidacies! Congratulations on your tremendous accomplishments!

**Johanna Garnett**, a Doctorate of Public Safety candidate at Charles Sturt University, recently completed her Confirmation of Candidature, presenting from the Aboriginal land of Kaurna Country, in South Australia (Principal Supervisor Dr. Anna Corbo Crehan and Co-Supervisor Associate Professor Valerie Ingham). Johanna's research is poised to make significant strides in the field of disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies in Australia. Her study sets out to investigate the integration of cultural heritage considerations into both state and federal disaster risk reduction and resilience endeavors across Australia.

Adopting a pragmatic philosophical perspective and employing a qualitative approach, Johanna's research will involve a diverse range of stakeholders, including emergency management professionals, cultural heritage experts, and communities. By focusing on community-level cultural heritage, the study aims to generate actionable recommendations for safeguarding Australia's rich cultural heritage and enhancing disaster resilience through collaborative efforts between the emergency management and cultural heritage sectors. Ultimately, the outcomes of Johanna's research aspire to inform policy recommendations aimed at preserving Australia's diverse cultural heritage in the face of escalating disaster risks.

**Bernardo de Jesús Saldaña Téllez** is a sociologist from the Autonomous University of Baja California (Universidad Autonoma de Baja California, UABC) in Ensenada, México. Bernardo Saldaña recently made a significant contribution to the field of Global Development Studies with his doctoral dissertation. Titled *Sustainable Development Goals on the Transborder Management of Tijuana-San Diego*. His thesis utilized three SDG indicators, each with unique characteristics of international cooperation or transborder governance. The Ph.D. was granted by the Faculty of Economics and International Relations (FEYRI-UABC-Tijuana). Bernardo Saldaña teaches the government and Local Management class at FEYRI. He was a fellow at the Center for Latin American Studies (SDSU) and is now an adjunct professor there.
Melissa Villarreal, research assistant at the Natural Hazards Center in Boulder, CO, will defend her dissertation, “Racialization in Disasters: How Mexican-Origin Women Navigate Cumulative Disaster Exposure and Long-Term Housing Recovery” (Chair: Lori Peek), on Thursday, May 30 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Zoom. (https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/8752287724). Additionally, we have reserved IBS Room 401 in case you would like to join in person.

Brief Abstract: Much of the current disaster literature adopts a social vulnerability perspective, which considers how political, social, and economic factors influence pre-disaster preparation and post-disaster recovery. Even with this focus, however, there remains a dearth of literature on immigrant populations and their long-term recovery trajectories. This dissertation is an intersectional, multi-level analysis of Mexican-origin women and their disproportionate vulnerability in post-disaster recovery. Specifically, I explore how the racialization of Mexican-origin women in the U.S. impacts their long-term housing recovery in the context of cumulative disaster exposure. This study focuses on the recovery after Hurricane Harvey, which dropped an unprecedented amount of rainfall on Houston, leading to record-breaking, catastrophic flooding.

Joy Semien, research assistant at the Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center at Texas A&M University, will defend her dissertation entitled, "Examining Disaster Impacts and Recovery of Businesses and Nonprofit Organizations" (Chair Michelle Meyer, Co-Chair Walter Gillis Peacock) on Tuesday, May 28.

Brief Abstract: Understanding the disaster impact and recovery of small businesses and nonprofit organizations (NPOs) is imperative to understanding overall community recovery. Connecting to the literature on social vulnerability commonly used for understanding disparities in household and community impact and disaster recovery, I assess differential impacts for organizations based on the racial, gender, and veteran status of the organizational leader from single events (like Hurricane Harvey in 2017), from public health emergencies (like the COVID-19 pandemic and related closures) and from compounded disasters like Hurricanes Harvey, Tropical Storm Imelda (2019), COVID-19 pandemic (starting in 2020), Hurricane Laura (2020), and Hurricane Delta (2021). I further compare the experiences of businesses and NPO’s since limited research has assessed the recovery experiences of both in the same study. To test these, this dissertation used a mixed method approach involving surveys and interviews with businesses and NPOs to examine the disaster impacts and recovery of organizations in Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana that experienced five disasters between 2017 and 2021.
Donations & Legacy Giving

The International Research Committee on Disasters is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization. This was the original name for ISA’s Research Committee 39 – Sociology of Disasters. The charitable organization uses this name. Tax-deductible donations can be made to IRCD to help us support students and members from Category B and C Countries (See the following link for ISA’s Table of Economies by Category: Table of Economies by Category (isa-sociology.org)). We can apply donations to support both member and student registration and travel grants to ISA/RC-39 World Forums and World Congresses. We have (funding permitting) the T. Joseph Scanlon Student Travel Award, which is given to a student attending the ISA World Congress who demonstrates exceptional talent to provide financial support for participation. To donate, please reach out to our Secretary/Treasurer Tristan Wu at ircdsecretary@gmail.com for more details on donations or providing for IRCD in your will or trust.

Joe Scanlon (1933 – 2015)
Dear friends of the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*

We are delighted to officially announce that the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters (IJMED)* has joined SAGE Publishing’s family of journals and has been relaunched for 2023! Created by members of the International Sociological Association’s Research Committee on the Sociology of Disasters (RC-39) in 1983, IJMED has a long and distinguished history as one of the oldest disaster science journals. The journal will continue to publish rigorous articles addressing issues of theory, research, planning, policy, multiple dimensions of risk, hazards, emergency and disaster prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. In addition, we will now be fully indexed and current, future, and importantly, back issues will now be fully searchable online.

The importance of interdisciplinary approaches is increasingly recognized as critical to addressing the complex interactions between and among humans/social systems, changing hazard profiles associated with climate change, and the built environment. Therefore, with its relaunch, IJMED seeks to expand and encourage both disciplinary and interdisciplinary research from not only the social, behavioral, and economic sciences, and emergency management, but also engineering, disaster and environmental sciences, geography, and related disciplines. And, as an ISA member, you have full access to the journal through the SAGE Sociology Collection. This is a repository of approximately 100 journals that members have Full-Text access to with a current membership. Finally, as part of our relaunch, SAGE has provided a free access period to the journal from the journal website until April 5th, 2023.

Feel free to further explore the relaunching of the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* with SAGE, our revised Aims and Scope, the editorial team, and the opportunities for publishing and participating as a reviewer or team member as we seek to continue IJMED’s forty years of excellence.

Our team can be contacted at: ijmed.editors@gmail.com

Our best to you,
The IJMED editorial team

Walter Gillis Peacock, Editor in Chief
J. Carlee Purdum, Managing Editor
Alex Greer, Book Review Editor
Sudha Arlikatti, Associate Editor
Sky Huang, Associate Editor
William Lovekamp, Associate Editor
Michelle Meyer, Associate Editor
Tristan Wu, Associate Editor
For more information about our research committee, please visit https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/research-committees/rc39-sociology-of-disasters/

Information about the V ISA World Forum can be found here: V ISA Forum of Sociology (isa-sociology.org)