



Impacts of Disaster: Comparing Ecological and Social Resilience

March 17-18, 2006



Location: Petteruti Lounge, Faunce House

The conference is a joint activity of the S4 and ECI research initiatives at Brown University, with additional support from the Office of the President.



Friday, March 17, Morning Session

Welcome and Opening

9:00-9:15 John Logan *Ecological and Social Resilience*
Director, Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences
Brown University

Contesting Resilience

9:15-9:45 Lawrence Vale *Resilience for Whom?*
Urban Studies and Planning, MIT

9:45-10:15 Jeff Diefendorf *Directions of Postwar Recovery*
History
University of New Hampshire

10:15-10:45 Discussion led by Jerry Melillo, Marine Biology Laboratory, Woods Hole

10:45-11:15 **Coffee Break**

Resilience in Ecological Systems

11:15-11:45 Garry Peterson *What is Resilience in a Natural System?*
McGill School of Environment
McGill University

11:45-12:15 Stephanie Chang *Recovering from Urban Disasters*
Community and Regional Planning
University British Columbia

12:15-12:45 Discussion led by Steve Hamburg, Environmental Studies, Brown University

12:45-1:45 **Lunch in Petteruti Lounge**

Friday, March 17, Afternoon Session

The Process of Disaster

1:45-2:15 Debra Peters *Disaster in Progress: Fire and Drought*
Agricultural Research Service
USDA

2:15-2:45 Bill Freudenburg *The Disastrous Chain of Events*
Environmental Studies and Sociology
UC Santa Barbara

2:45-3:15 Discussion led by Phil Brown, Sociology, Brown University

3:15-3:45 **Coffee Break**

Limits of Management

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| 3:45-4:15 | Gus Shaver
Marine Biological Laboratory
Woods Hole | <i>Self-Regulation of Ecological Systems</i> |
| 4:15-4:45 | Judith Layzer
Urban Studies and Planning
MIT | <i>Why Management Fails</i> |
| 4:45-5:15 | Discussion led by Rachel Morello-Frosch, Environmental Studies, Brown University | |
| 5:30 - 6:30 | Reception at the Urban Environmental Lab
Center for Environmental Studies, 135 Angell Street | |

Saturday, March 18, Morning Session

Obstacles to Resilience

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| 9:00-9:30 | Jim Fraser
Geography
UNC Chapel Hill | <i>Urban Floodplain Management and the Politics of Space</i> |
| 9:30-10:00 | Terry Chapin
Biology and Wildlife
University of Alaska at Fairbanks | <i>Resilience in the Face of Change</i> |
| 10:00-10:30 | Discussion led by Jack Mustard, Geological Studies, Brown University | |
| 10:30-11:00 | Coffee break | |

Building Resilience

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| 11:00-11:30 | Osvaldo Sala
Director, Environmental Change Initiative
Brown University | <i>Diversity and Resilience</i> |
| 11:30-12:00 | Steve Kroll-Smith
Sociology
UNC Greensboro | <i>Imagining the Disaster-Resistant Community</i> |
| 12:00-12:30 | Discussion led by Michael White, Sociology, Brown University | |
| 12:30-12:40 | Closing statement, John Logan, Sociology and S4, Brown University | |
| 12:45-1:30 | Lunch in Petteruti Lounge | |

Environmental Change Initiative (ECI)

Environmental change presents some of the most compelling scientific and public policy issues facing humanity today, and sits squarely between the natural and social sciences. It encompasses emerging environmental problems such as climate change, habitat destruction, biodiversity loss, and declining productivity and stability of human-dominated ecosystems, as well as the impact of environmental degradation on human health and social systems, the resulting competition for natural resources, and global security consequences.

Understanding the drivers and impacts of emerging environmental problems at local, regional, and global scales requires the interdisciplinary synthesis of approaches and tools from a variety of fields. Ecology, earth systems, demography, economics, and public health come together under the thematic umbrella of environmental sciences and environmental studies.

The goal of the Environmental Change Initiative at Brown University is to tackle significant problems in Environmental Change through an interdisciplinary approach that will build on relationships among already-strong academic units. The Environmental Change Initiative will also utilize the partnership recently established between Brown University and the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.



Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences (S4)

S4, as it is known on campus, is one of several initiatives through which Brown University is building new strengths as a research university. Brown has a core group of outstanding faculty who are taking seriously the impacts of spatial relations and contextual effects on social science issues. Through new faculty recruitments, investments in the research and teaching infrastructure, and outreach to researchers in such areas as community health and environmental change, the mission of S4 is to stimulate and support new work in this emerging interdisciplinary arena.

