

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY IN ACTION LECTURE SERIES*



Harnessing the Altruistic Community in Disaster

How Nongovernmental Organizations Structure Rebuilding and Recovery in Their Communities

February 14, 2018
2:30 - 4:00 pm

Rockwell Pavilion
MD Anderson Library
Refreshments Provided

After a natural disaster when the media cameras and response organizations leave, communities are left to determine how to support rebuilding efforts. Particularly for those who are uninsured or underinsured, governmental resources will not be enough. So who fills this gap?

Dr. Michelle Annette Meyer will discuss long-term disaster recovery. Based on her research across seven disasters in Texas, including Hurricane Harvey, along with insights from her work in Sri Lanka and Taiwan, she will discuss how nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are central to rebuilding efforts. Her talk will highlight the potential and pitfalls of NGO-led rebuilding efforts, provide evidence as to why disaster scholars encourage people to donate locally during a disaster, and offer ideas for how communities can best plan for long-term recovery before a disaster affects their neighborhood. Disaster scholars note that an altruistic paradise can be “built in hell” during a disaster. Dr. Meyer’s talk will illuminate the nuts and bolts involved in that rebuilding.

Dr. Meyer is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Louisiana State University and Associate Director of Research at the Stephenson Disaster Management Institute. She is a Next Generation of Hazard and Disasters Researchers Fellow and an Early-Career Research Fellow with the Gulf Research Program at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
CPH Lecture Series

*Funding provided in part by the UH Center for Public History Lecture Series. The Sociology in Action Lecture Series hosts sociologists who have spent their careers using research to facilitate positive change in the world. For more information about the Department of Sociology visit: www.uh.edu/class/sociology.

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON