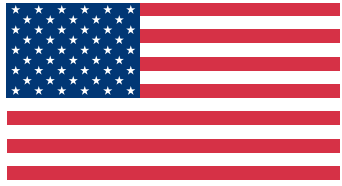


Convened by

Dr. Natalie Rauscher
Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

Supported by



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NATURAL CATASTROPHES IN THE UNITED STATES

Making Sense of Risks and Vulnerability

Unlike many other Western industrialized nations, the United States has long been highly vulnerable to large-scale natural catastrophes, which take place in many regions of the country on a regular basis. Hurricanes and tropical storms, followed by storm surges and flooding, tornadoes, winter storms, droughts, forest fires, or earthquakes are all common occurrences in the U.S. But despite being confronted with these devastating events on a regular basis, the U.S. has struggled to mitigate their effects. In fact, the U.S. displays a broad spectrum of reactions to these events ranging from the recognition of vulnerability, working towards more resilience, all the way to denial of the many risks that natural catastrophes pose. One aspect in this debate are the more visible effects from the changing climate. Drawing from an interdisciplinary perspective, this conference will investigate an array of specific U.S.-American factors regarding society, population shifts, the political system, or the economy that distinguishes the American experience from that of other countries dealing with natural catastrophes. Additionally, we will examine the specific societal and cultural response as well as the specific discourses engaged with natural catastrophes in the United States.



UNIVERSITÄT
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NATURAL CATASTROPHES IN THE UNITED STATES

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July 14 - July 16, 2022



THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022

18.00 - 18.15 Welcome

Heidi Ramsay, Public Diplomacy Chief, U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt/M., Welf Werner, Director, HCA, Natalie Rauscher, Research Associate, HCA

18.15 - 19.30 Conference Kick-Off: Keynote

Craig E. Colten (University of Louisiana): Risk Reduction or Rejection: Louisiana's Chronic Coastal Crisis

19.30 Reception, Atrium (HCA)

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2022

09.00 - 09.15 Conference Welcome

Welf Werner and Natalie Rauscher

Panel 1: Governance

Chair: Welf Werner

09.15 - 09.45 (online) **Jan Hansen** (Humboldt University): Floods in Los Angeles and the Governance of Risk and Vulnerability, 1910s-1930s

09.50 - 10.20 (online) **Mélanie Meunier** (Université Strasbourg): Exploring the American Response to Climate Change through the Lens of Political Cultures

10.25 - 10.55 (online) **A.R. Siders** (University of Delaware): Defining Disasters and Allocating Responsibility for US Disaster Policy

10.55 - 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 - 12.00 Andrew Isenberg (University of Kansas): All of the Above - Risk, Domestic Fuel Production, and Climate Change since 1973

12.05 - 12.35 Lawrence Culver (Utah State University): Disaster Made Manifest – The Federal Role in US Natural Catastrophes

12.35 - 13.40 Lunch Break (HCA)

Panel 2: Representations and Perceptions of Catastrophes

Chair: Lawrence Culver

13.40 - 14.10 Lea Espinoza Garrido (University of Wuppertal): Through the Eyes of the White, Innocent Child – Communicating Risk, Vulnerability and (Environmental) Crisis in Lauren Tarshis' "I survived" Series

14.15 - 14.45 Jacob Birken (University of Düsseldorf): Hopeless Optimism. US (re)framing of the 1906 San Francisco and 1909 Messina Disasters

14.45 - 15.15 Coffee Break

15.15 - 15.45 Edward Manger (Heidelberg University): Theodicy and Hurricanes in the 20th and 21st Century USA

15.50 - 16.20 Natalie Rauscher (Heidelberg University): Narratives and Discourses around Natural Disaster Events

18.00 - 20.00 Conference Dinner

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2022

Panel 3: Impact of / Responses to Disaster Events

Chair: Natalie Rauscher

09.15 - 09.45 Katharina Wood (TU Dortmund): Becoming Green: Resilient and Green Building as Risk Mitigation in Atlanta, Georgia

09.50 - 10.20 Katrin Kleemann (Leibniz Institute for Maritime History): Earthquakes in New England from the 17th Century to the Present

10.20 - 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 - 11.30 Robin Pearson (University of Hull): Multi-national Insurers and Catastrophic Loss: Responses to the San Francisco Disaster of 1906

12.00 - 13.00 Lunch (HCA)

13.00 End of Conference