Rebuild Our City: The Power behind Oral History and Collaborative Ethnography in the Reconstruction of the Jersey Shore

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Benefits of Anthropological Methodology

- The categorizing and defining of disasters is not an exact science \(^{(1)}\)

- The concept of a disaster is entirely socially constructed \(^{(2)}\)

- Positionality of anthropology \(^{(3)}\)

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1. Raphael 1986  
2. Birkland 1997; Birkland 2006; Hofmann and Oliver-Smith 2002  
3. Cutter and Emrich 2006; Hoffman and Oliver-Smith 2002
Hurricane Sandy Oral History Project

Prepare → Event → Respond → Recover → Rebuild

When experiences become memories, histories become myths. (4)

4. Hoffman and Oliver-Smith 2002; Raphael 1986
Collaborative Ethnography

“a complex and ever-shifting negotiation between ethnographer and consultants” (Lassiter 2005: 97)
Rebuild by Design and Rebuild One City

Rebuild One City

Asbury Park parade & party
Sat, Mar 22 12 - 4pm

Parade begins 12pm
St. Stephen’s AME Zion Church 1001 Springwood Ave

JOIN THE PARADE! Celebrate unity, rebuilding from Hurricane Sandy, and community resilience. FREE FOOD, performances, and family activities.

Contact: Lauren Altman
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#RebuildOneCity
#asburyparkboardwalk

Scale it Up!

Promoting Resilience Post-Sandy Through Innovative Planning and Design

#rebuildbydesign
Nevis Disaster Management Department
A Multi-Scalar Approach to Disaster Mitigation

- Disaster preparation, relief, and recovery should engage each levels of government.\(^5\)

- “Local governments are best able to respond and take steps to mitigate them”.  
  (Birkland 2006:129)

5. Birkland 1997; 2006; Ersing and Kost 2012; Hoffman and Oliver-Smith 2002; Raphael 1986; Stephens and Green 1979
Ersing and Kost’s Community-Based Action Plan:

- **Recognize**
  - local assets and resources and document for use in a disaster

- **Organize**
  - information and resources to develop disaster preparedness and recovery strategies

- **Mobilize**
  - activate resources in order to build capacity and reduce risk of disasters
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead
“We’re not just rebuilding any *one* city today, we are rebuilding *our* city.”
References


Button G. *Disaster Culture: Knowledge and Uncertainty in the Wake of Human and Environmental Catastrophe*. Left Coast Press Inc., 2010

References


Hoffman SM, Oliver-Smith A, ed. Catastrophe and Culture: The Anthropology of Disaster. School of American Research: Santa Fe, 2002


