

Social Justice and Environmental Hazards

Moderator

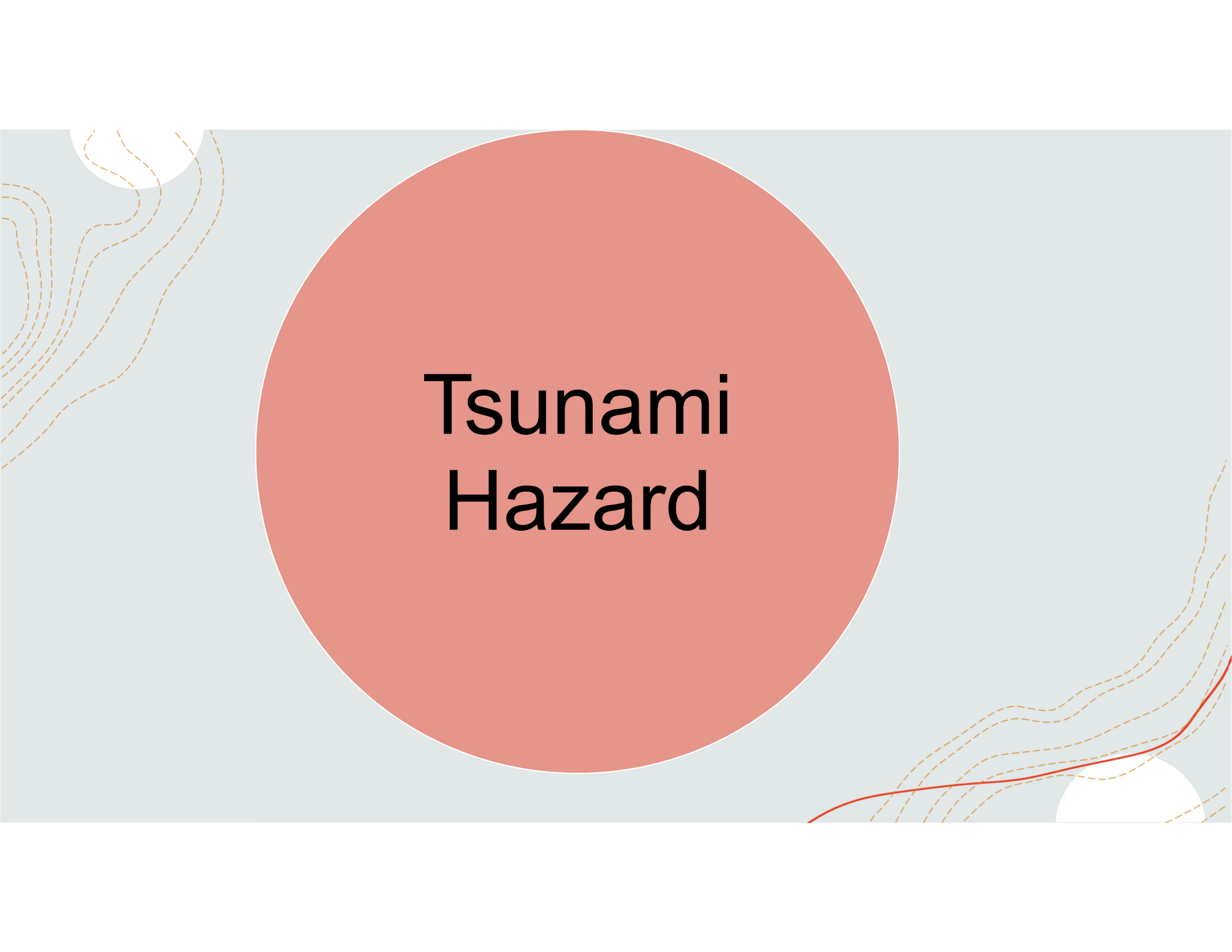
Lori Peek, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Sociology

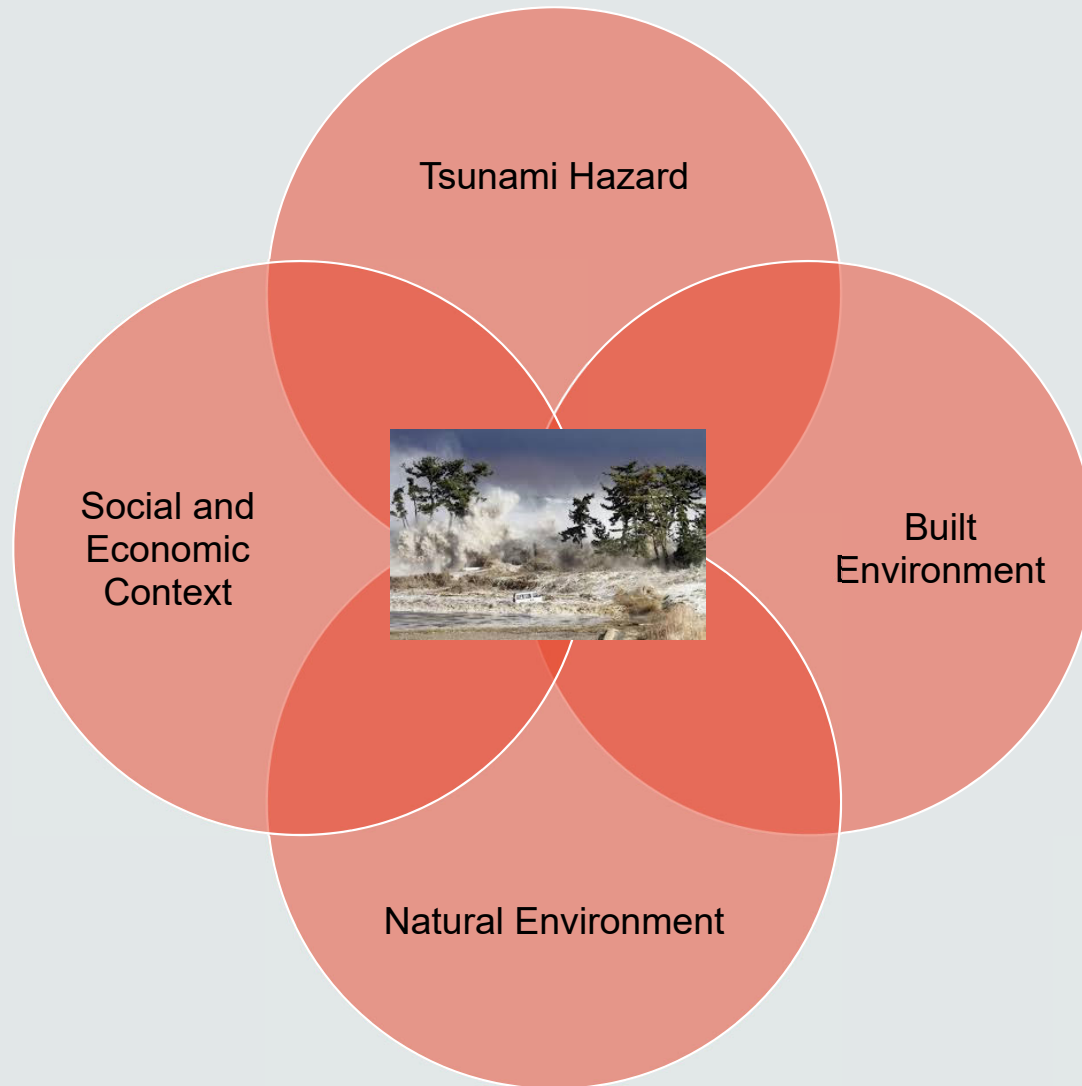
Director, Natural Hazards Center

Principal Investigator, CONVERGE, SSEER, and ISEEER

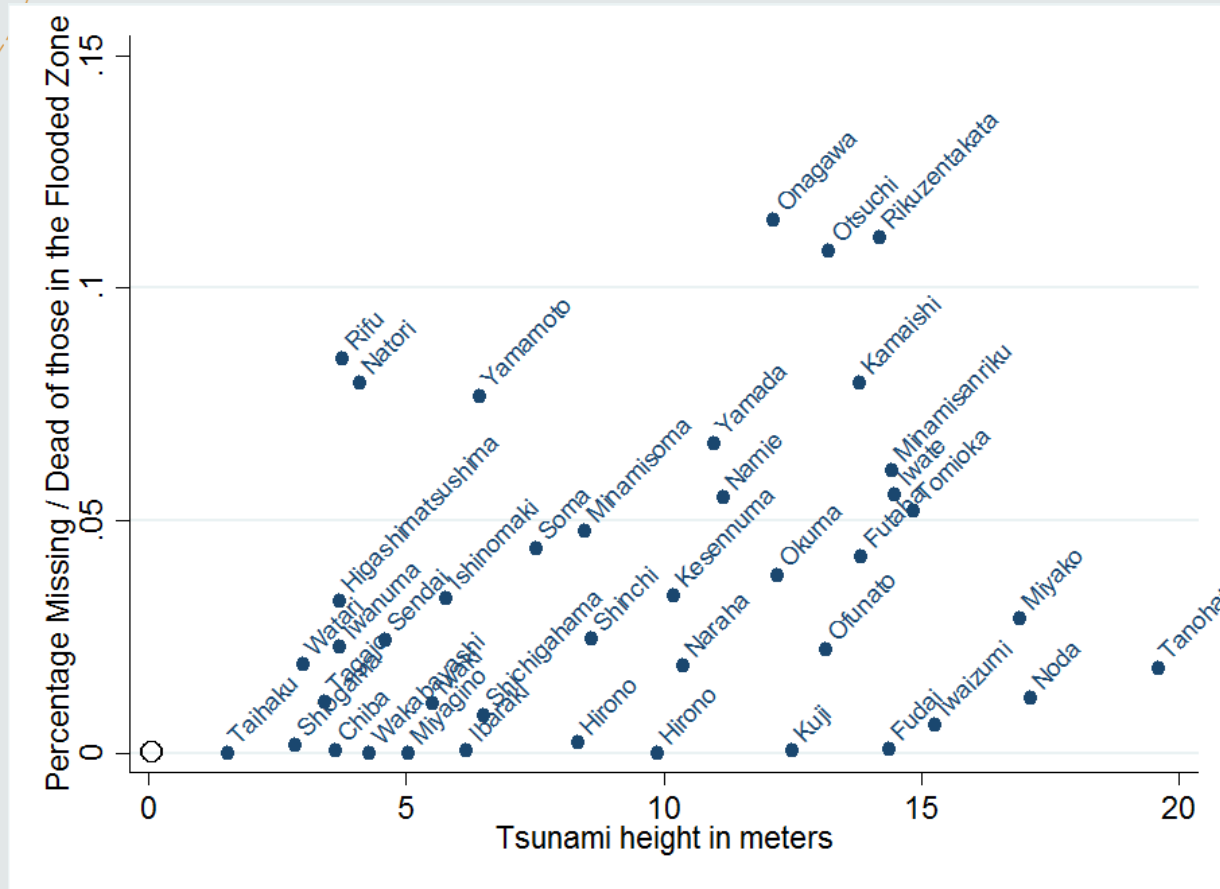


The graphic features a light blue background with a large, solid red circle in the center. The words "Tsunami Hazard" are written in black, sans-serif font inside the red circle. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are decorative elements: a white semi-circle and several dashed orange lines that resemble topographic contours or wave patterns. A solid red line is also visible in the bottom-right corner, following the path of the dashed lines.

Tsunami Hazard



2011 Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami

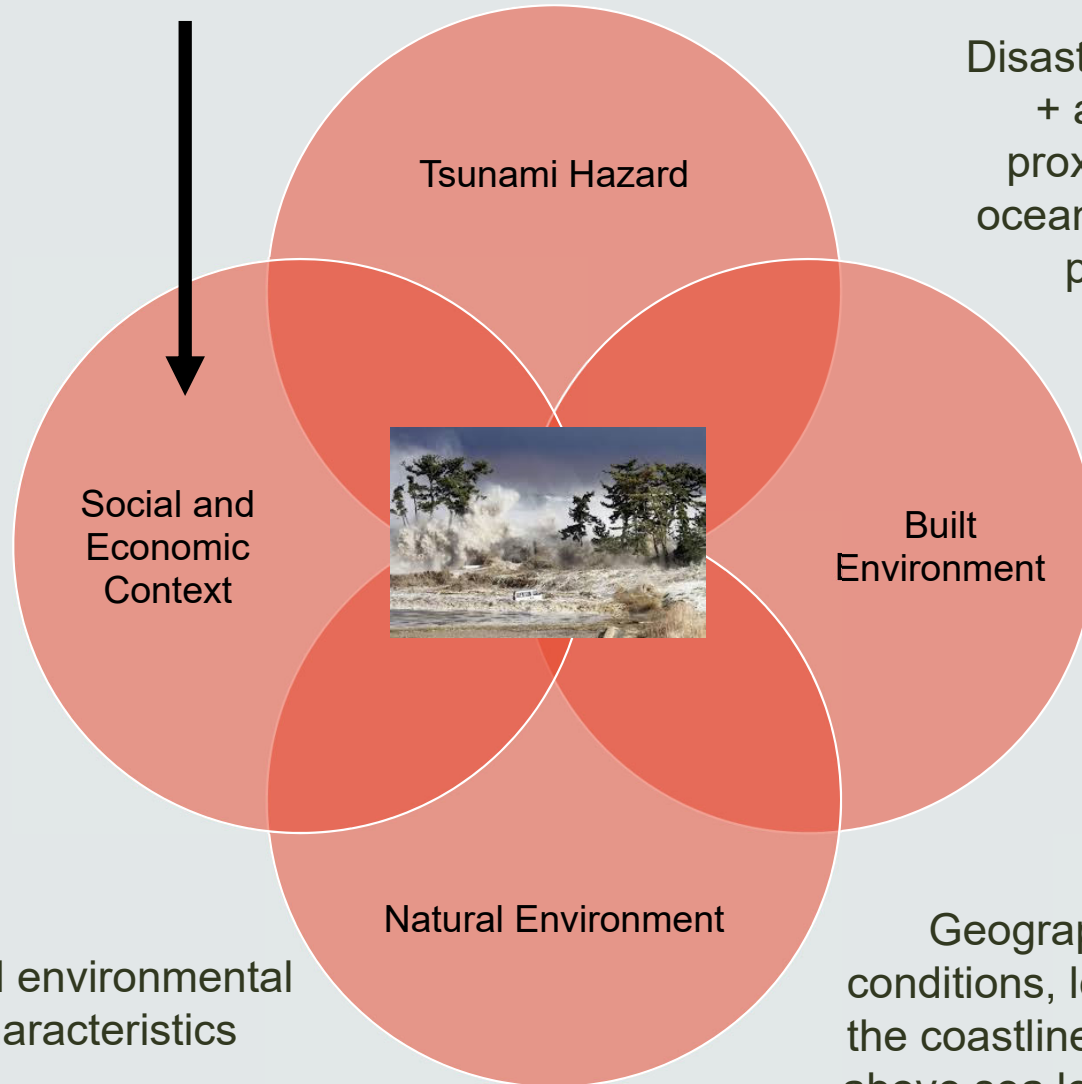


Source: Aldrich, D. P. (2019). *Black Wave: How Networks and Governance Shaped Japan's 3/11 Disasters*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

What explains disaster deaths?

Population characteristics such as education, age, average income, transportation accessibility, strength of social networks, etc.

Local environmental characteristics



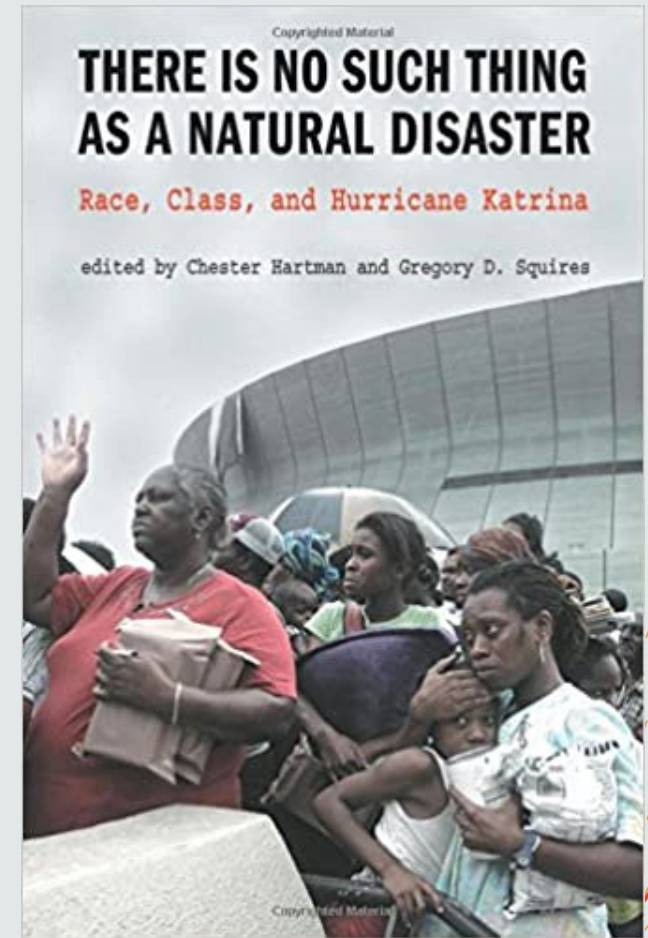
Disaster magnitude + a person's proximity to the ocean, the water's path, etc.

Sea walls, warning systems, evacuation structures, etc.

Geographic conditions, length of the coastline, height above sea level, etc.

“The notion that natural hazards losses are inextricably linked to racism, poverty, pollution, and other slow-motion disasters is now widely accepted... This growing body of work—disaster studies rooted in a vision of justice and equity—acknowledges that our **environmental suffering** is connected to and worsened by our **social suffering**... The logical extension of these insights is that if we want to reduce natural hazards losses we must work just as fervently to reduce economic and social inequality and injustice in all its forms.”

<https://hazards.colorado.edu/news/director/the-stories-we-tell>





What is social justice?

- + “... social justice is both a **process** and a **goal**. The goal of social justice is **full and equal participation** of all groups in a society that is mutually shaped to meet their needs. Social justice includes a vision of society in which the distribution of resources is **equitable** and all members are psychologically and physically **safe and secure**” (Bell, 2013, p. 21).

Source: Bell, L. (2013). “Theoretical Foundations.” In M. Adams, W.J. Blumenfeld, C. Castañeda, H.W. Hackman, M.L. Petrs, & X. Zúñiga. (Eds.), *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice*. New York: Routledge.

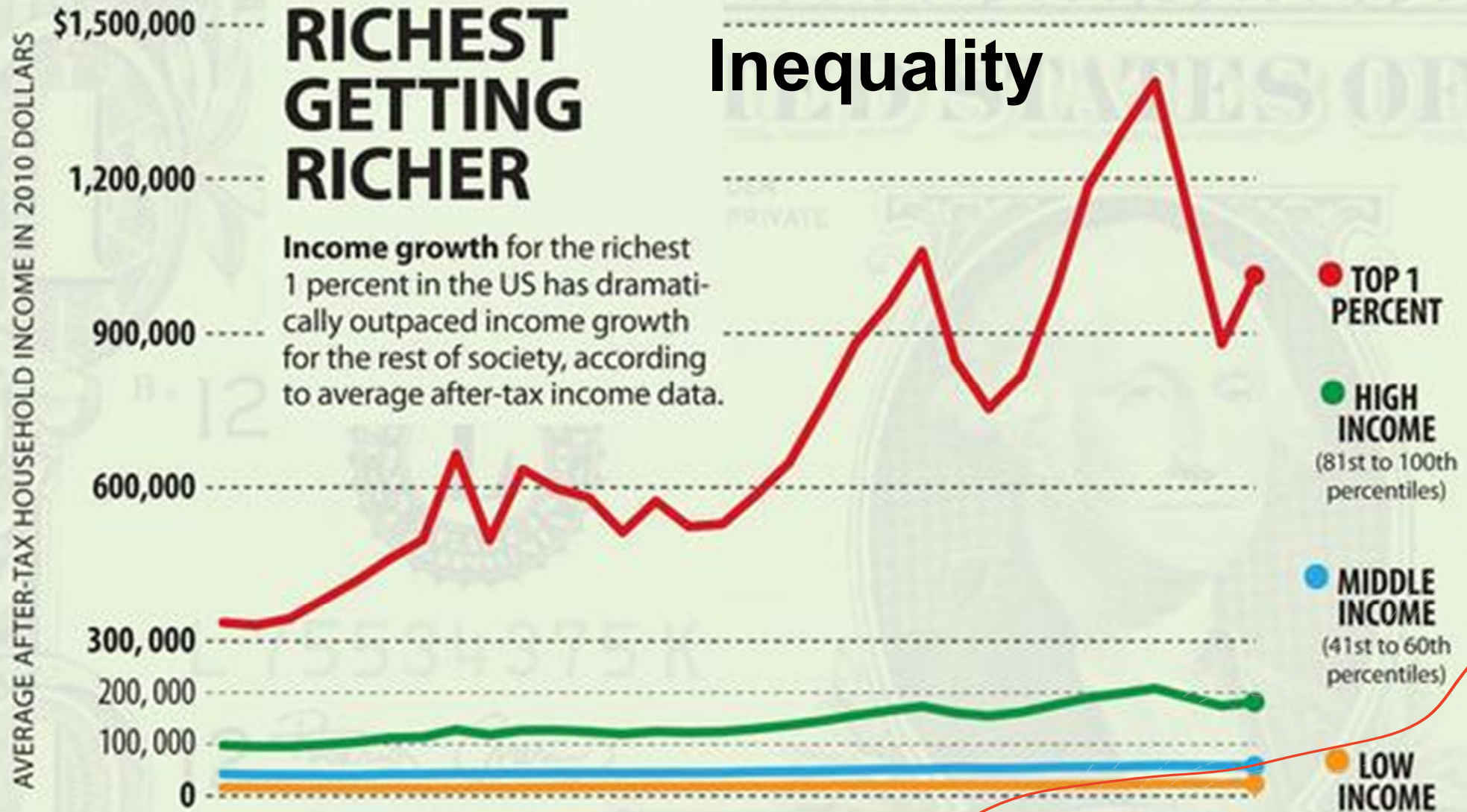
Injustice



Inequality

RICHEST GETTING RICHER

Income growth for the richest 1 percent in the US has dramatically outpaced income growth for the rest of society, according to average after-tax income data.



Moving to Equitable Outcomes





Panelists

- + **Tiffany West-Wise**, Sustainability and Climate Action Manager, City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Program
- + **Candice Colucci**, Attorney, Colucci Law Group
- + **Nathan Wood**, Research Geographer, U.S. Geological Survey Western Geographic Science Center

Panel Overview

