Social Justice and Environmental Hazards

Moderator
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Tsunami Hazard
2011 Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami

What explains disaster deaths?

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

Local environmental characteristics

Social and Economic Context

Tsunami Hazard

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

Built Environment

Sea walls, warning systems, evacuation structures, etc.

Natural Environment

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).

Injustice
Inequality

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

- Moderator Overview (10 minutes)
- Panelist Presentations (~30 minutes)
- Moderator Q&A w/ Panel (~10 minutes)
- Audience Q&A w/ Panel (~50 minutes)
- Wrap-Up (~10 minutes)