LLILAS
Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies
presents

THE 2011 LOZANO LONG CONFERENCE

FROM NATURAL EVENTS TO SOCIAL DISASTERS IN THE CIRCUM-CARIBBEAN

WEDNESDAY–FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 23–25, 2011

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Organized by the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies and cosponsored by the departments of African and African Diaspora Studies, English, History, and Spanish and Portuguese; and the Program in Comparative Literature; College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin
What are the multiple consequences of so-called natural disasters for the peoples of the Caribbean, the coastal regions of the southern United States, and Central America? As a region linked together by U.S. imperial power, the circum-Caribbean has been an area where environmental disasters often have been catalysts for social and political transformation. From hurricanes to earthquakes to landslides, natural disasters have profoundly shaped the relationship between humans and the environment in the region. Not unlike the earthquakes that struck Nicaragua and Guatemala in the 1970s, the destruction brought to New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010 revealed historical and ongoing forms of social inequality, environmental hazards, and political crisis that plague the circum-Caribbean region. This conference brings together scholars from multiple disciplines, artists, and activists who have been immersed in disaster relief and solidarity efforts. Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Haiti offer the most salient examples, and these two sites will serve as focal points for the conference.
NATASHA TRETHEWEY, Phillis Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry at Emory University, was born in Gulfport, Mississippi. Her first poetry collection, Domestic Work (Graywolf Press, 2000), won the inaugural 1999 Cave Canem poetry prize (selected by Rita Dove), a 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize, and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry. Her second collection, Bellocq’s Ophelia (Graywolf Press, 2002), received the 2003 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize, was a finalist for both the Academy of American Poets’ James Laughlin and Lenore Marshall prizes, and was named a 2003 Notable Book by the American Library Association. Her most recent collection is Native Guard (Houghton Mifflin 2006), for which she won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. Her book of creative nonfiction, Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf, was published in September 2010 by the University of Georgia Press, and her new collection of poetry, Thrall, will be published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in Fall 2012.

EVELYNE TROUILLOT was born, lives, and works in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Her first novel, Rosalie l’infâme, was awarded the Prix Soroptimist de la romancière francophone in 2004. Since then, Evelyne Trouillot has published three more novels and three collections of short novels, and two books of poems, one in Creole and one in French. She also has written an essay on the situation of children and human rights in Haiti, “Restituer l’enfance.” Her latest novel, La mémoire aux abois (Editions Hoëbeke, May 2010), was awarded Le prix Carbet de la Caraïbe et du Tout-Monde 2010.
2:00 P.M.  WELCOMING REMARKS  HACKETT ROOM, SRH 1.313

Jossianna Arroyo  UT Depts. of Spanish and Portuguese and African and African Diaspora Studies

INTRODUCTION
Carlos Ramos Scharrón  Island Resources Foundation, UT Dept. of Geography and the Environment

DOCUMENTARY:  Vargas, una tragedia Anunciada
This film shows the causes and effects of the flooding on the Caribbean Coast of Venezuela in December of 1999.

COMMENTATOR
Maximiliano Bezada  Researcher, Instituto Pedagógico de Caracas, Universidad Pedagógica Experimental Libertador

3:30 P.M.  PHOTOGRAPHY PANEL  Visualization of Disaster

Maggie Steber  Documentary Photographer
Kael Alford  Documentary Photographer

MODERATOR
Donna DeCesare  UT Dept. of Journalism

5:00 P.M.  EXHIBIT AND OPENING RECEPTION  LLILAS
Haiti between Destruction and Hope
Photographs by Maggie Steber

6:30 P.M.  CONFERENCE INAUGURATION  THOMPSON CONFERENCE CENTER AUDITORIUM, TCC 1.110

OPENING REMARKS
Charles R. Hale  Director, LLILAS
Juliet Hooker  Associate Director, LLILAS
Randy Diehl  Dean, UT College of Liberal Arts

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS
Frank Guridy  UT Depts. of History and African and African Diaspora Studies

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast
Natasha Trethewey  Winner of the 2007 Pulitzer prize in Poetry; Phillis Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry, Emory University
Thursday, February 24
TEXAS UNION, SANTA RITA ROOM 3.502

9:00–10:45 A.M.  SESSION 1

Risks, Vulnerability, Hazards

CHAIR Carlos Ramos Scharró Island Resources Foundation, UT Dept. of Geography and the Environment

Recent Catastrophic Debris Flow on the Venezuelan Mountains: A Product of Climatic Change or Increase of Vulnerability?
Maximiliano Bezada Researcher, Instituto Pedagógico de Caracas, Universidad Pedagógica Experimental Libertador

Attempting to Avert Disaster: An Evaluation of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program Efforts to Reduce Individual and Household Vulnerability to Tsunami Events in Puerto Rico
Walter Díaz Center for Applied Social Research, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

Total Risk of Tsunami Hazard in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions?
William Proenza National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, Texas

10:45–11:00 A.M.  COFFEE BREAK

11:00 A.M.–12:15 P.M.  SESSION 2

Lives, Cultures, and Agency in and after Disaster

CHAIR Shirley Thompson UT Depts. of American Studies and African and African Diaspora Studies

Domes of Disaster: Black Evacuees and the Neoliberal State in New Orleans and Houston
Frank Guridy UT Depts. of History and African and African Diaspora Studies

Aity Pap Peri: Three Lives on Post Earthquake Haiti
Claire Payton Dept. of History and French Studies, New York University

Who Dat? Racialized Performance and Its Conspicuous Consumption in Post-Katrina New Orleans
Marc Perry Anthropology and African Diaspora Studies, Tulane University

12:30–2:00 P.M.  LUNCH BREAK

2:00–3:45 P.M.  SESSION 3

Environmental Consequences

CHAIR Robert Dull UT Dept. of Geography and the Environment

From Regional Disaster to Global Catastrophe: Rescaling the 6th Century Eruption of Volcán Ilopango, El Salvador
Robert Dull UT Dept. of Geography and the Environment

Rainfall Triggered Landslides, Anthropogenic Hazards, and Mitigation Strategies: Examples from Puerto Rico and Venezuela
Matthew Larsen U.S. Geological Survey (Water), Reston, Virginia

3:45–4:00 P.M.  COFFEE BREAK

4:00–5:00 P.M.  INTRODUCTION

Jossianna Arroyo UT Depts. of Spanish and Portuguese and African and African Diaspora Studies

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Haiti and the “Experts”
Evelyne Trouillot Haitian Novelist
Friday, February 25  
TEXAS UNION, SANTA RITA ROOM 3.502

9:00–10:45 A.M.  SESSION 4  
Body, Power, Social Resistance  
CHAIR Virginia Garrard-Burnett  UT Dept. of History

Central American Calamity and the Formation of Maya Bonesetters  
Servando Hinojosa  Dept. of Anthropology, University of Texas–Pan American

Gender and Disaster in the Americas  
Jane Henrici  Institute for Women’s and Policy Research

Natural Disasters, Diverse Economy, and Livelihoods in the Sierra de las Minas, Guatemala  
Lindsey Sutton  University of Colorado, Denver

10:45–11:00 A.M.  COFFEE BREAK

11:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M.  SESSION 5  
Historical Memory and the Representation of Disaster  
CHAIR César Salgado  UT Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese

Your People in Disguise: (Justifying) Media Covering of Difference  
Celeste Manoucheka  Dept. of Communications, University of Washington

From Natural Event to Social Disaster: Puerto Rico’s “El Nuevo Día”  
Victor Rivera  Dept. of Hispanic Studies, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez

Invoking the Evident: 1930 Cyclone San Zenón, a Dictator Scrapbooks, and the Irrefutability of Modernity  
Mark Anderson  Dept. of Romance Languages, University of Georgia, Athens

12:45–2:00 P.M.  LUNCH BREAK

2:00–3:00 P.M.  SESSION 6  
Documentary Screening of Poto Mitan  
by Marc Schuller and René Bergan

3:00–3:15 P.M.  COFFEE BREAK

3:15–4:30 P.M.  SESSION 7  
On Post-Disaster Activism  
CHAIR Eric Tang  UT Dept. of African and African Diaspora Studies

Unstable Foundations: Whither Haiti’s Million-Plus Internally Displaced a Year after the Earthquake?  
Mark Schuller  Dept. of Anthropology, CUNY; Earthquake Haiti

Katrina: An NGO Perspective  
Saket Soni  New Orleans Workers Center for Justice

Post-Earthquake Health Challenges in Haiti: Emergency Plan Dealing with Maternity Care Assistance  
Norly Germain  University of Rhode Island

4:30–5:00 P.M.  CLOSING REMARKS

5:00 P.M.  RECEPTION  
UT Caribbean Ensemble  
TEXAS UNION, SANTA RITA ROOM 3.502