



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

## About the Conference

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.

## Keynote Speakers

**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.

# Wednesday, February 23

**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 Scharrón** 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

THURSDAY, CONT.

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

FRIDAY, CONT.

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

