#### Risk Assessment Round Table

Participants:	
Stuart Shapiro, NYU	S
Alex Muermann, Wharton School	А
Meriam Heller, NSF, Information Systems	Μ
Warner North, NorthWorks	W
Cary Coglianese, Harvard University	С
Design of Regulatory Institutions	
Paul Freeman, University of Denver	Р
Post-Disaster Reconstruction	
Klaus Jacob, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory	Κ

Meriam- Surprised that Howard was trying to quantify benefits of mitigation, and trying to sell it to insurance agency.

W- USFS project to protect property from Wildfire abutting expensive real estate Fire insurance has large premium in high risk area. Risk depends on roof and brush clearance. Insurance company bases risk assessment on factors (political, moral, ethical) that have little to do with 'real risks'. Pressure exerted by shingle company limited communication of risks.

Systems were not in place before the Oakland hill fires to coordinate, prevention and response i.e evacuation. Post-mortem reexamination is important. Reiterates Sally's communation about risk is impt.

- M- Complains that this has only been "another" workshop on risk. Encourages new thinking. Says people are open to listening about new ways of thinking.
- W- Officials are not always resistant to scrutiny, post-mortem. Says that a post-mortem was not done after WTC tragedy.

Others disagree say that postmortem was done.

- Paul- Is communication adequate about natural disasters? No. Suggests that improved communitcation, more post-mortems in a limted focus. Suggests a broader scope to proposal.
- Cary- Decistion Analysis. Where does the public fit in risk management? How are they affected? Risk is about power. Issues of democratic politics, risk communication from decision makers to public. How does that fit into our research agenda.
- Jessie- Project for the CIA at CIESIN. Environmental Stability Index. Investment in education and infrastructure yield benefits in public/international relations.

Klaus- What is the thread of commanality. Hard Scientists do work in their field well but don't put limitations on the use of their work. Lack communication to public and stakeholders. Vulnerability in developing contries is different from Vulnerability in developed countries. The population at large, usually understand the problems but are powerless in the process. **Patterns of vulnerability and the democratic process, grassroots groups.** How could we look at the relationshi

Warner- What would you hope to achieve? How would it work?

Jessie- Peruvian Fisheries

- Klaus- How would you involve the locals? Peruvian fisheries and ENSO prediction. Topdown information transmission. How do you get information to all strata of society. Otherwise mitigation is impossible.
- Meriam- Relates to topdown powerstucture (information withholding by the insurance companies
- Klaus- in Caracas in shanty towns, you don't have a title to the land, so you have no incentive to build in an area that minimizes land slides.
- Paul- Survey of L.A. countries. Contingency planning for financing for next catastophe is not even on the table.
  Solving current problems monopolizes urban planning. No time or energy left for planning rather than response. Try to deal with the problem piecemeal.
- Jessie- South Africa example of disaster based on poor predictions.
- Klaus- Comprehensiveness, grass roots
- Cary- Grass roots mobilization usually productive, sometimes public input is not for the best. Democratic process or mob mentallity. Strategic risk management
- Klaus- Experts solving problems vs. political process solving problem. Decision by public pressure, i.e. NIMBY.

Warner- Roadblocks, elaborate?

Klaus- Why do you have anti-seismic building codes in NYC? Scientist pushed for examination of codes. Media succeeded in getting issue on the agenda of Building Commisioner. Enabled by the technical community. Public pressure was important.

Told him that FEMA money couldn't be given out unless codes were on the books. This clicked with the Building Commisioner. City Council members with ties to CA, PR, and latin america, with experience allowed for passage.

Meriam- Private public partnership question

Alex- Focus has been on natural catastrophe where you can spread risk. With terrorism, the government's role is more important. Private public partnership

Stuart- For evacuation plans, customer and manager opinion is important. Incentives of the experts (not responsible) elected official (very conservative, risk-averse, but expensive). Beliefs of people are important. In US, people are more independent minded.

1.) What are our objectives for the evening? Klaus- Interaction between public, expert and government responsibility in terms of process of risk management and communication. Incorporate developed vs. developing

#### Cary- How can the interactions be optimized. Empirical and strategic component

Paul- What influences the decisions of the decision maker

Meriam- Who pays at the end of the day?

Warner- Convergence is unfocussed. Optimization is platitudinous. Prefers 'Road Block', 'obstacles'. Public input into risk management.

Cary- Series of case studies to identify the roadblocks.

Meriam

Warner- Identify impediments to good risk management. Participatory process of all the stakeholders.

Klaus- Second Bullet

2.) What private and public sector parties and researchers should be involved?

Involving the financial sector. Mortgage industry.

Warner-Approach Mortage industry association.

Jessie-What about Greimein bank, socially aware lending?

Meriam- What is good risk management?

Paul- Identification of roadblocks to good risk management will lead to strategies for successful involvement of Public and private (NGO's) sector parties. May differ for the public and risk-managers.

Can't wait to

### 3. What are the potential outcomes from the research?

# Removal of the roadblocks. Recipes for removal. Multiple gains from removal of a roadblock. Such as goodwill.

Warner- How do you move drinking water? E.g. mobilizing drinking water through brewery/bottling plant

4. What are the potential sources of funding for the proposed research? What are the products? Good case studies. Can it be vulnerability management?

Meriam- No more case studies. Prefers structured methodology. Databases that will allow generalizability Methodological of framework that includes things like Motivations of stakeholders

Cary- Can you do paired studies of similar event with response varying by only one variable to identify roadblock.

### Warner- Industry matching funds

Klaus- Where does the funding come from for domestic/international comparisons?

Meriam- Charge the stakeholders Can we take advantage of 9/11 context to give urgency to disaster planning research?

# Paul- Is there someway to frame the proposal to take advantage of 9/11 political momentum?

Klaus- Special operations anecdote of irrational risk management.

Warner- Need good hard data.

Jessie- Windjammer example. Top-down decision approach.