



Women Building Resilience to Disaster in the US: New Resources and Strategies

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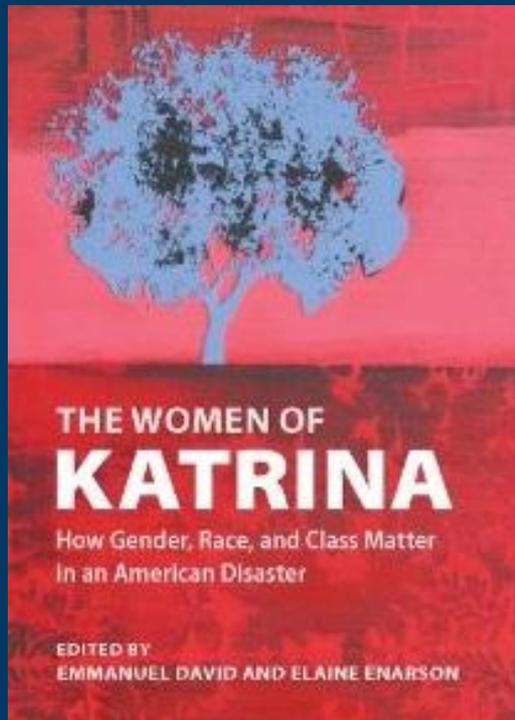
Overview

- New scholarship
- Looking back—achievements and gaps
- Looking ahead—potential action projects
- Polling questions and your ideas
- Q & A

A growing field--new scholarship

- US/Canada
 - New book coming soon on masculinity in disasters based on firefighters in British Columbia (Shelly Pachalok)
 - New book coming soon on *The Women of the Storm* (Emmanuel David)
 - More to come, I'm very sure!
- International
 - *Women, Gender and Disaster: Global Issues and Initiatives* (with chapters from the US and Canada, too), Enarson and Chakrabarti, eds. (Sage, 2009)
 - *Women's Encounter With Disaster*, Dasgupta et al., 2010 (from the 3rd USAID funded conference on G&D in Turkey)
 - More to come, I'm very sure!

The Women of Katrina: How Gender, Race and Class Matter in an American Disaster



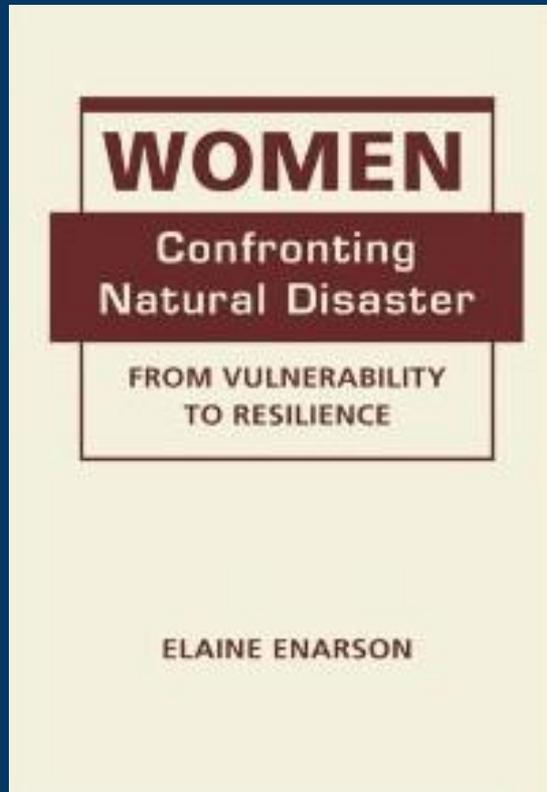
- David and Enarson, eds., 2012
- Vanderbilt University Press
- 272 pages, 7 x 10 inches
- Cloth \$69.95s 978-0-8265-1798-2
- Paper \$34.95s 978-0-8265-1799-9

www.vanderbiltuniversitypress.com
800-627-7377

The Women of Katrina

- Foreword
- Preface
- Introduction—literature review
 - I. In Protest
 - II. Women on the Front Lines-Testimonials
 - III. In Deep Water: Displacement, Loss, & Care
 - IV. Against the Tide: Resisting, Reclaiming, & Reimagining
 - V. Gender in Disaster Theory, Practice, & Research

Women Confronting Natural Disaster: From Vulnerability to Resilience



- E. Enarson
- Lynne Rienner Press,
- February 2012/ca. 250 pages
- LC: 2011034702
- ISBN: 978-1-58826-831-0
- Hard cover, \$35

www.rienner.com

303-444-6684 • Fax: 303-444-0824

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 - Houses and homes
 - Work and workplaces
 - Grassroots groups and recovery
 - Building disaster resilience
 - Fighting for the future
- Appendix: A guide to resources

Next, a quick walk-through

Preface

- Why write a book?
- Why this way?
 - Focus on the US
 - Highlight women
 - “Natural” disaster?
 - Resilience?



With a few exceptions, all photo credits are to FEMA. Thanks!

I. Women and disasters in the US

- Contextualizing the book
- Guide to the reader
- And many people to thank!



2. Representations of women in disasters

- Disaster popular cultures
- Gender & disaster in pop culture
- Retelling the story—women
- Quilts, of course!



Why it matters

- Reaching the public
- Reframing the issues
- Story telling and knowledge exchange

- Needed!
 - More work on new social media from a gender perspective
 - More work on how women & men respectively use social media in disaster-relevant ways

3. How gender changes disaster studies

- Theory matters—“finding and framing”
- Sociologies of gender and sociologies of disaster
- Using feminist theories
 - Liberal, socialist, radical, multiracial, gender and development, postmodern, feminist political ecology



Why it matters

- Reframing the issues
- Predictive/explanatory
- Priorities for action

- Needed!
 - Theoretical integration of women, gender and disaster analysis with political ecology including climate
 - Focus on sustainability, social justice, ecosystems
 - More synthesis with theoretical work in allied fields
 - More integration with masculinity theories

4. Measuring vulnerability and capacity

- Gendered vulnerabilities
- Wrong turns and blinders
- Mapping—cautionary notes
- Census data options
- Relationships, not numbers

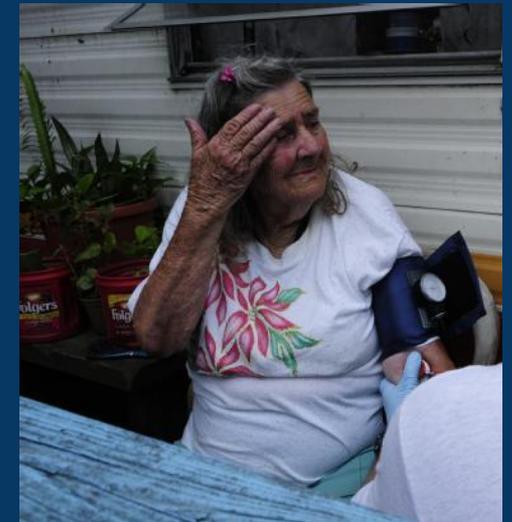


Why it matters

- Unanticipated effects & responses
- Risk mapping must engage communities
- Risk mapping must engage women who live at increased risk, needs and capabilities
- Needed!
 - Sex-specific data in all gov't supported research
 - Development and testing of sex/gender indicators including those sensitive to men and boys
 - Critical analysis of existing mapping tools

5. Health and well-being

- Gender and survival
- Reproductive health
- Maternal and infant health
- Explaining gender patterns in post-disaster mental health



Why it matters

- Life & safety
- Disrupted services with lasting effects
- Inadequate psychosocial responses

- Needed!
 - Critical review and revision of public health in disasters approaches and training guides
 - Capacity building in women's health services
 - Pre-planning to 'care for the caregivers'
 - Research: increased attention to men's reproductive, mental and physical health (non-responders as well as responders)

6. Violence against women

- Gender-based violence post-disaster data
 - patterns and gaps
- US case studies
 - from Exxon Valdez to Katrina/Rita
- Alternate explanations



Why it matters

- Public health & safety; children's well-being
- Fear undermines resilience
- Relates to shelter protocol and training, psychosocial intervention, community partnerships and outreach

Needed!

- Community-wide planning for possible increases
- Systematic data collection for analysis and planning
- Capacity building in antiviolence community organizations
- Policy directives on gender based violence in US disasters
- Research: other forms of family violence; men and violence; GLBTQ experiences; "good practice" evaluations

7. Intimacy & family life

- Divisions and strains
- Expanding burdens—
domestic labor, care work,
emotion work
- Disaster mothering



Why it matters

- Gender blind approaches don't support real families
- Central role of mothers/single mothers
- Diversity & change in households highly visible 'through women's eyes'

Needed!

- Child care; capacity building in child care orgs
- Family friendly/women friendly policy and practice in all aspects of DRR
- Planned support systems for families in crisis, with sensitivity to gender/women's issues
- Research on disaster fathering and single parenting

8. Housing and homes

- Women's pre-event housing insecurity
- Gendered risk communication
- Gender in evacuation
- Shelter experiences
- Roadblocks to resettlement



Why it matters

- Prioritizing women as risk communicators
- Housing and long-term recovery
- Women's safety in shelters/temporary accommodation
- Relates to shelter design and management

Needed!

- Gendered risk communication, e.g. men & evacuation
- Supporting women in construction
- Partnerships with women's housing specialists
- Research: gender & rehousing/sheltering/homelessness

9. Work and workplaces

- Impacts on women's employment, home-based work, resource-based incomes
- Barriers to women's economic recovery
- Women's off-stage disaster occupations



Why it matters

- Women's income essential to full recovery
- Well-prepared/responsive women's workplaces an essential for resilience
- Return to work enables community recovery

Needed!

- Include informal employment and family work (his and hers) in economic recovery plans
- Research: full accounting of direct/indirect economic effects, including on home-based work
- Capacity building in women's businesses and unions
- Plan for safe, affordable, diverse child/family care

10. Grassroots groups and recovery

- Shift in focus with Ch 10
- Volunteering
- Women's collective work
- Emergent organizations
 - Sources of difference
 - Research questions



Why it matters

- Women's leadership essential to DRR
- Recovery planning must support women's grassroots initiatives
- Barriers to women's full participation undermine long-term recovery

Needed!

- Knowledge exchange among disaster-affected women
- Capacity building in women's/men's orgs (all kinds)
- Research: sustainability of women's disaster work; disaster response work by men's organizations; gender dimensions of decision making and control in rebuilding

II. Building disaster resilience

- Gender mainstreaming
 - women responders & women in EM
 - barriers, reflections
- Challenging male power
- Gender & HFA/USA
- Change potential in women's movements
- Three lines of action



Why it matters

- DRR = “Whole” (& equitable) community approach
- Gender inequalities undermine resilience
- Untapped potential in women’s movements
- Climate change (women?) will drive the agenda

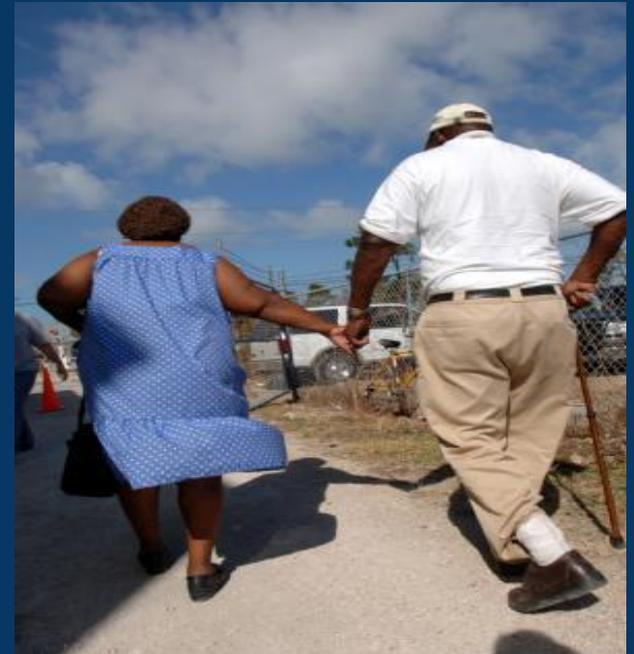
Needed!

- Building on women’s and men’s organizational strengths
- Risk reducing partnerships with women’s groups
- Outreach to gender and climate change community
- Research: evaluating “promising practice”; lessons from the global South for the North

12. Fighting for the future

“The future may challenge us in ways difficult to imagine. But we have been here before and risen to the occasion—and we can do it again. There is a future worth fighting for, women and men together. May it come soon.”

Enarson, 2012, p. 198



Looking back: some achievements

- Awareness increasing
 - academic talks and research
 - community dialogue (?)
 - increasing policy attention (?), e.g. March 8, 2012 Women and Youth Emergency Management Stakeholder Update
- Women in emergency management organizing
 - EMPOWER; inWEM
- College teaching resources expanding, e.g.
 - Occasional G&D courses taught for EM
 - Gender chapters in EM textbooks

- Increasing salience, e.g. The Gender and Disaster Resilience Alliance with ideas for action, education, and training, publications and video clips, networking and a listserv

Flash--The GDRA is partnering with EPI Global (Emergency Preparedness Initiative Global) to present a 5-part webinar series: see www.usgdra.org or www.epiglobal.org



Looking back: some persistent knowledge gaps

- About boys and men
- About marginalized women
- About girls
- About effective change





Looking back: some persistent policy/practice gaps

- Gender poorly reflected in DRR policy frameworks, e.g. Whole Community approach, SFI, Recovery framework
- Gender concerns of women and men not well integrated into emergency planning documents, activities, and social processes
- Gender competency not “core” in EM professional preparation

Looking ahead: 10 practical actions

1. Grassroots women assessing risk

Risk assessment template for local women has been developed; needs revision for use in the US; needs promotion, demonstration, and evaluation

2. Reducing gender violence in the aftermath: Promising practice

Comparative action research in the US, CA, NZ, and AU to identify and test promising practices preventing and responding to sexual assault and DV.



3. Reaching men to reduce risk: Gender-focused communication strategies

Demonstration project to assess potential for social marketing utilizing new and/or traditional media. Targets men across the lifespan and in diverse communities with emphasis on preparedness, mitigation, evacuation.

4. Girls, boys and household risk reduction

Child-centered, gender-sensitive educational campaign based on global models utilizing a wide range of media and building on single-sex org's.



5. Women Building Disaster Resilience Campaign

Peer learning teams make site visits to high-risk locales meeting with emergency managers and with women's groups for knowledge exchange, network and capacity building. Communication via women's and men's mass media outlets, new social media.

6. Putting Disaster on Women's Agenda

National roundtable of women's organizations called to strategize about how best to relate DRR to existing gender initiatives and identify new synergies, including with men's progressive org's.



7. Knowledge exchange: Gender, disaster, climate

Multidisciplinary annotated bibliography on gender, disaster, and climate change in the US with creative follow-up dissemination and dialogue campaign. Bringing disaster expertise to climate work and incorporating global expertise of women and men on gender dimensions of climate uncertainty.

8. Gender training for disaster responders: An interactive training module

Short, user-friendly resource for CEM programs demonstrating intersectional approach to gender analysis in DRR.



9. Concept note: Gender as a cross-cutting theme in reducing risk in the US

Policy document with specific recommendations for mainstreaming gender concerns holistically in DRR and disaster management, drawing on successful strategies from other communities in the US and from international models.

10. Networking with women's and men's groups in high-risk neighborhoods.

Capacity building template for use in diverse communities with emphasis on engaging single-sex organizations, groups, and networks to increase awareness and response capacity. Women and men working together & separately.

Many ways forward

- Building the GDRA
 - Sister network to the global GDN
 - Web space on the GDN website
 - Other significant connections, including with emerging GDN-CA and GDN-LAC (to include Mexico)
 - Two-year organizational development campaign needed enabling, e.g.
 - enhanced outreach and service, e.g. through website development, outreach materials, membership development and support, internships, speakers' bureaus, mentoring, knowledge exchange, project partnerships
 - incorporation? funding? logistics? Leadership?

- 
- Potential partnerships, e.g. with
 - Women's groups and campaigns
 - Environmental/climate networks
 - Other relevant community/grassroots networks
 - National and local women's & men's organizations
 - American Red Cross and other lead NGO relief and recovery orgs active in the US
 - Tribal emergency planning units
 - Health agencies, e.g. Office of Women's Health
 - Health and human service women's agencies
 - Gender and disaster networks in other HDCs

And a host of other DRR networks and organizations active in the US but not reflecting the gender dimensions of disaster risk and the practice of emergency management

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- Potential teaching/training activities, e.g.
 - Develop college curricula (Higher Education Project and others)
 - Develop CERT materials and related training modules
 - Develop pre/post conference workshops for IAEM and other relevant meetings for states/regions
 - Initiate community presentations/dialogues
 - Mass communications, e.g. articles for women's and men's magazines, blogging

- 
- Potential policy development, e.g. relating to the 5 priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)
 - ✓ Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
 - ✓ Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
 - ✓ Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
 - ✓ Reduce the underlying risk factors.
 - ✓ Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

- 
- Potential policy development, e.g. relating to FEMA's *Whole Community* approach
 - ✓ Understand community complexity.
 - ✓ Recognize community capabilities and needs.
 - ✓ Foster relationships with community leaders.
 - ✓ Build and maintain partnerships.
 - ✓ Empower local action.
 - ✓ Leverage and strengthen social infrastructure, networks, and assets.

And consider the space for gender in the Strategic Foresight Initiative.

A simple example: girls, too?

Boys were profiled in FEMA's 2011 Whole Community Approach publication (p. 4) but not this new partnership between Girls Scouts USA and EMPOWER. Both or neither?



Figure 2: Madison, Tennessee, May 29, 2010—Gary Lima, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency Community Relations Coordinator, leads Boy Scout troop #460 in a Memorial Day project to place flags on graves. The picture reflects emergency managers becoming involved in the day-to-day activities of community groups. David Fine/FEMA



Secretary Napolitano and Girl Scouts of the USA CEO Kathy Cloninger unveiled the patch and announced a new affiliation between DHS Citizen Corps and the Girl Scouts to advance community preparedness nationwide.

Girl Scout Troop 5127 took the patch program further and not only earned their Emergency Preparedness patch, but also their Bronze Award. The girls created the slogan, "Don't Be Scared, Be Prepared", and produced and starred in their own public service announcement with the help of EMPOWER, an emergency management organization for women. The Girl Scouts were able to professionally record their PSA for television, radio and online distribution channels.

http://youtu.be/TEwwAJR_ilo



For discussion...

Who are the champions of change?

What resources can be secured?

Are men interested?

Are women? Which women?

Is climate change the driver of change?

And just for fun, how about a few polling questions? Please jot down your thoughts and of course email more complex answers or ideas. I would love to carry on this conversation.

Quick poll [1]

- I. In your view, what accounts for these gaps in research, policy, and practice? (select all that apply)
 - a. Little knowledge about sex/gender as risk factors
 - b. Little knowledge/minimizing of everyday living conditions facing many US women
 - c. Equating “gender” with women only
 - d. Equating gender & disaster issues with poor countries
 - e. Interpreting “gender issues” as “vulnerability” solely
 - f. Equating the presence of women with gender sensitive practice, e.g. in emergency management roles
 - g. All of the above
 - h. Nope, other factors (please chime in)



Quick poll [2]

2. What are the best drivers of change toward more gender-responsive EM practice in the US? (select all that apply)

- a. Advocacy from grassroots women
- b. Advocacy from women/men in emergency management
- c. On-line for-credit training modules/coursework for EM
- d. Public awareness campaigns
- e. Capacity building in women's organizations
- f. Policy review and recommended changes
- g. All of the above
- h. Nope, other factors (please chime in)

Quick poll [3]

3. Who are potential champions of this work? (select all that apply)

- a. Governmental emergency management orgs
- b. Relief organizations, e.g. Red Cross, faith-based
- c. Business leaders, e.g. in insurance sector
- d. Women/men in emergency management roles
- e. Women/men working on climate/environmental issues
- f. Women/men in social justice/women's rights org's
- g. Disaster-affected women
- h. All of the above
- i. Nope, other factors (please chime in)

Quick poll [4]

4. What should be the primary focus of collective efforts in US to increase gender sensitivity in DRR? (select all that apply)

- a. Coalition building/community organizing
- b. Develop and disseminate practical resources
- c. Seek partnerships/networking
- d. Mentoring/teaching
- e. Demonstration projects
- f. Advocacy
- g. Build the GDRA
- h. All of the above
- i. Nope, others (please chime in)



Your thoughts? Polling discussion

Resources posted to EMForum

- Flyers
 - Gender and Disaster Network [GDN]
 - US Gender and Disaster Resilience [GDRA]
- Book ordering forms with discounts
 - *The Women of Katrina*
 - *Women Confronting Natural Disaster*
- Gender equality and DRR: Selected Resources, 2012
- “Not just victims” – *Women in emergencies and disasters* (English and French versions), Women and Health Care Reform, 2009 (Canada)

Please visit the website of the GDRA (thanking fabulous web volunteer Jennifer Tobin-Gurley!), check out the resources, join the listserv, send along your ideas: <http://www.usgdra.org>

Thanks for tuning in!



Grafton, Ill., July 01, 1993 -- Volunteers of all ages helped with the flood relief. Here, seniors help fill sandbags. Photo by: Liz Roll/FEMA News Photo