



Haiti 2010



Bam, Iran 2003



Katrina, 2005

Natural Hazards Center University of Colorado

Kathleen Tierney
**Professor, Dept. of Sociology & Institute of
Behavioral Science**
Director, Natural Hazards Center

Meeting of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction, Feb. 4, 2010, Washington DC



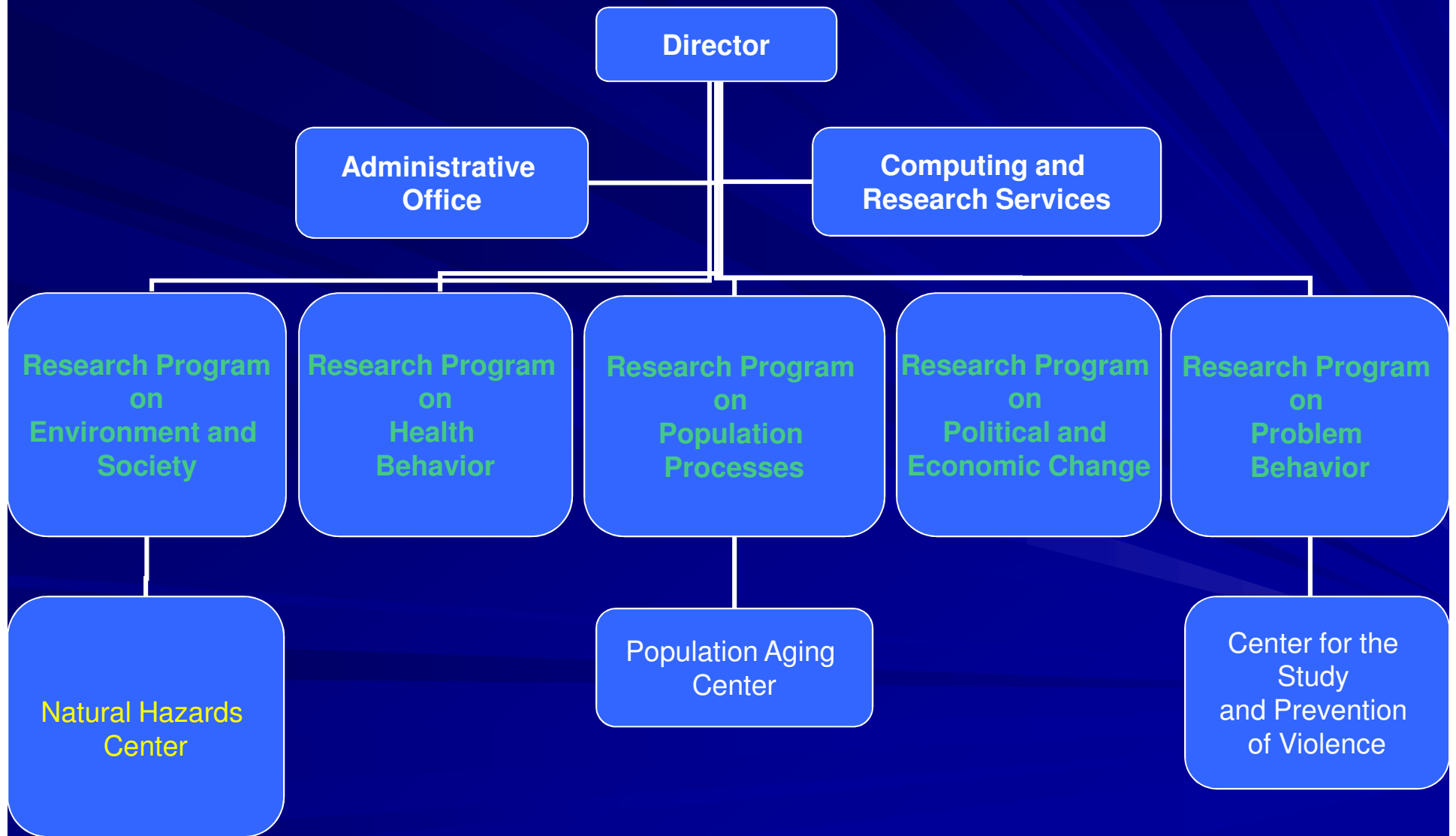
The Hazards Center

- Established in 1976
- Funded by grants from NSF and funds from other agencies and organizations: FEMA, NOAA, NASA, DOT, CDC, ACE, DHS and others
- Guided by a National Advisory Committee

Federal agencies
Academics

State & Local Govt.
Private Sector

Institute of Behavioral Science Organization Chart



Hazards Center Priority Areas

- **Information Clearinghouse and Knowledge-Transfer Activities**
- **Research Program**

Hazards Center Staff

Director

Clearinghouse

- Program Manager
- Office Manager
- 2 Editors
- Library Manager
- Research Assistants

Research

- 3 Ph.D. Researchers
- 4 Doctoral Students
- Research Assistants
- Affiliated Research Faculty

Clearinghouse Services & Activities

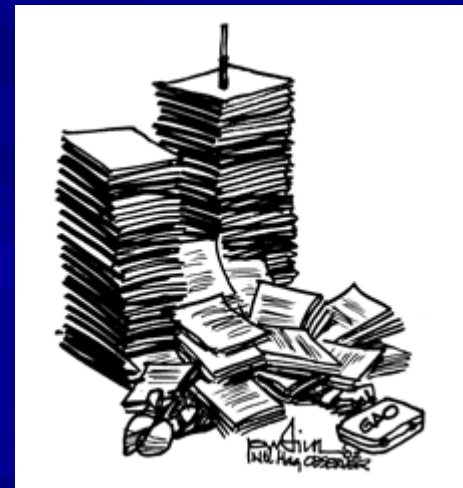
- **Library and Information Services**
- **Information Products**
- **Web site**
- **Annual Workshop**
- **Quick Response**
- **Research Grants**
- **Publications**
- **Serving Diverse Audiences**
- **Organizational and Public Outreach**



Hazards Center Library

Largest Web-linked library in the world addressing societal aspects of natural hazards and disasters

- Over 30,000 books, articles, reports, journals
- Web-searchable “Hazlit” data base
- Customized information requests



<http://www.colorado.edu/hazards>

Center Information Products

- **Newsletter: *Natural Hazards Observer***
- ***Disaster Research* (DR)**
- ***Disaster Grads***
- ***Natural Hazards Informer***
- ***Natural Hazards Review*—ASCE Journal**
- **Books, Reports, Papers, Monographs**
- **Research Digest**
- **Twitter Feeds at “HazCenter”**

Center Web Site: <http://www.colorado/hazards>

- **Information on the Center**
- **Newsletters**
- **On-line library database**
- **Working papers**
- **Quick response reports**
- **Summaries from annual workshops**
- **Annotated bibliographies**
- **Links to other organizations, Web sites**
- **Conferences and training announcements**
- **Grant-related information**

Natural Hazards Workshop

- Held annually In July—in 2010 from July 10-13
- Goals:
 - Strengthen links among the research, policy, and end-user communities
 - Facilitate discussions among participants
 - Address topics of current and ongoing interest, recent disaster events, policies
- 2009: 450 attendees from the U. S. and 14 other countries



Quick Response Research Grants

- **Enabling social and behavioral scientists to travel to disaster-stricken areas immediately after impact in order to gather perishable data**
- **Two largest funding efforts to date: September 11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina**

<http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/qr/qr.html>

Quick-Response Research Publications

**Beyond September 11:
An Account of Post-
Disaster Research
(2003)**

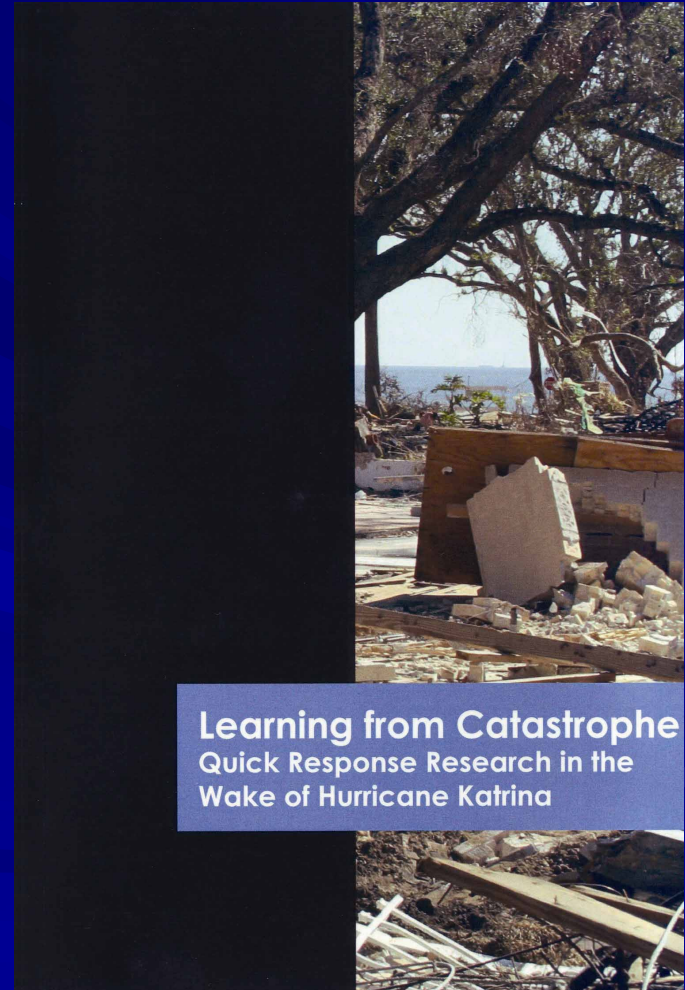


Recent Special Projects

- **Dissertation Enrichment Fellowships, sponsored by NSF and PERI**
- **Updated Report (post-Katrina) on “Sustainable Disaster Recovery”**
- **Report for NRC Transportation Research Board on Transportation Systems and Disasters**

Quick-Response Research Publications

Learning from
Catastrophe (2006)



Learning from Catastrophe
Quick Response Research in the
Wake of Hurricane Katrina

Quick Response Research for Haiti Earthquake

- **1 project currently in the field: NHC Assistant Director Liesel Ritchie is in Haiti now**
- **2 projects cleared for activation when travel plans are finalized**
- **2 projects pending, conditional on favorable proposal reviews**
- **20 additional inquiries that may result in QR proposals and subsequent funding**

Organizational and Public Outreach

- Center staff maintains an extensive network of relationships with key agencies and organizations in the disaster loss reduction arena
- Staff speak regularly at meetings of scholarly and professional associations, including international meetings

Organizational and Public Outreach

- **Staff are extensively involved in interactions with print and electronic media outlets**
- **Example: Providing context and scientific insights on the Haiti earthquake: CNN, NPR, AP interviews that generated numerous print and electronic reports**

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