

# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND DISASTERS

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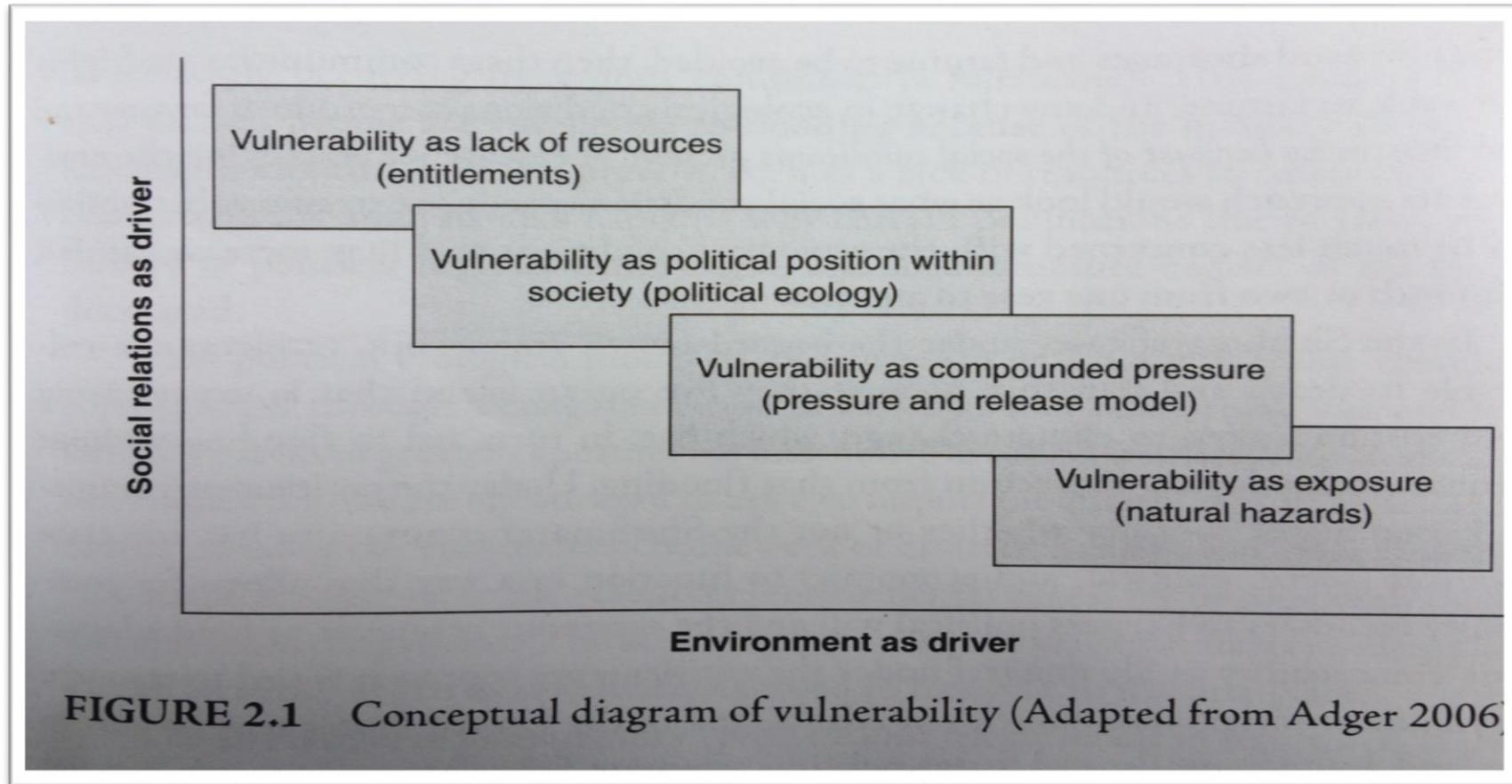
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## Sociological Perspectives on:

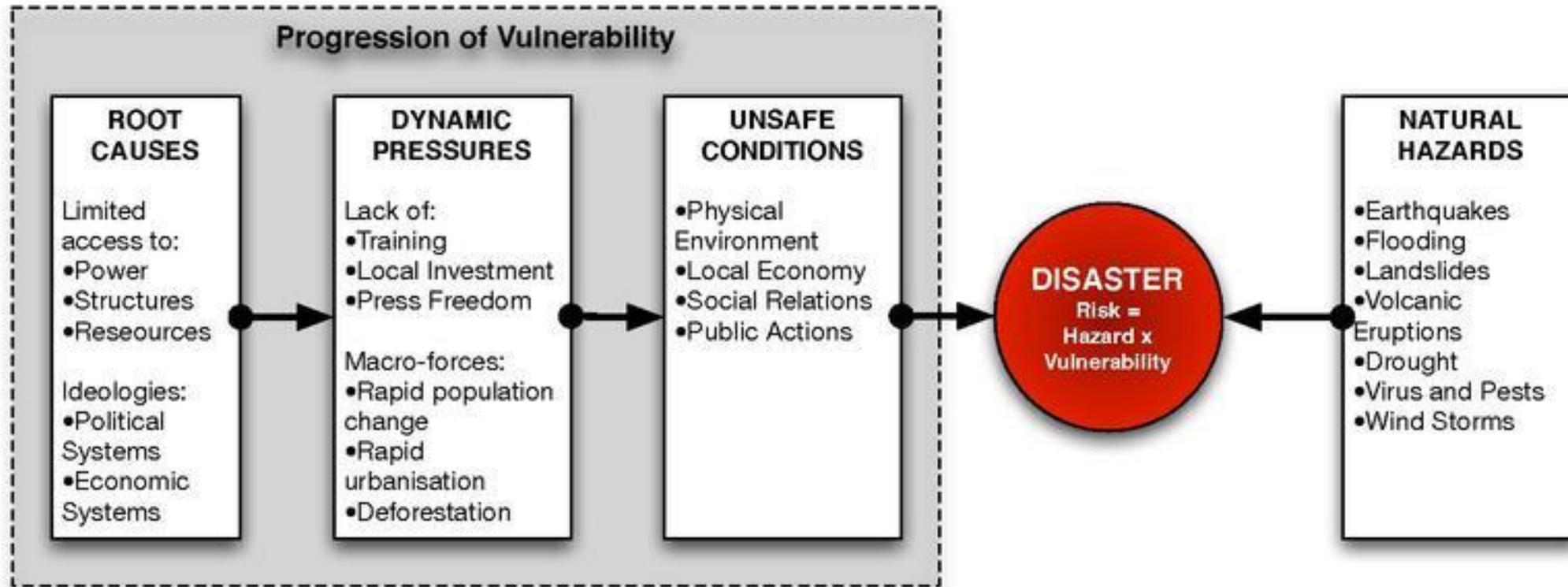
- Disaster
- Community Vulnerability
- Community Impacts
- Community Resilience

# Contents

# Disaster: Social and Environmental Factors



# Disaster: Pressure and Release Model

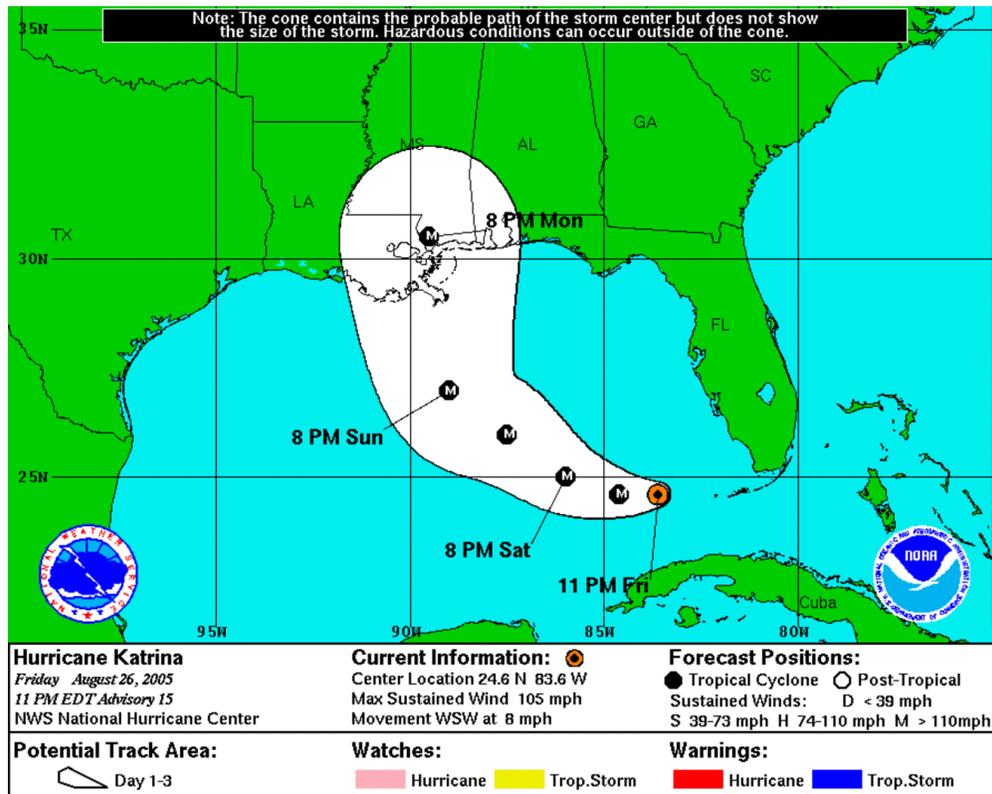


# Community Vulnerability

- defining characteristics of a group (indicators)
  - poverty, poor health, ethnic or racial minority status, etc.
  - can also include housing
- combined with: exposure (location and proximity to hazard)
- PROBLEMATIC
  - stereotyping, stigmatizing, blaming
  - lacks agency, perceptions, responses
  - overlooks micro-spatial contexts



# Community Vulnerability: Importance of Perception, Agency & Identity

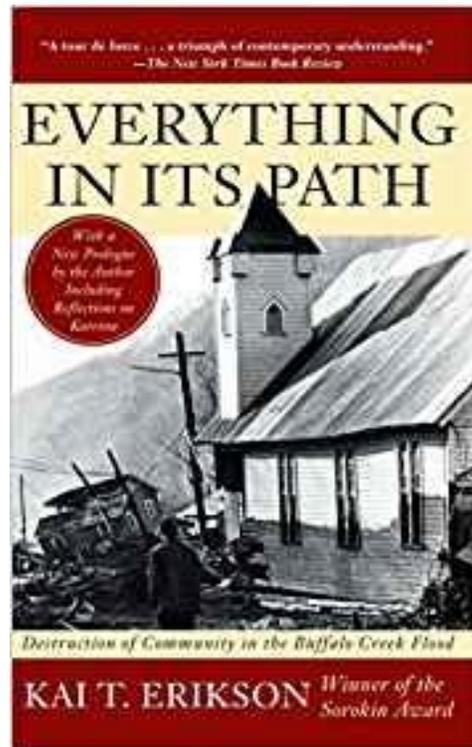


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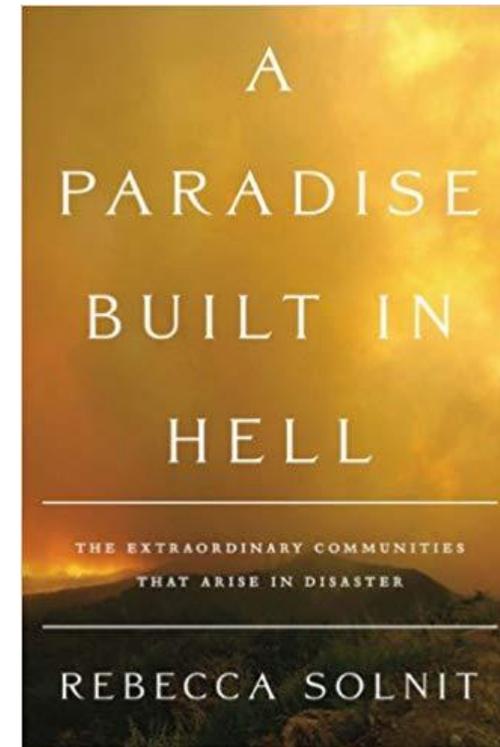
- RISK PERCEPTION REDUCERS
  - Fatalism
  - Personality and Biography
  - Low Danger
  - Special Protections
- VULNERABILITY PERCEPTION AND EVACUATION REDUCERS
  - belief in personal abilities, resilience
  - active, smart decision making
  - concerns about family unity, pets

# Community Impacts

## Community Trauma



## Community Solidarity



# Community Resilience

- High degree of conceptual uncertainty
- typically means (ecology):

“a system’s ability to maintain its integrity and to return to its original state, a state of equilibrium, normality, when it is confronted with a disruption”



# Community Resilience



- problematic on community level:
  - bias toward self-reliance, neoliberal responsibility
  - Implies a desire to reconstruct pre-existing vulnerabilities, status quo
  - legitimizes inequality, exclusion
  - may prevent improvements in sustainability and social equity

➔ ADAPTIVE RESILIENCE

# Conclusion: Sociological Insights

- Overcoming “variables” and “indices” approach to vulnerability
- Inclusion of perception, agency, identity, diversity
- Accounting for social units (family, household, networks), social actors (pets)
- Community level impact analysis (“social body”)
- Social justice considerations in resilience: toward adaptive/sustainable resilience



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