

Agenda

Exploring Local Community Resilience Imaginaries Pre Conference workshops/events November 27th

4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m. Challenging Resilience (Bronco Room) | Organized by “Disaster Researchers in Place”

Disaster research is in a state of flux. An enormous amount of research has been produced by this prolific discipline since its inception. Today the discipline finds itself pressured to provide not only scientific explanations but visions of just and sustainable futures after what is arguably a consistent increase in extreme operating conditions across the globe. More importantly, the pressure is on for disaster research to better connect with communities on the ground in the co-production of new knowledge and wisdom that can enhance community resilience. This workshop is an opportunity to engage in a transboundary convergent dialogue with the different perspectives in and outside of disaster research to plant the seed for change.

Advocacy for Resilience (Cenizo Room) | Organized by Dr. Kim Diana Conolly, Vice Dean for Advocacy and Experiential Learning for the University at Buffalo School of Law, and Director of the Clinical Legal Education Program.

As both a professional and academic field the legal community has been increasingly active in advocacy on behalf of vulnerable communities impacted by extreme events. University law clinics in particular play a crucial role both as training grounds for future legal professionals and at the same time play an even “therapeutic” role in the midst of chaotic conditions that often pin communities against agencies and other interests. This workshop brings together legal professionals and scholars to share experiences, develop pathways and co-design strategies that can better address both their internal student communities and the vulnerable populations they attempt to serve.

First Responders Mental Health Workshop (Ballroom) | Workshop organized by Dr. Amy Nitza, Executive Director of the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz.

She is a psychologist who specializes in providing mental health training in academic and non-academic settings both nationally and internationally, with an emphasis on disaster mental health and trauma recovery.

6 p.m. Pre-Event Reception (UTRGV Ballroom)

6:15 p.m.–6:30 p.m. Welcome Remarks

6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Presidents’ Roundtable Discussion | The Role of Universities in the Search for Community Resilience

Armchair discussion with presidents and chancellors of various institutions of higher education. University leadership plays a crucial role in establishing priorities, generating visions and eliciting how their academic institutions imagine resilient and sustainable futures. Powerful voices from Presidents to Chancellors’ offices in colleges and universities are necessary as part of an extended community of peers working to enhance the resiliency of communities “in their own backyards”.

7:30 p.m. Networking and Mariachi

8:30 p.m. Pre-Event Reception Ends

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Exploring Local Community Resilience Imaginaries

UTRGV Ballroom

November 28th

8:00 a.m.–8:45 a.m. Breakfast & Registration

8:45 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Welcome Remarks | Rosalia Guerrero, TEPHI

9:00 a.m.–9:45 a.m. Plenary Keynote | Dr. Arturo Massol | Casa Pueblo

“Casa Pueblo: a community model of self-decolonization for social well-being and climate adaptation”

9:45 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m.–11:45 a.m. 3 Morning Breakout Sessions

- Panel 1 (Cenizo): Community Resilience Imaginaries: Voces Unidas
- Panel 2 (Bronco): Community Resilience Imaginaries: Proyecto Azteca
- Panel 3 (Ballroom): Community Resilience Imaginaries: Arise Adelante

11:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Break

12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Lunch & Luncheon Keynote Address | Dr. Irasema Coronado

Resilience Beyond Borders: Nurturing Sustainable Futures in Transboundary Contexts

1:10 p.m.–2:10 p.m. Plenary Student Panel

Student And Young Scholars’ Panel: The Future Of Resilience

2:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m. 3 Afternoon Breakout Sessions

- Panel 1 (Bronco): Community Resilience from Academia’s Perspective - The Ethics of Resilience Research: Redistributing Power Under Extreme Conditions
- Panel 2 (Cenizo): Community Resilience from the Advocacy Perspective - Lawyering in extreme conditions
- Panel 3 (Ballroom): Community Resilience from the First Responder/Emergency Management Perspective

4 p.m.–4:45 p.m. Arm Chair Discussion among City/County Judges

Exploring Governmental Visions of Resilience Convened by Christian Corrales

Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez
Edinburg Mayor Ramiro Garza
Harlingen Mayor Norma Sepulveda
Texas Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa

4:45 p.m. Closing Remarks

Walter Diaz, Dean of College of Liberal Arts



Community Resilience Research Innovation and Advocacy (CCRRIA) Inaugural Conference

The Center for Community Resilience Research Innovation and Advocacy (CCRRIA) is an Organized Research Unit under the Department of Public Affairs and Security Studies in the College of Liberal Arts at UTRGV in collaboration with UTRGV's Department of Sociology and the Texas Epidemic and Public Health Institute. We are a Transboundary convergence platform (TCP) connecting and sharing the university's resilience related knowledge with our most vulnerable populations in the RGV, and simultaneously learning from their wisdom and experiences. The concept of the CCRRIA emerged from the creation of the RISE Network at the 2019 RISE Conference, held at the University of Albany (SUNY). Since then, it has been searching for a better understanding of the role that universities play in pre and post disaster environments.

The theme for the CCRRIA's Inaugural Conference is "Exploring Local Community Resilience Imaginaries." Extreme events, from climate related hazards to pandemics and social unrest, have called attention to the concept of resilience. In particular, the characteristics, dimensions and conditions in which vulnerable communities face, respond and "bounce back" from such events. While much attention has been given to hardening physical infrastructure, enlarging governmental budgets in an effort to "build back better", the voices of vulnerable communities continue to be submerged under a sea of competing and often polarized economic, and political interests in society today. The CCRRIA's inaugural conference seeks to open a space where those voices are not only accepted but highlighted front and centered of discussions seeking to include multiple stakeholders in society. Ultimately, the CCRRIA's inaugural conference explores the imagination of communities seeking a just, sustainable future.

The conference will provide access to multiple definitions of resilience promoting the participation of three major voices facing extreme events today: Rio Grande Valley communities and organizations, local governments and universities, and ultimately members of the first responder community. A convergence of dialogues, workshops, keynote and panel presentations will allow for an honest, humble and highly participative encounter between these important visions of resilience. The CCRRIA's inaugural conference seeks to open a space where those voices are not only accepted but highlighted in discussions seeking to include multiple community stakeholders. The RISE Network has remained active in the development of a new architecture of relationships between universities and communities and will utilize the CCRRIA inaugural conference as a catalyst workshop to further interconnect members in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas, the US Mexico Border region, the Gulf Coast and the Greater Caribbean. Come join us to explore and challenge current understandings of resilience and help us chart a new path for a just sustainable future!

About TEPHI

The Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute (TEPHI) is committed to keeping Texans safe and the economy strong by strengthening the capacity and resiliency of all Texas communities to respond to future infectious disease outbreaks. Housed at the UTHealth Houston, TEPHI was established in 2021 by the Texas Legislature. Through our work, we aim to serve as a national model of regional epidemic preparedness, and lay the groundwork for a coordinated and collaborative response. Learn more at tephi.texas.gov.

Questions? Contact RGV.center@tephi.texas.gov