Disaster Recovery Annotated Bibliography - Historic Preservation

This document was developed to provide information on the state of knowledge on disaster recovery. This document includes a list of articles collected in the Fall of 2018. To obtain relevant articles, a list of keywords was used to search Google Scholar and University Library Databases. These keywords were: “community disaster recovery”, disaster recovery”, “post recovery planning” “pre disaster planning”, and “national planning recovery”. An additional search of academic journals that are related to the planning field was then undertaken to ensure that articles from these journals were not overlooked. These journals included: Journal of the American Planning Association, Journal of Planning Education and Research, Applied Geography, Land Use Policy, Environment and Planning A, Planning Theory, Progress in Planning. After collecting articles, each article was then systematically reviewed to ensure relevance. The articles needed to address community level recovery (including issues related to housing, economic, infrastructure, planning, etc.) or note issues that affect recovery outcomes (e.g., differences in housing outcomes for rental versus owned housing). Next, we reviewed the reference list of identified articles to determine if any articles had been missed in the initial collection process. If there were additional articles that were missed, we collected the information and searched for the title of the article. After processing each article, the articles were then compiled into the Zotero software.

The Zotero bibliographic database is open to the public to view at: https://www.zotero.org/groups/2278263/recoveryguidancetamu/items

Historic Preservation

Articles that discuss historic preservation processes and concerns during recovery.


Problem, research strategy, and findings: Resilience has become an important planning goal for state and local government, providing a policy arena in which to integrate historic preservation and disaster mitigation, but significant questions remain about that relationship. There has been no study of coordination between preservation and hazard mitigation planning at the state level, and there is no widely available methodology for assessing the flood exposure of historic resources. In this study, we use mixed methods to address these two issues. We evaluate the degree to which state historic preservation plans and state hazard mitigation plans reflect an effort to connect planning processes or goals. We then use the states of Kentucky, Florida, and Colorado to assess the suitability of publicly available spatial data for identifying flood-exposed historic resources, paying special attention to the National Park Service’s Certified Local Government (CLG) program and the National Trust’s Main Street program. We find that historic preservation and disaster planning are unevenly integrated at the state level. While publicly available data are often effective in identifying historic resources located within floodplains, the usefulness of these data vary based on location and resource type. We find that CLG and Main Street
communities may be well positioned to take a leadership role in planning for the protection of historic resources from floods.


Problem, research strategy and findings: The 8.8 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck south-central Chile on February 27, 2010, affected 75% of the country’s population and damaged or destroyed 370,000 housing units (about 10% of the housing in six regions). Within six months, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development published a plan to repair or rebuild 220,000 units of low- and middle-income housing with government assistance within four years. By February 2014, 94% of the housing was complete. The successful rebuilding effort had strong leadership at the national and local levels and used existing programs and institutions. The management staff adapted programs over time to meet the needs of local conditions. When compared with housing recovery programs in other countries, Chile’s program stands out, combining national government management with local citizen input. The reconstruction plan also included updated zoning plans, road and infrastructure improvements, heritage recovery, and new master plans for affected cities. Going forward, the earthquake created an opportunity for Chile to use the recovery planning to expand national urban policy and to develop a framework for citizen participation at the local level. Takeaway for practice: Successful planning in disaster recovery involves strong government leadership and coordination together with the engagement of local government and the participation of citizens.


Researching traditional streetcars’ development impacts is challenging: most U.S. lines operate in downtown areas with many development stimuli. This article addresses that challenge through analysis of New Orleans building permits after Hurricane Katrina. We estimate how post-Katrina permit frequency changes with distance from streetcar stops, controlling for damage, proximity to commercial areas, and pre-Katrina demographics. We find that distance to stops strongly predicts building permits. Residential permits increase with distance to stops; commercial permits decrease. Findings confirm streetcars support commercial development, yet suggest potential displacement of residential uses. Implications for future streetcar projects in New Orleans and elsewhere are discussed.


Unlike housing, heritage is rarely prioritized in recovery planning, especially when the site subject to preservation was abandoned even before the disaster occurred. The fact that the preservation of indigenous architecture and landscapes is sometimes a necessity for those who cherish place attachments is often ignored; moreover, the fact that such preservation may provide an alternative path to socioeconomic community recovery is also often overlooked. Based on a case study of an old settlement of the Kucapungane (Rukai) people in Taiwan, who experienced a forced relocation driven by the 2009 Typhoon Morakot, this paper illustrates how a failed project of heritage preservation is regaining momentum and presenting new opportunities for alternative community development. In 2015, the old settlement of Kucapungane was listed as an endangered monument by the World Monuments Fund; this scaled up the discussion on heritage in the shadow of disaster. This longitudinal study argues that heritage
preservation serves as a link connecting the past and the future, through which communities have a better chance to orient themselves in navigating displacement and participating in postdisaster recovery.


The publication summarizes the outcomes of the International Symposium on Rebuilding After Earthquakes, sponsored by Stanford University in August 1990. Approximately 40 planners participated, including presenters from Yugoslavia, Armenia, Italy, Algeria, Mexico, and Nicaragua who illustrated parallels between their country’s redevelopment experiences following major earthquakes. The document provides advice for planners who face rebuilding of residential and other properties: the need to work across traditional professional boundaries; advice on pre-earthquake steps, such as assuring consistency between plans and development regulations; and the importance of creating the legal authority, structure and plans for future development. The presenters also stressed the value of regional planning and appropriate site planning considerations for temporary housing, and the worth of identifying geologic, seismic, and structural hazards before an earthquake hits. In addition, they addressed social considerations planners should take into account, particularly when confronted with historic preservation issues; homeowners’ safety concerns; the disparate effects on small business owners within the older central business districts; and the reestablishment of neighborhoods following the catastrophe.


The article discusses the use of a city resilience index for measurement of cities’ comparative resiliency, which could help cities with post-disaster long-term recovery strategies. Topics discussed include benefits of a city resilience index, housing and historic resources as the two essential components of city resilience index, use of a city resilience index for implementation of urban revitalization policy. It mentions establishment of a framework for reconstruction and building of cities.


The relationship between development and religion is an uneasy one. Since the invention of modernisation theory in the 1950s religion has been marginalised—seen as something that would fade as secularisation increased. Although this has not occurred, religion is still considered a taboo subject which falls outside the gamut of development, despite the religiosity of many faith-based development organisations, donors, and recipient communities. In this paper I emphasise the importance of religion to development by tracing religious influences within transnational development networks operating in Aceh, Indonesia, after the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. Religious influences are analysed amongst donor communities in Australia and New Zealand/Aotearoa; within the activities of religious NGOs in Aceh; amongst recipient communities; and in the physical landscape of Aceh, where the rebuilding of sacred spaces has been slow and difficult. It is argued that the current approach to religion within development, and much development research, is outdated and inappropriate, reflecting and enforcing particular
Western divisions between church and state. For more effective aid which attends to local concerns and priorities, transnational development networks need to acknowledge, incorporate, and involve religious spaces and institutions rather than continue to promote a culture of secularism.

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For disaster survivors, recovery requires more than regaining material losses and includes a need to incorporate the profoundly disruptive experience into individual and collective memory. Contemporary literature on post-traumatic stress notes the vivid sensory and recurrent qualities of traumatic disaster memories. By constructing a narrative from this sensory data, both individually and as a community, survivors create a recollection which is less likely to produce the same anxiety and allows individuals to incorporate disaster events into personal and community history. This narrative is also embedded in the landscape through the creation of sacred spaces, memorials, and monuments. This article explores the formation of post-disaster identities through the application of memory by survivors of the May 22, 2011, tornado in Joplin, Missouri.