The Department of Sociology invites you to “Summer of 2017 Natural Disaster Symposium”
Thursday, May 03, 2018, 2:00 – 5:00 pm, INTS 1113

Dr. Jenniffer M. Santos-Hernández College of Social Sciences University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras

An Unfolding Catastrophe and a Compromised Recovery in Puerto Rico: Disaster Research in the Wake of Hurricane María
On September 2017 Puerto Rico was impacted by two hurricanes, Irma and Maria. This presentation outlines the findings of quick response and ongoing disaster research in Puerto Rico that sought to examine and contextualize how authorities, organizations, and citizens responded to the events to meet basic and emerging needs. Understanding the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that mediate social vulnerability and emergency response decisions, actions, and experiences is vital for disaster reduction and for the coordination of emergency services.

Roberto Rivera
Hurricane María Stories of Hope and Courage; and Lessons Learned
The presentation examines the stories of four people who displayed courage and hope while enduring the post-Hurricane Maria devastation on the island of Puerto Rico. As a volunteer relief worker in Puerto Rico, Rivera witnessed the ramifications of the inadequate response plan.

Alessandro Morosin
The Impact of Oaxaca’s 2017 Earthquake on Indigenous Social Movement Strategies
Drawing on interviews and ethnographic data gathered in Fall 2017, this presentation examines the ways in which government policies of "disaster relief" aggravated inequality, and also how social movements in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec shifted their focus toward rebuilding homes and social solidarity following the 8.2 earthquake last September which collapsed 25,000 homes.