

Reaction Paper Makiko Kikuchi

In "Targeting Households at risk for storms", Morrow argues from the socio-political ecology perspective that the storm vulnerability is socially created. She clearly illustrates the mechanisms that render some individuals and households more vulnerable by showing four dimensions of resources such as Economic/Material, Human, Family and Social, and Political. Moreover, she emphasizes the importance to develop vulnerability maps that are comprehensive and predictive for a coming disaster incorporating demographic information as well as data showing vulnerabilities. Although passionately mentioning how critical this community based vulnerability assessment is, Morrow did not give us details such as how to assess the vulnerabilities and to reinforce the frail community.

In "Vulnerability to Disaster and Sustainable Development", Anderson answers the question regarding the vulnerability assessment in the last section. Before getting the answer, readers realize the mutuality between reducing vulnerability and making progress in sustainable development either positively and negatively. Anderson spent her more time on describing the Vulnerability Assessment Frame Work that is comprised of four steps; Identify hazards, Identifying exposure, identifying the complex sources of the hazard and Time and Space dimensions. The most critical point of this could be the last step which elaborates "dynamic change and interrelatedness of factors that affect vulnerability", because a community is not an accumulation of individuals but an organic component consisting of dwellers where various kinds of reactions always occur positively or negatively.

In "Chapter 2: Social Systems, Ecological Networks and Disasters, Hurricane Andrew –Ethnicity, gender and the sociology of disasters", the authors argue that "any community should be conceptualized as an ecological network of social systems", which practically elaborates that "competition and conflict are inherent" in any given communities. Assuming that it is innate nature of a community, we, the international community, must pursue the optimal way to mitigate the tension and promote coordination not only at an affected community but also state and international level.