Building community resilience, lessons from urban areas globally

Building Resilience Around the World,

UR Boulder

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Outline

• What is community resilience

• Challenged by stresses

• Shaped by 4 resources

• With 3 dynamic attributes
Communities: geographic boundaries & shared fate

Lyons: downtownlyons.com
Jamestown: www.sangres.com
Boulder: attachmentmastery.com
Longmont: coloradoliferecovery.com
Community Resilience is a metaphor

Capacity for successful adaptation
in the face of stresses and adversities
There are limits to successful adaptation

Waldo Canyon fire
346 homes...

Boulder flooding
September 2013

India flooding
June 2013
LIMITS WILL BE HIGHER THE HIGHER THE MAGNITUDE OF GLOBAL WARMING
Community Resilience is a process linking a network of 4 resources with dynamic attributes.
Does **Economic Development** create:

Livelihoods’ stability?

Equitable distribution of assets and options?

Own: Dharavi, India
Mobilization of support during and after stresses and adversities:

The rule of relative need, or the rule of relative advantage

Race and Recovery in Post-Katrina New Orleans cooperproject.org
Social capital

Individuals invest, access & use resources embedded in social support networks.
Social capital influences community resilience in positive and negative ways

E.g., low income people in Buenos Aires, Argentina relied on neighborhood network to transmit telephonically storm-surge warnings.
When peripherals are not connected to the network

Santiago Chile actor network. Size of nodes is proportional to the number of ties.
Information effective if “usable”, i.e.,

- Tailored to local conditions
- Trusted
- Timely
Communication and community narratives: do the vulnerable feel heard?

“Neither the municipality, nor the Government... they do absolutely nothing, they don't care. They only care about downtown and about barrio alto” (inhabited by high-income populations) (neighborhood leader Santiago de Chile).
How are communities portrayed?

Are they blamed?

Do media narratives lead responders to attend law breakers rather than safe lives?
Shall we focus on the dynamic attributes of community resilience?

Robustness

Redundancy

Rapidity
Or shall we also focus on possible outcomes of our community responses?

First,
unintentional transformation
Business as usual
Second, persistence

- Rebuild
- Restore
Third, proactive navigation of transformation