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Queering Disaster Response: Best Practices for Intentional and Inclusive Disaster Response

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Queering Disaster Response: Best Practices for Intentional and Inclusive Disaster Response

Abstract

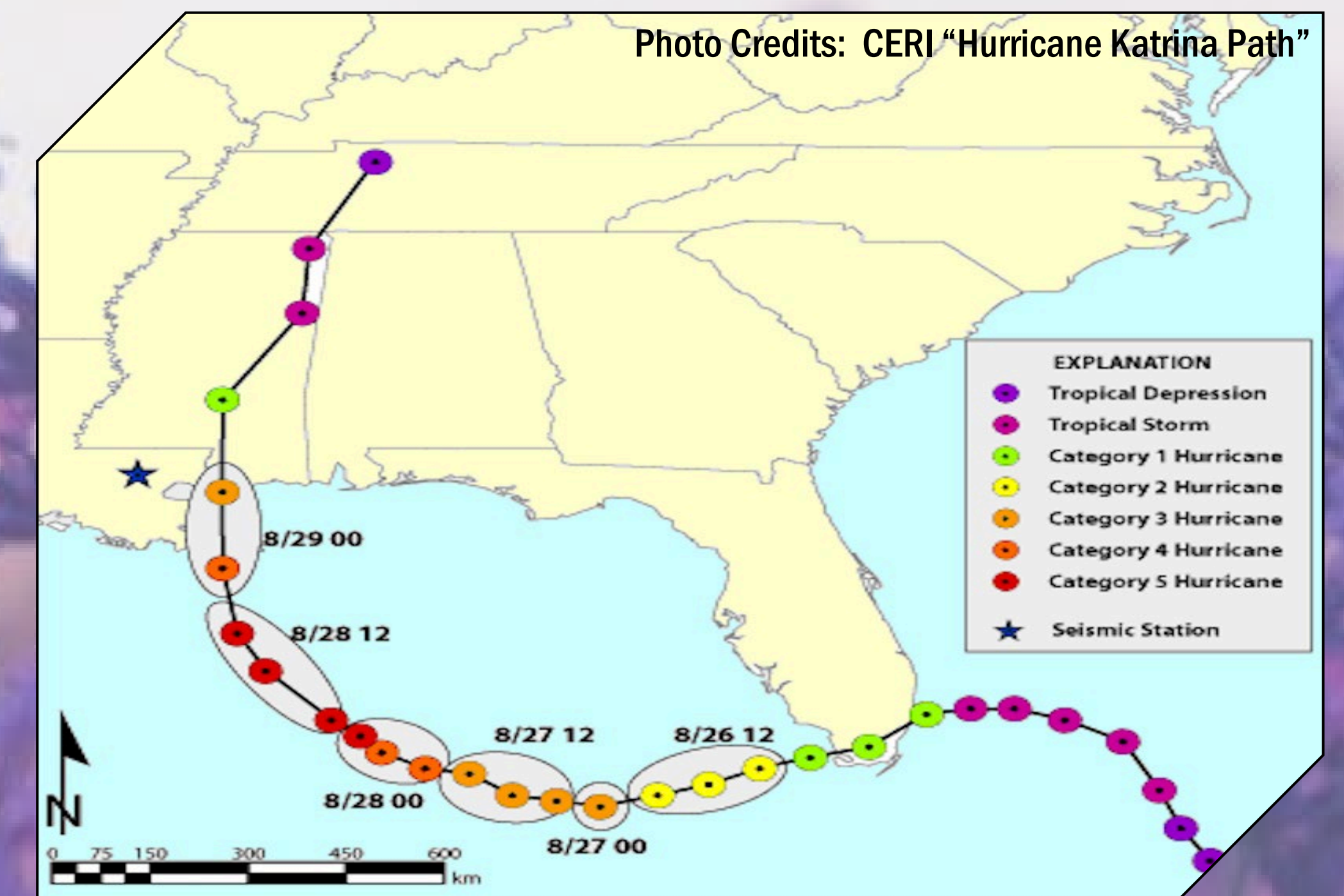
Anthropogenic climate change is causing an increase in the severity and frequency of climate disasters. Marginalized communities are disproportionately vulnerable to the adverse impacts of these disasters. Disaster aid and management don't center marginalized communities within their planning efforts, thus furthering systems of oppression. Intentional and inclusive aid should center those most impacted and involve them throughout the process.

By: Sean Fisher

Advisor: Jean Lavigne and Corrie Grosse

Research Question

What are best practices for intentionally including BIPOC, Queer, Women, and Differently Abled communities in disaster recovery?



Case Study: Hurricane Katrina

August 25th, 2005

- Hurricane Katrina makes landfall in FL

August 29th, 2005

- Landfall in Buras, LA

- 20% of New Orleans underwater

August 30th, 2005

- 80% of New Orleans underwater

September 1st, 2005

- 30,000 at New Orleans Superdome

- 25,000 at Convention Center

Impacts

Post-Katrina shelters were not equipped to support the communities they had brought in and lacked essentials to support people in them.

BIPOC

- Latinx people denied aid due to documentation but exploited for reconstruction.
- After Katrina predominantly POC neighborhoods are now richer, whiter, and smaller.

Women

- Lack in feminine sanitary products.
- Human Trafficking of women and girls increases 20% - 30% during and after disasters.

Queer

- Lesbian couples denied relationship and access to aid.
- Protest claiming Katrina as act of God against queerness.

Differently Abled

- Disaster messaging or alerts was limited
- Accessibility in and to shelters was limited

Solutions and Best Practices

- Intentional inclusion within decision making spaces
- "Nothing about us without us"
- Investment into scaling community led responses.
- Public education and awareness of disaster risk and preparedness
- Disaster resilient infrastructure

"Disaster can thus be seen as social events that reveal the inequalities, vulnerabilities, and coping mechanisms that inform how people negotiate the 'permanent disaster' of daily life." -Lisa Overton

