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The Social Policy Analysis and Research Center

Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo

WEBINAR SERIES: LECTURE 2

"From tragedy to opportunity: Post disaster resettlement and community building in Honduras"



Professor Ryan Alaniz,
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California Polytechnic State
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Professor Alaniz has spent more than 20 years working on various grassroots development projects in the Global South. Professor Alaniz's academic specialists and research interests include areas such as disasters, recovery, relocation, resettlement, community development & community building, social change, Latin America, water scarcity & drought, correctional education etc.



30th April 2021



7.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. (SL time)



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Zoom Meeting ID: 833 4828 2595

Passcode: 938676

Abstract

The climate crisis has spurred debates about how to address the relocation of whole communities away from vulnerable areas. To investigate this issue, a comparative case study was conducted of two initially similar Honduran resettlements built for survivors of Hurricane Mitch (1998) by two different organizations in subsequent years.

Twelve years after the hurricane, one resettlement had high crime, low participation, and low social capital, while the other maintained a high degree of safety and social health. Drawing on ethnography, interviews, and surveys, the data suggests that displaced groups need significant external support and guidance to develop from a resettlement into a community.