NATURAL HAZARDS

CRISIS ORAL HISTORY

RICIA ANNE CHANSKY, THE ORAL HISTORY LAB @ THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO AT MAYAGÜEZ

EATING IN CRISIS

SOCIAL CAPITAL + POST-DISASTER FOOD SECURITY

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- PROCESS-BASED CRISIS ORAL HISTORY LAB
- TRAUMA-INFORMED PROJECTS
- CODE OF ETHICS FOR WORKING IN CHRONIC CRISIS

ARCHIVO DE RESPUESTAS EMERGENCIAS DE PUERTO RICO

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ARCHIVO DE RESPUESTAS EMERGENCIAS

USES DIGITAL DATA CURATION TO MAP THE RESPONSES TO STRATIFIED DISASTER FROM TEN MUTUAL AID ORGANISATIONS ACROSS THE PUERTO RICAN ARCHIPELAGO

- ALACENA FEMINISTA
- CÁRITAS DE BAYAMÓN
- COME COLEGIAL
- COMEDORES SOCIALES
- EL PUENTE
- FUNDACIÓN DE CORTÉS
- ITIAS
- JUNTAGENTE
- OPERATION BLESSING
- PORTAL DE AMOR

HOW DID MUTUAL AID ORGANISATIONS FOCUSED ON FOOD SECURITY SCALE UP AFTER 2017 HURRICANE MARÍA + THEN ADAPT FOR THE NEW NEEDS OF COVID-19?







- DIGITAL CURATION ALLOWS FOR DATA MAPPING, ESPECIALLY WHEN NARRATIVES ARE READ TOGETHER WITH EDITORIAL EMPHASIS ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE LIFE STORIES
- ORAL HISTORIES WITH MUTUAL AID ORGANISATION FOUNDERS REVEAL ORIGIN STORIES RELATED TO BUILDING HYPERLOCAL, GRANULAR EXCHANGE NETWORKS INTO FORMAL MUTUAL AID ORGANISATIONS
- NARRATORS TELL STORIES OF THE WAYS IN WHICH EXPERIENCE WITH SOCIAL CAPITAL BUILDS INTO ORGANISED MUTUAL AID

INFORMAL BONDS THAT WE CREATE

SOCIAL CAPITAL

SOCIAL CAPITAL SAVES LIVES +
IMPROVES REBUILDING AFTER A DISASTER

BUT HOW IS SOCIAL CAPITAL DEVELOPED?

NATURAL HAZARDS

‘THE MAJOR IMPLICATION OF OUR WORK FOR DISASTER RECOVERY PRACTITIONERS IS TO SEE DISASTER RECOVERY AS A DYNAMIC OF RELATIONSHIPS’

ZENO-GONZÁLEZ + BUTLER
RISK, HAZARDS + CRISIS IN PUBLIC POLICY
2025

'PRE-DISASTER SOCIAL ORGANIZATION,
COMMUNITY PLANNING, + INTERACTIONS
ADD SIGNIFICANT RESILIENCY AFTER A DISASTER,
ESPECIALLY IN ORGANIZING COMMUNITIES TO TAKE ACTION'

ROQUE, PIJAWKA + WUTICH,
RISKS, HAZARDS + CRISIS IN PUBLIC POLICY
2020

'WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE AFTERMATH OF A DISASTER AS IT IS POORLY DOCUMENTED BUT CAN BE POTENTIALLY POWERFUL FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW SOCIAL CAPITAL CAN ADVANCE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE-ORIENTED PROJECTS'

ROQUE, PIJAWKA + WUTICH,
RISKS, HAZARDS + CRISIS IN PUBLIC POLICY
2020

HOW DID MUTUAL AID ORGANISATIONS FOCUSED ON FOOD SECURITY SCALE UP AFTER 2017 HURRICANE MARÍA + THEN ADAPT FOR THE NEW NEEDS OF COVID-19?







- FAMILY
- COLLABORATION
- EDUCATION

SOCIAL CAPITAL

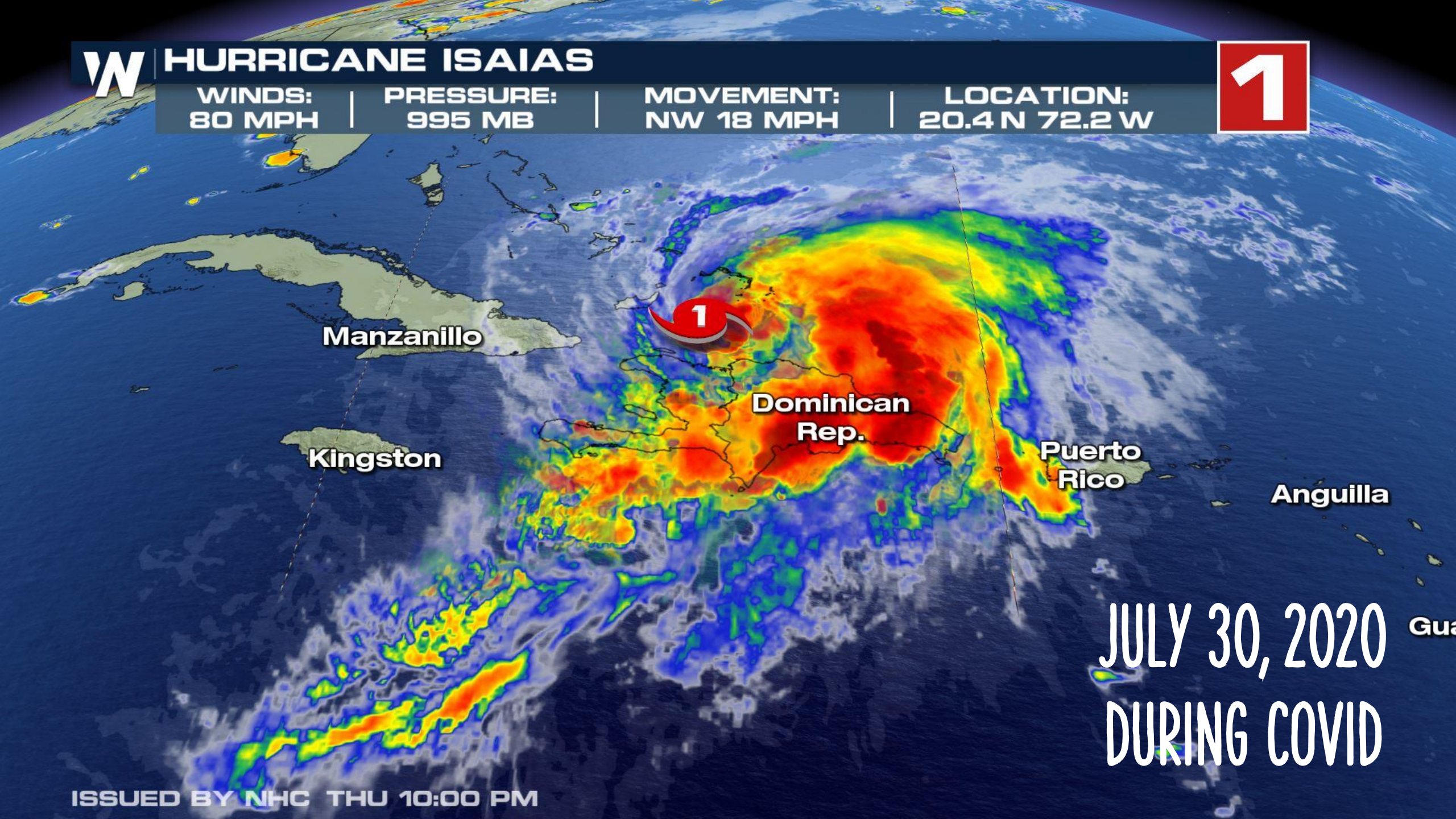

EDUCATION

Amanda Sofía Soto González, Cofounder of Alacena Feminista Mayagüez

1. I have "lived in Mayagüez for many years" and "consider myself to be from Mayagüez."
2. Undergraduate Social Sciences fieldwork course, "Organización y transformación comunitaria," in which students are mentored through the "creation and organization of projects for community transformation."
3. Participated in the UPR students' huelga, a multicampus strike that closed the university in 2017 to protest—among other things—the government's unjust austerity measures that cut the university's budget by more than half and created a humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico.

"I like to read, but suddenly ... I was seeing all these things that I'd read about in theory turn into reality."

"If these people are doing it, what can I do? I had that hunger for knowledge and that hunger to ask, well, now that I know, what can I do? What am I supposed to do? What's within my reality?"


HURRICANE ISAIAS
WINDS: 80 MPH
PRESSURE: 995 MB
MOVEMENT: NW 18 MPH
LOCATION: 20.4 N 72.2 W
1
Manzanillo
Kingston
Dominican Rep.
Puerto Rico
Anguilla
JULY 30, 2020
DURING COVID
ISSUED BY NHC THU 10:00 PM



EDUCATION

"And I remember it clearly. We went to help clean up...And when I say to clean, I mean clean intensely because we're talking about houses that lost everything and the whole house and the whole wall was full of mud. It wasn't habitable. And after they successfully managed the clean-up where they at least had a clean and comfortable space to sleep in, that's when all the needs started to surface. 'I lost my medications in the flood. My food was spoiled because my refrigerator was damaged. My toothbrush, where is it? And I don't have a dollar on me because I wasn't prepared for this, and I get paid $7.25 [an hour]. I live paycheck to paycheck.'"

Amanda and other "students from the Mayagüez Campus from varying disciplines" founded a branch of the mutual aid organization Alacena Feminista in Mayagüez to "engage in continuous acts of solidarity."

"It started as a single act of solidarity," she explains. "No one intended for it to become what it is right now...What we decided to do [first] was...to collect funds" The account grew "from dollar to dollar" until they first saw twenty dollars and then a hundred.

Amanda not only amplifies what she is learning about practices of care; she is also becoming a teacher with her community work. She describes participating in a reproductive education information sharing in which she and other members of Alacena Feminista went house to house with information about and supplies for menstruation provided by [the nonprofit organization] Matrilíneo. As they talked to people in the neighborhood, they asked, "Do you know what a solidarity exchange is? And what does that mean to you?"

She also discusses her major in Biology and Industrial Microbiology as connected to her community work. She shares that "it's hard for me not to see it, above all things, the need that exists in terms of food sovereignty and food security. It's important to see it from a biological and anthropological point of view where we're living in a space where our needs aren't being met. In any other space, in any other context, it means that the species ceases to exist. And it worries me, as part of society, as part of the Mayagüez community, for there to be this need that no one's addressing."

EDUCATION

SOCIAL CAPITAL



COME COLEGIAL

caritas

COLLABORATION



SINGULAR QUANTITATIVE DATA POINTS

NATURAL HAZARDS

~~SINGULAR QUANTITATIVE DATA POINTS~~

NATURAL HAZARDS

CLIMATE STORIES
HOLD QUALITATIVE DATA

ORAL HISTORY

BRIAN WILLIAMS AND MARK RILEY

Argue for firmly situating oral history as a facet of environmental history, noting that this type of research "may provide information where no other data sources exist."

"The Challenge of Oral History to Environmental History." *Environment and History* 26, 207–231 (2020).

MELODY HUNTER-PILLION

"Through oral history, local knowledge may help identify climate change and complement scientific knowledge to develop resiliency and adaptation tools."

"Oral histories battling climate change." National Council on Public History "Our Climate Emergency" series. https://ncph.org/history-at-work/oral-histories-battling-climate-change/.

SOCIAL CAPITAL?

ORAL HISTORY

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NATURAL HAZARDS

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ORAL HISTORY JOURNAL NEW ISSUE

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Robson Laverdi, Evelyn Roberta Nimmo and **Alessandra Izabel de Carvalho** explore the perspectives of traditional erva-mate growers in southern Brazil

Rib Davis draw[illegible] the heart of climate ch[illegible] experience

Ricia Anne Chansky explains the role of mutual aid when extreme weather deepens chronic crisis in Puerto Rico

[illegible]xanna Banksland examines the resilience of Arctic communities in the face of climate change

Bruno Capilé, Patrícia Falco Genovez, Eunice Sueli Nodari and **Lise Fernanda Sedrez** analyse memories of flooding after environmental disaster in Brazil

Sean Holman, Aldyn Chwelos, Francesca Fionda, Sandra Engstrom and **Maria Vukovich** describe a global project telling climate disaster survivors' stories

Shirleene Robinson and **Scott McKinnon** discuss community activism in the aftermath of the Badja Forest Road Fire, Australia

Deb Anderson reviews five oral history publications dealing with crisis, climate and environment

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