

77th Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Santa Fe, New Mexico (2017/03/26–04/01)

Theme: Risk and Disaster

Location: La Fonda on the Plaza Hotel, Santa Fe, USA

The Society for Applied Anthropology organized its 77th annual meeting at the heart of New Mexico's Santa Fe. This conference was composed of 334 sessions and gathered over 2,000 participants. The interest group of "Risk and Disaster" organized 39 sessions. Their themes included climate change, vulnerability, and resilience, conflicts, nuclear disasters and health, recovery and reconstruction, violence, disaster response, forced migration and food problems, sustainable development, conservation policies, mental health and trauma, philosophy and ethics of disasters. The participants included many of the leading anthropologists of disasters but also consultants and officials of the World Bank, UNDP, USA government agencies, NGOs and independent scholars.

During a well-received session on "Cultures of Disaster Recovery," Dr. Sébastien Boret presented a paper co-authored with Dr. Akihiro Shibayama. Their presentation discussed the issues surrounding Archiving and Memorializing Disasters: Their Roles and their Flaws in Reducing Disaster Risk. This presentation generated many discussion about the challenges of institutionalizing disaster archiving and memorialization as they create a culture of 'discomfort.' Responding to this challenge, Dr. Boret highlighted their current work with Dr. Aiko Sakurai in the province of Aceh where 'forgotten' memorials are being reintroduced within the local culture through disaster education in local schools and transformed into 'local history' of disasters.



Dr. Sébastien P. Boret during the Q&A Session of Cultures of Disaster

Report : Sébastien P. Boret and Akihiro Shibayama

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