

Humanitarian Engineering Guest Lecture Series Fall 2012 Presents

Dr. Rebekah Green

Underestimating Worst Case: Impacts and Recovery following the East Japan Earthquake

In 2011, Japan, a nation renowned for its robust earthquake and tsunami disaster risk management system, experienced the largest earthquake and tsunami in its history. These events greatly exceeded the nation's worst-case disaster planning scenarios. A year after the event, the presenter and a team of disaster management specialists examined regional impacts and recovery through on-site interviews with a range of experts and actors in house and infrastructure recovery. Emerging from this reconnaissance is a picture of how engineered solutions and unique northern

Japanese cultures combined, often in surprising ways, to impact human behavior and recovery potential. This region's experience suggests community resilience may need to better combine robust strategies of disaster prevention and flexible strategies for "graceful" community failure.



GRL Conference Room

**Friday
November 30, 2012**

12.00 - 1.00 PM

Also by Dr Green:

Thursday 11/29 HH202

2 - 3.15 PM in Dr. Juan Lucena's ESCD class

Istanbul's Fault Lines: Engineers and Residents Negotiating Risk

Istanbul, Turkey sits one of the world's most active seismic faults: The North Anatolian Fault. With over 70% of the city's housing considered illegally constructed, tensions between earthquake engineers and residents runs high. Each perceives risk differently. This difference shapes social interactions and, ultimately, patterns of social vulnerability and structural fragility across this teeming city of 13 million.

About the speaker

Dr. Rebekah Green is the Associate Director at the Resilience Institute of Western Washington University. She received her Ph.D. from Cornell University where she combined structural engineering and anthropology to study

physical and social vulnerability in the squatter settlements of Istanbul, Turkey. Dr. Green is acting co-director of Risk RED, a non-profit organization aimed at improving public education for disaster risk reduction. She has worked with community organ-

izations in the US, Asia and Latin America, as well as national and international agencies and organizations. At the Resilience Institute, Dr. Green researches ways community can become more resilience to natural hazard events.