

Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future Topical Lunch

Title: *Building Research Collaborations and Capacity at Cornell for the Study of International Disaster Preparedness, Recovery, and Resilience Towards Sustainable Futures*

Host: Dr. Keith Tidball, Dept. of Natural Resources, Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension Disaster Education Network

Date: Wednesday March 14, 2018 12:00 – 1:00pm 300 Rice Hall

This Topical lunch will feature the perspectives of renowned disaster expert and anthropologist guest - [Anthony Oliver-Smith](#)

A newly formed Cornell working group on “Global Disasters” aims to build research collaborations and capacity across the University for the study of international disaster preparedness, recovery, and resilience towards sustainable futures. The working group steering committee is a multi-disciplinary team of faculty with expertise in economics, natural resources, planning, anthropology, sociology, and sustainable building; and research accomplishments in environmental conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster response, global development, environmental sociology, risk management and government policy in U.S. and international contexts.

We aim to foster greater awareness, research activity and collaboration among social scientists and area experts to improve approaches toward disaster mitigation, resilience, and recovery, especially among poor and marginalized communities. Whether natural or manmade, disasters always result from the interaction of human and environmental factors and disaster risk and recovery have social, cultural and political dimensions. For these reasons, it is crucially important to enlist the theories, methodologies and insights of social and behavioral sciences in the study of disasters, to improve individual and collective responses and public policy toward this problem of global importance.