

Seminar Writeup
Nan Tang

CSDE - The Long-Term Impacts of Rising Disaster Costs on Social Inequality

James Elliott

2/22 12:30 - 1:30

Name: Connor Gilroy

Affiliation: Second-year Master student in UW Sociology

Facts: Connor's field of interest is queer studies and women's studies. In his words, sociology of sexuality is learning the interaction between dynamic changing of gender mismatching and political economic and technological changes.

In the seminar, the speaker focused on two research questions and followed up with the observational study he has conducted to seek the answer to the questions. The first sociological issue he mentioned was about whether the rising number of natural disaster and soaring economic damage caused by natural hazards have impact on wealth inequality. And another question is whether Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s assistance helps alleviate the natural hazard related wealth inequality. In the observational study, he randomly sampled three thousand householders across US, and recorded their race, gender, insurance, education, and whether assisted by FEMA. In order to follow-up their economy status, he did interviews with all householders every two years through 1999 to 2013. Based on the observation, he found the average wealth of black family householders who with no advanced education almost has no growth, while average wealth of white educated householders keeps a staple growth even though natural disaster occurs more often through the time. One of the causations of such inequality he said, is due to the proportion of white's self-employed business rate is much higher than the rate among blacks. Thereby, the economy gap increases due to there are more business and profit for self-owned companies after natural disaster occurred.