**Consent Form**

**Title: Barriers to the Access of Natural Disaster Information by Undocumented Immigrants**

Conducted by: Sylvia Wilson (Student) Telephone (512) 438-9751

Texas State University – San Marcos, Department of Geography, San Marcos, Texas

Student Advisor: John Tiefenbacher (512) 245-8327

You are being asked to participate in a research study. This form provides you with information about the study. You are encouraged to read this information and ask any questions you may have before deciding whether or not to participate. You will find more information about this study from the person conducting the research (Sylvia Wilson); she will describe the study to you and answer your questions.

**The purpose of this study is** to analyze the barriers faced by undocumented immigrants to the access of information about natural disasters, for example hurricanes or flooding. The hypothesis of the research is that these barriers frame human behavior in emergency situations. The social factors and the nature of natural disasters will be analyzed in order to understand: 1) mechanisms affecting dissemination of natural disaster information at the local level, and 2) to what degree legal status in the United States creates barriers that influence the access to accurate/clear information.

**Eligibility:** The ideal candidate for participation in this study is an undocumented immigrant that has past experience with natural disasters in Houston, Texas.

**Questionnaire:** Individuals who agree to be in this study will be asked questions in a structured survey. Total time estimated to participate in the survey is 1 hour. The survey consists of 28 questions broken down by these 5 topics:

Present Family Situation

Language Barriers

Fear of Deportation

Economic/Financial Situation

Past Natural Disaster Experience

*Example question: Have you been displaced by the destruction caused by Hurricane Ike?*

**Risk of participating in the study:** There are no physical or psychological risks associated with your participation in this study.

**Benefits of participating in the study:** Participants will be contributing to a greater understanding of how undocumented immigrants receive and use natural disaster information, which can contribute to better dissemination of information during future natural disasters. Unfortunately, no monetary compensation will be provided to participants.

**Participation Disclaimer:** Your participation is voluntary, which means you can refuse to participate or stop your participation at any time. To do so, tell the researcher you would like to stop participation. You may choose not to answer any of the questions for any reason.

If you have any questions, you may ask them now, or if you have further questions about the research, research participants’ rights, and/or research related injuries to participants please direct your questions to the IRB Chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 – [Lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:Lasser@txstate.edu)), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102).

**Data Collection Procedure:** The data collection procedure is totally anonymous. Data will not be collected on personal information, such as name, address, or telephone number. However personal information such as age, gender, legal status, and occupation will be collected, but these data will not be linked to the participant’s name.

**Data Records:** There will be only paper records associated with this study. Interviews will not be recorded. The records of this study will be stored securely and kept confidential. Only the researcher, authorized personnel from Texas State University, and members of the Institutional Review Board have the right to review research records and will protect the confidentiality of those records. All publications will exclude any information that will make it possible to identify you as a subject.

A summary of the findings will be provided to participants upon completion of the study if requested. Request can be made by phone directly to the researcher Sylvia Wilson (512-438-9751), or via email ([sw1268@txstate.edu](mailto:sw1268@txstate.edu))

The researcher will provide you with a copy of this consent for your records.