

ROBERT F. HARNEY PROGRAM IN ETHNIC, IMMIGRATION AND PLURALISM STUDIES
MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS
2016 - 2017 HARNEY LECTURE SERIES IN ETHNICITY

Mark VanLandingham

Culture and its Confounders: The Roots of Post-Disaster Resilience within an Immigrant Enclave

Thursday September 29, 2016 2-4 p.m.

Room 108N, Munk School of Global Affairs Trinity Site
1 Devonshire Place, University of Toronto



Abstract: The recovery of the Vietnamese American community in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina was much more robust than was the recovery of other communities that were similarly-affected. In my lecture I'll explore several explanations for why that was, focusing on a potential role for culture. I'll explain why many disaster researchers and other social scientists avoid explanations that invoke culture; discuss how culture is often conflated with other features of social structure that are more akin to privilege; review some recent developments in the study of culture; and apply some of this recent work towards an understanding of why the Vietnamese fared so well.

Mark VanLandingham, Ph.D., is a sociologist and demographer who focuses on a wide array of topics related to social science and public health. He currently leads projects focusing on the antecedents and consequences of largescale rural-to-urban migration within Southeast Asia; and acculturation, health, and well-being among Vietnamese immigrants in the United States. He co-leads a team of researchers from Tulane, Harvard, NYU, Brown, and Michigan investigating Health and Demographic Disparities in long term Recovery from Hurricane Katrina (HDDR-HD), funded by a new Program Award (P01) from NIH. He teaches Population Studies, Field Methods in Disaster Research, and Health Problems of Developing Societies.

This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

Open to the public

Registration: <http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/ethnicstudies/harney-lectures/>