



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON
OSTROM WORKSHOP
COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Brigham Daniels

Professor of Law, Brigham Young University

Monday, March 1: 12:00 – 1:00 pm EST

Virtual via Zoom: [Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)



Disaster Vulnerability in 3D

From the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, we have been told that different people face different risks from the virus. This laser focus on disaster vulnerability is quite unusual. Usually vulnerability is seen as the “silent killer”—something we notice only after the disaster is over. Leveraging the unique vantage point of COVID-19, this article shows how a data-driven approach to vulnerability could improve disaster policy during the pandemic and other disasters. Drawing on new empirical data, as well as experience in past disasters, we explore three dimensions of vulnerability and their implications for policymakers. First, using statistical analysis and GIS mapping, we develop a COVID-19 vulnerability index to look at the geography of vulnerability across the United States. Incorporating insights from our exploration of the geographic dimension of vulnerability and lessons of past disasters, we then explore two other kinds of vulnerabilities, competing vulnerability and political vulnerability.

Brigham Daniels, Professor of Law, has expertise in environmental law, property law, and natural resources law. Professor Daniels earned a PhD from Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment. He received his juris doctorate from Stanford Law School. He regularly teaches courses relating to environmental law and property law.

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