

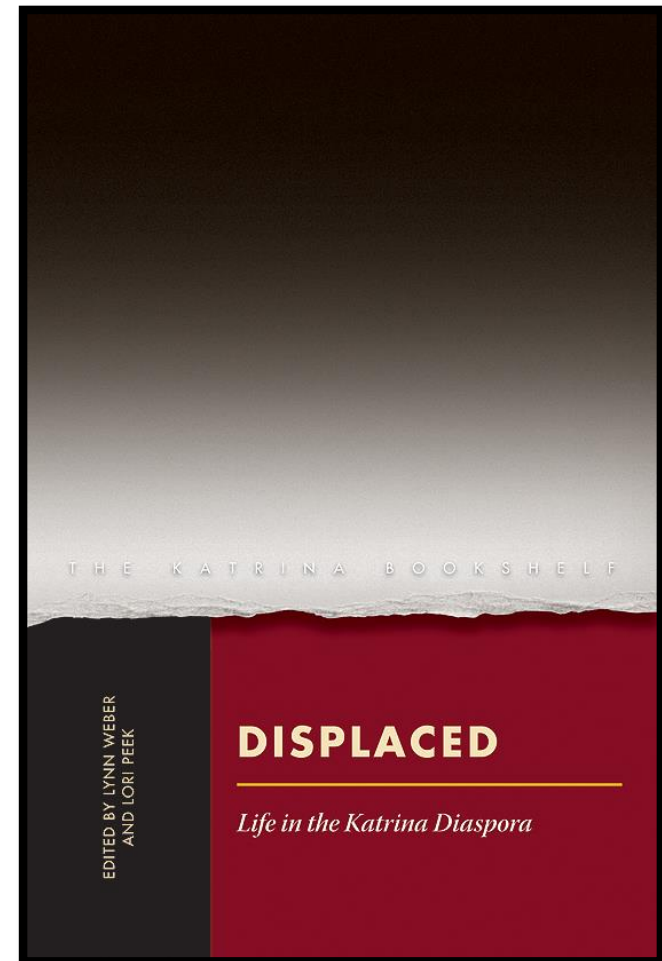
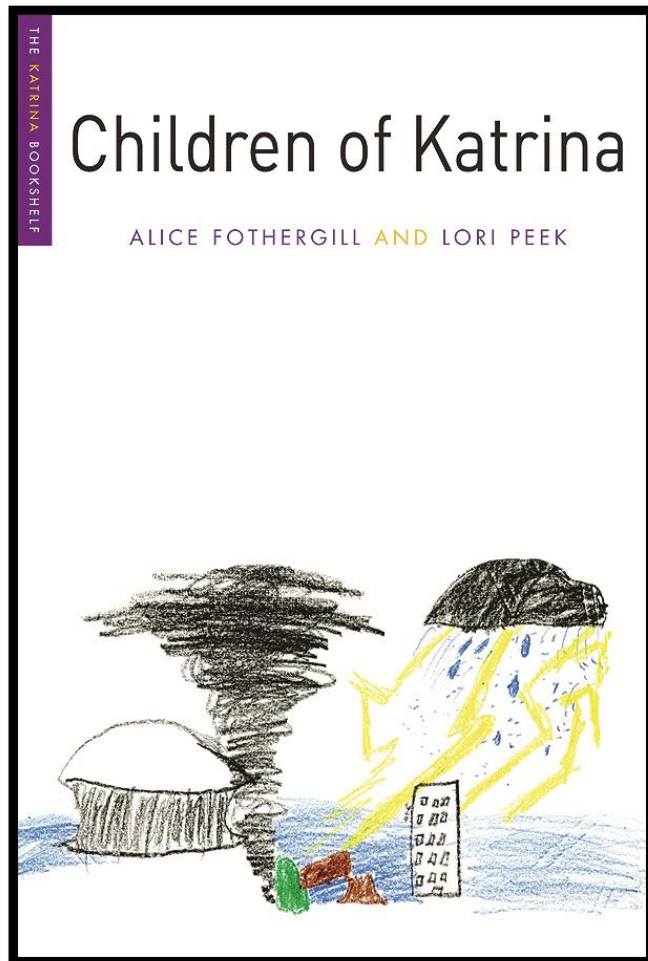
Exposure Outliers: Children Coming of Age in an Age of Environmental Extremes

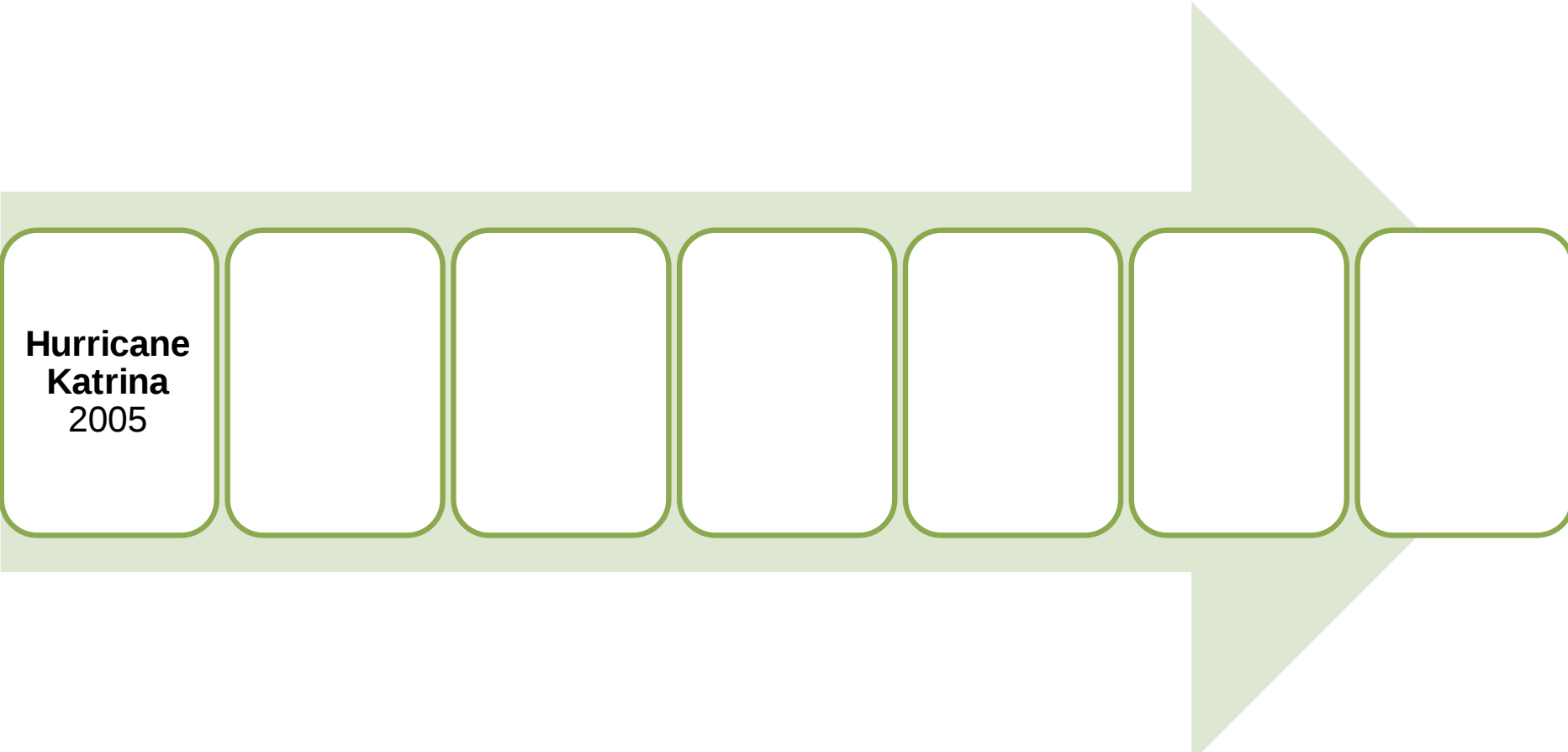
Lori Peek, Ph.D.

Director, Natural Hazards Center
Professor, Department of Sociology
Principal Investigator, CONVERGE
University of Colorado Boulder

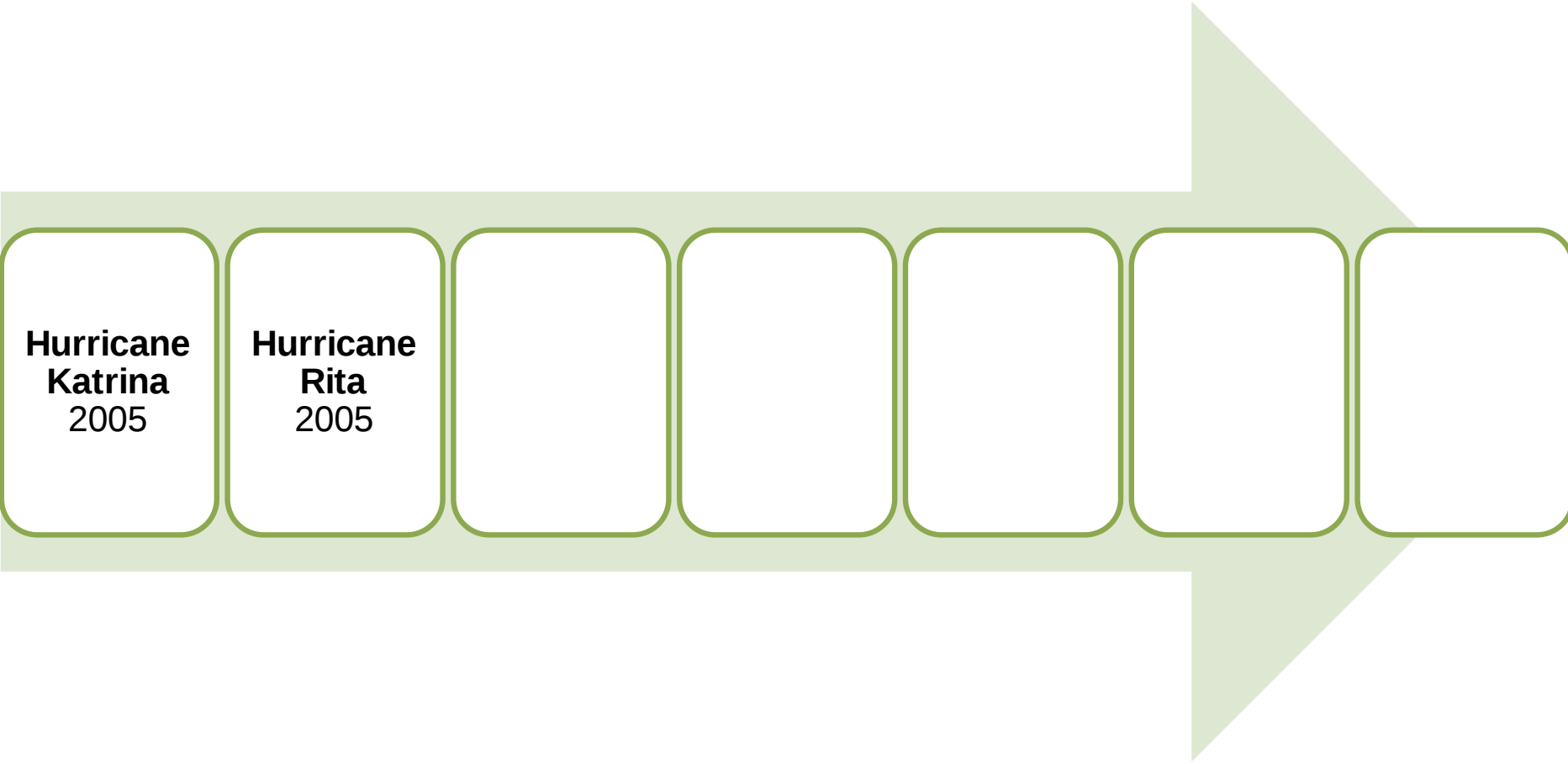






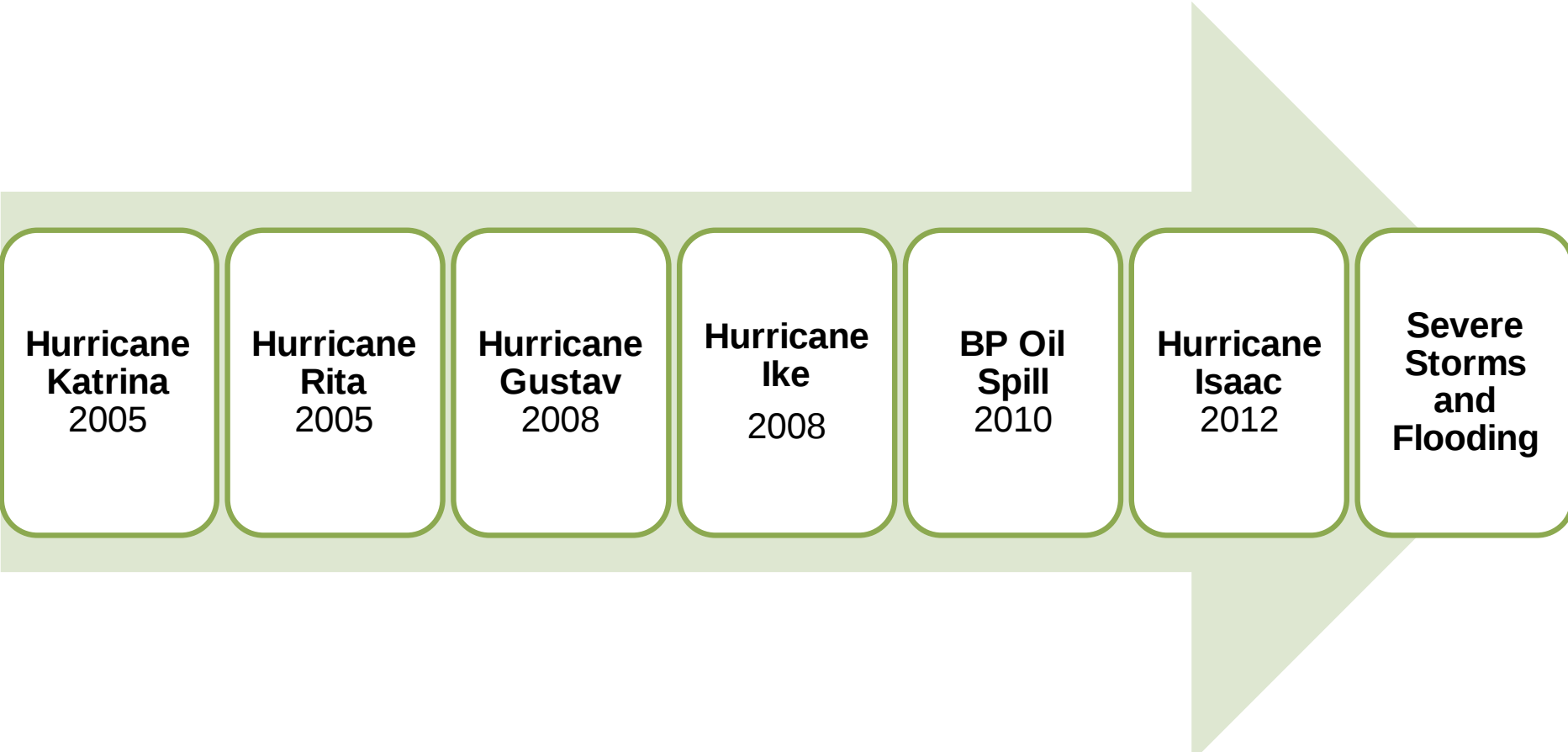


**Hurricane
Katrina**
2005



**Hurricane
Katrina
2005**

**Hurricane
Rita
2005**



**Hurricane
Katrina
2005**

**Hurricane
Rita
2005**

**Hurricane
Gustav
2008**

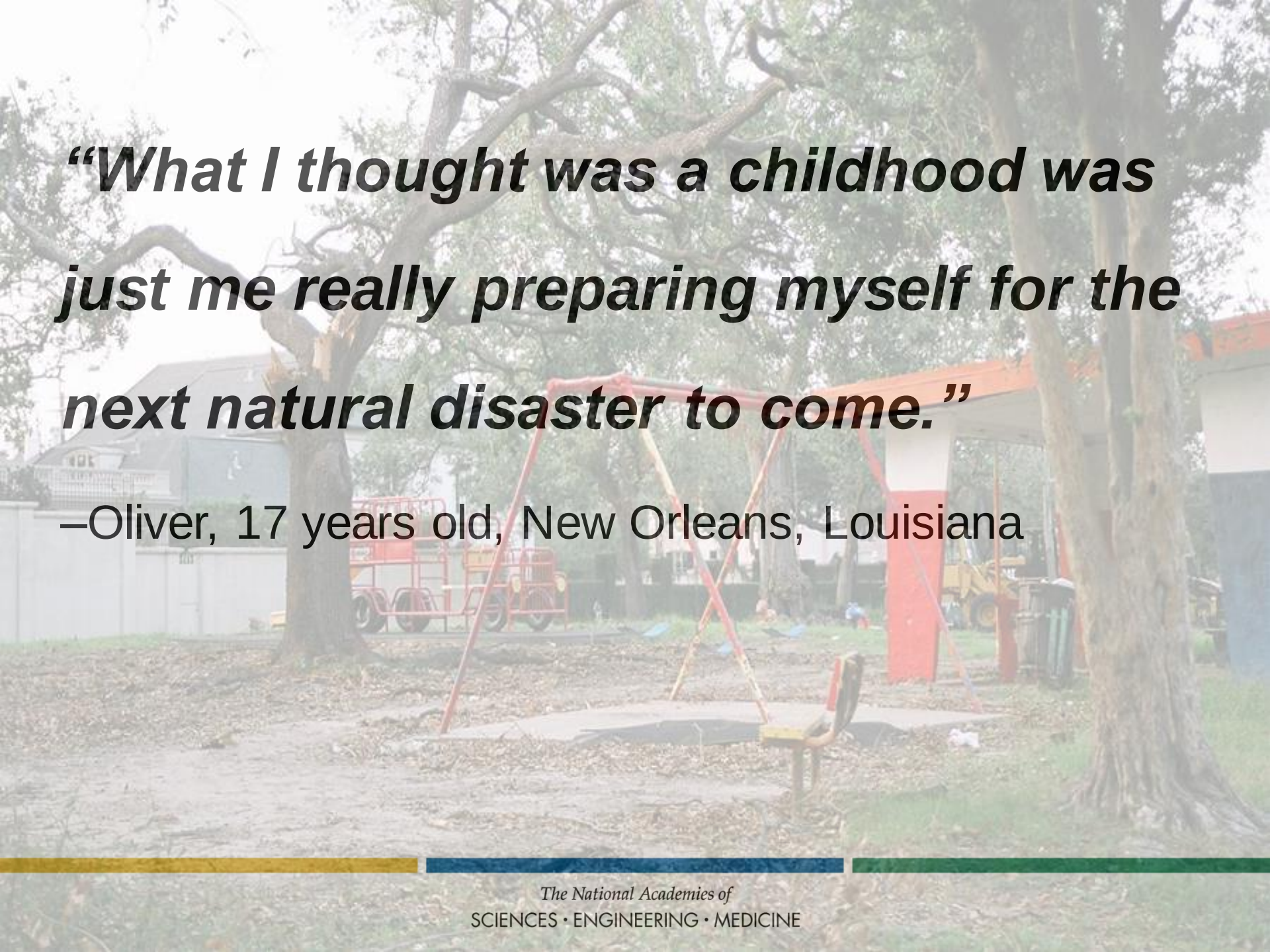
**Hurricane
Ike
2008**

**BP Oil
Spill
2010**

**Hurricane
Isaac
2012**

**Severe
Storms
and
Flooding**



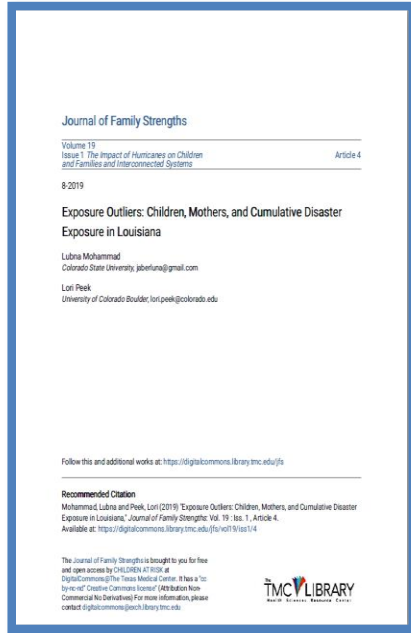


“What I thought was a childhood was just me really preparing myself for the next natural disaster to come.”

—Oliver, 17 years old, New Orleans, Louisiana

Cumulative Disaster Exposure

multiple, acute onset, large-scale collective events that cause disruptions for individuals, families, and entire communities (Mohammad and Peek, 2019, p. 3).



Why This Matters

The limited available research suggests that **cumulative disaster exposure** and **prolonged displacement** can lead to...

- Worsened mental health symptoms
- Higher risk of major physical health problems
- Amplification of the impact of future collective trauma exposures
- Negative behavioral outcomes among adults
- Cumulative vulnerability, or a “declining trajectory,” among children



Why This Matters



A Call to Action



The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

A Response



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
CHILDREN AND DISASTERS



NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON
CHILDREN AND DISASTERS

2010 REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS
OCTOBER 2010



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS

*“The Commission respectfully calls on the President to develop and present to Congress a **National Strategy on Children and Disasters**... the strategy would sound an unequivocal **call to action** to engage one another around a cohesive set of meaningful **national goals and priorities to remedy the years of benign neglect of children**”*
(2010, p. iv.).

NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON
CHILDREN AND DISASTERS

2010 REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS
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NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS

*...the unique needs of children must be more thoroughly integrated into planning and made a clear and distinct priority in all disaster management activities”
(p. 19).*

A Call to Action



Center

Children's Voices, Perspectives, Creativity, and Rights



Why?

1. Children are the experts on their own lives
2. Decisions are being made that will affect young people now and well into the future – often without their consultation or contributions
3. If we do not include children during this crucial historic moment, we will be missing out on the creativity, courage, compassion, and energetic commitment of nearly one-quarter of our population

Thank you for your time and attention!

Lori Peek, Ph.D.

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<https://hazards.colorado.edu/>

<https://converge.colorado.edu/>

