

**Geographical Sciences Committee
Spring Meeting
May 20, 2021**

Disaster Response During a Pandemic

Speaker Bios

Miho Mazereeuw is an associate professor of architecture and urbanism at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and is the director of the Urban Risk Lab. Working on a large, territorial scale with an interest in public spaces and the urban experience, Mazereeuw is known for her work in disaster resilience. In the Urban Risk Lab multi-disciplinary groups of researchers work to innovate on technologies, materials, processes, and systems to reduce risk. Operating on several scales, the Lab develops methods to embed risk reduction and preparedness into the design of the regions, cities and urban spaces to increase the resilience of local communities. Prior to her work at MIT, Mazereeuw taught at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University and the University of Toronto. As an Arthur W. Wheelwright Fellow, she is completing her forthcoming book entitled *Preemptive Design: Disaster and Urban Development along the Pacific Ring of Fire* featuring case studies on infrastructure design, multifunctional public space and innovative planning strategies in earthquake prone regions. Her design work on disaster prevention has been exhibited globally. As the director of the Urban Risk Lab at MIT, Mazereeuw is collaborating on a number of projects with institutions and organizations in the field of disaster reconstruction/prevention and is currently working in Haiti, India, Japan and Chile. Mazereeuw was formerly an Associate at the Office for Metropolitan Architecture and has also worked in the offices of Shigeru Ban and Dan Kiley. She completed a Bachelor of Arts with High Honors in Sculpture and Environmental Science at Wesleyan University and her Master in Architecture and in Landscape Architecture with Distinction at the Harvard Graduate School of Design where she was awarded the Janet Darling Webel Prize and the Charles Eliot Traveling Fellowship.

For the past 28 years, **Carol Moehrle** has served as the District Director for Public Health – Idaho North Central District. This Public Health District covers Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties in North Central Idaho. Moehrle reports to the policy making Board of Health, comprised of county commissioners. She is active locally as well as nationally in Public Health. She serves on the Board of the National Association of Counties (NACo) where she represents Local Public Health and holds leadership positions on the Public Health and Healthy Counties subcommittee and the Resilient Counties subcommittee. She has also been active in the National Association of County and City Health Officials and she served as the President of NACCHO 2010-2011. Moehrle serves as Past Chair of the Public Health Accreditation Board and her Public Health District was accredited in 2016. She is passionate about Public Health and shares her passion with numerous public, private and nonprofit organizations.

Steven Quiring is a Professor in the Atmospheric Sciences Program, Department of Geography at The Ohio State University. He received a BA(Hons.) in geography from the University of Winnipeg in 1999, a MA in geography from the University of Manitoba in 2001, and a PhD in climatology from the University of Delaware in 2005. Dr. Quiring's research focuses on hydroclimatology and weather data analytics. A major focus of his research is modeling the impact of hurricanes and other severe weather on electrical power systems. He and his collaborators have been developing models to predict weather-related power outages, damage and outage duration since 2006. He is working with a number of utilities, including Southern Company, Southern California Edison, AEP, FirstEnergy and Guangdong Power to support their storm impact modeling efforts. His models are being utilized operationally by these utilities to support their storm preparation and response activities. Dr. Quiring has published >100 peer-reviewed journal articles and has received more than \$9M in funding from federal (DOE, NASA, NSF, NOAA) and state agencies.

Heather Roiter is the Assistant Commissioner of Risk Reduction and Recovery at NYC Emergency Management. Since joining in 2007, Roiter has led the development and execution of various plans and tools related to emergency management, evacuation, and risk reduction. This ongoing effort has given her technical expertise in assessing NYC's risks from hazards and leading the City's coordination for over \$250M in FEMA hazard mitigation grants. Her other initiatives include the Interim Flood Protection Measures Program to deploy temporary flood protection at 55+ sites and launching the country's first web-based Hazard Mitigation Plan for a local jurisdiction in 2019. She served as the EOC Manager for NYC's COVID-19 response and oversaw the NYC EM COVID-19 Hotel Program that managed 35k reservations to support isolation and quarantine of individuals at risk of exposure. She holds a B.S. in Demography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a M.S. in Urban Planning from Columbia University.

Steven J. Steinberg is the Geographic Information Officer (GIO) for Los Angeles County California. In collaboration with a team of highly skilled GIS professionals, he guides the geospatial strategy for more than 10 million residents and 100,000 county employees across 37 departments. Dr. Steinberg, a self-titled "geospatial evangelist" is passionate about the use of technology to solve real problems of people and their environment. Prior to joining LA County, he served as Principal Scientist and Department Head for Information Management and Analysis at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority (SCCWRP) and as a Professor of Geospatial Science at Humboldt State University, California. He continues teaching as an Adjunct Professor in the graduate programs at UC Irvine and CSU Long Beach and is actively involved in geospatial professional organizations, current serving as a member of the Board of Directors for URISA International and the California Geographic Information Association. Dr. Steinberg has co-authored two books on geospatial science applications and recently released an edited volume, *Resilient Communities across Geographies* (Esri Press) in January 2021.

Chris Vaughan serves as the geospatial information officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In this role, he has led organizational change, established an integrated geospatial workforce across the agency, and is advancing innovative technologies within the emergency management community. Vaughan also serves as the chief of the Response Geospatial Office (RGO) within the Planning and Exercise Division. The RGO delivers policy, guidance, and training for the FEMA geospatial enterprise. He is a member of the National Response Coordination Staff where he serves as a Situational Awareness Section Chief. Since joining FEMA in 2010, Vaughan has provided crisis-decision support for more than 250 incidents ranging from earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, wildfires, tornados, and pandemics. For COVID-19, he was appointed as a co-lead for the Data and Analytics Task Force (DATF). In this role, he supported the delivery of advanced modeling, technology, and analysis related to pandemic response operations. Vaughan has a Master of Science in Counseling Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Lee University. He is a graduate of American University's Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program as well as Harvard University's National Preparedness Leadership Initiative Executive Education Program.