Building community resilience, lessons from urban areas globally

Building Resilience Around the World,

UR Boulder

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Outline

- What is community resilience
- Challenged by stresses
- Shaped by 4 resources
- With 3 dynamic attributes

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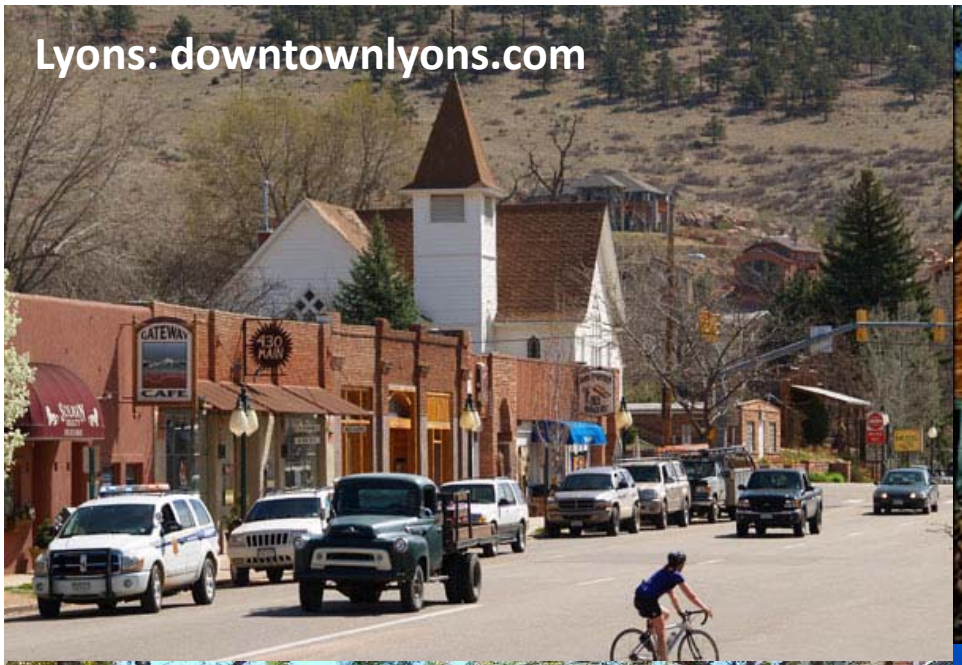
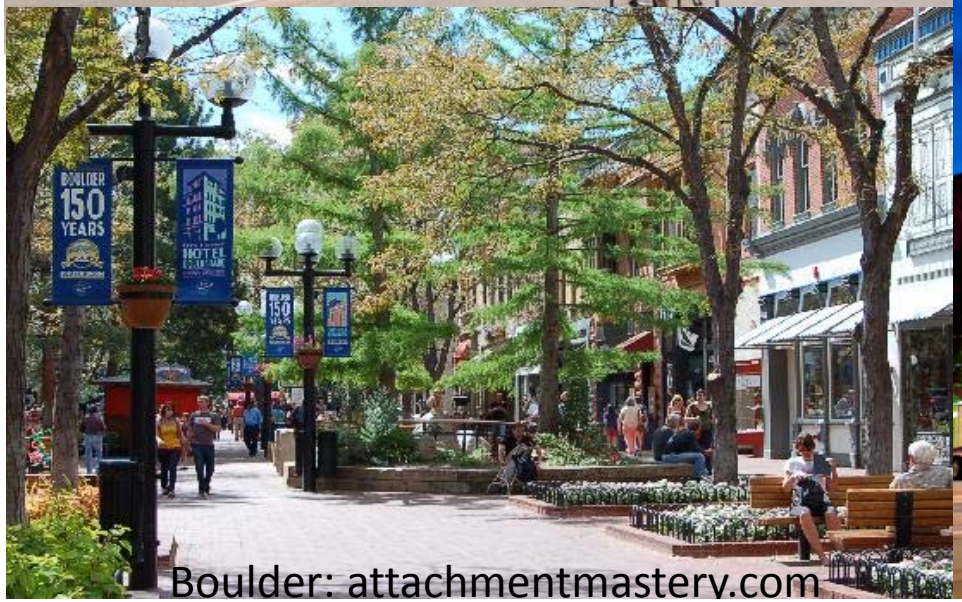
Communities: geographic boundaries & shared fate





Community Resilience is a metaphor

Capacity for successful adaptation
in the face of stresses and
adversities

There are limits to successful adaptation

Boulder flooding
September 2013

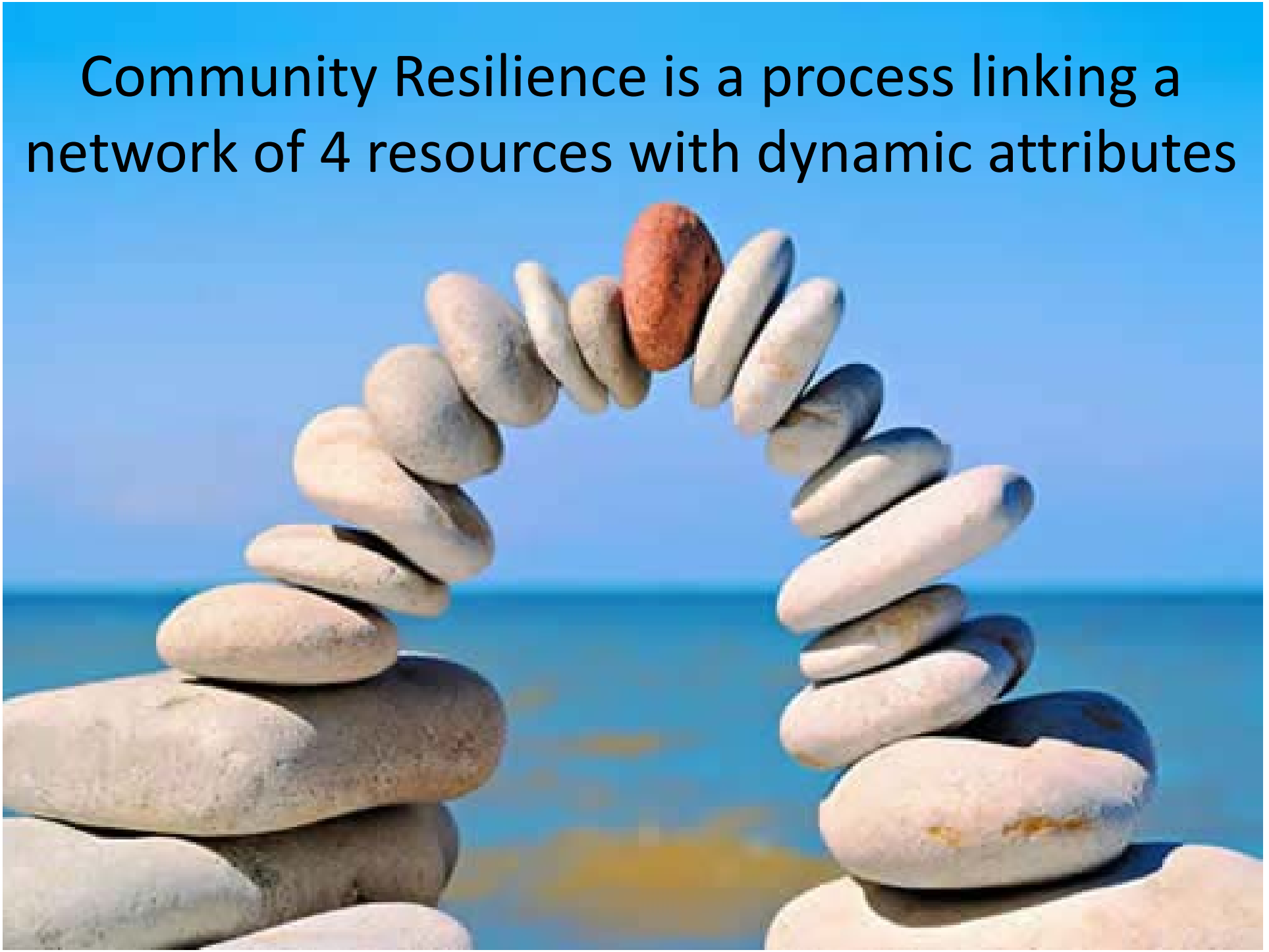
Waldo Canyon fire
346 homes…

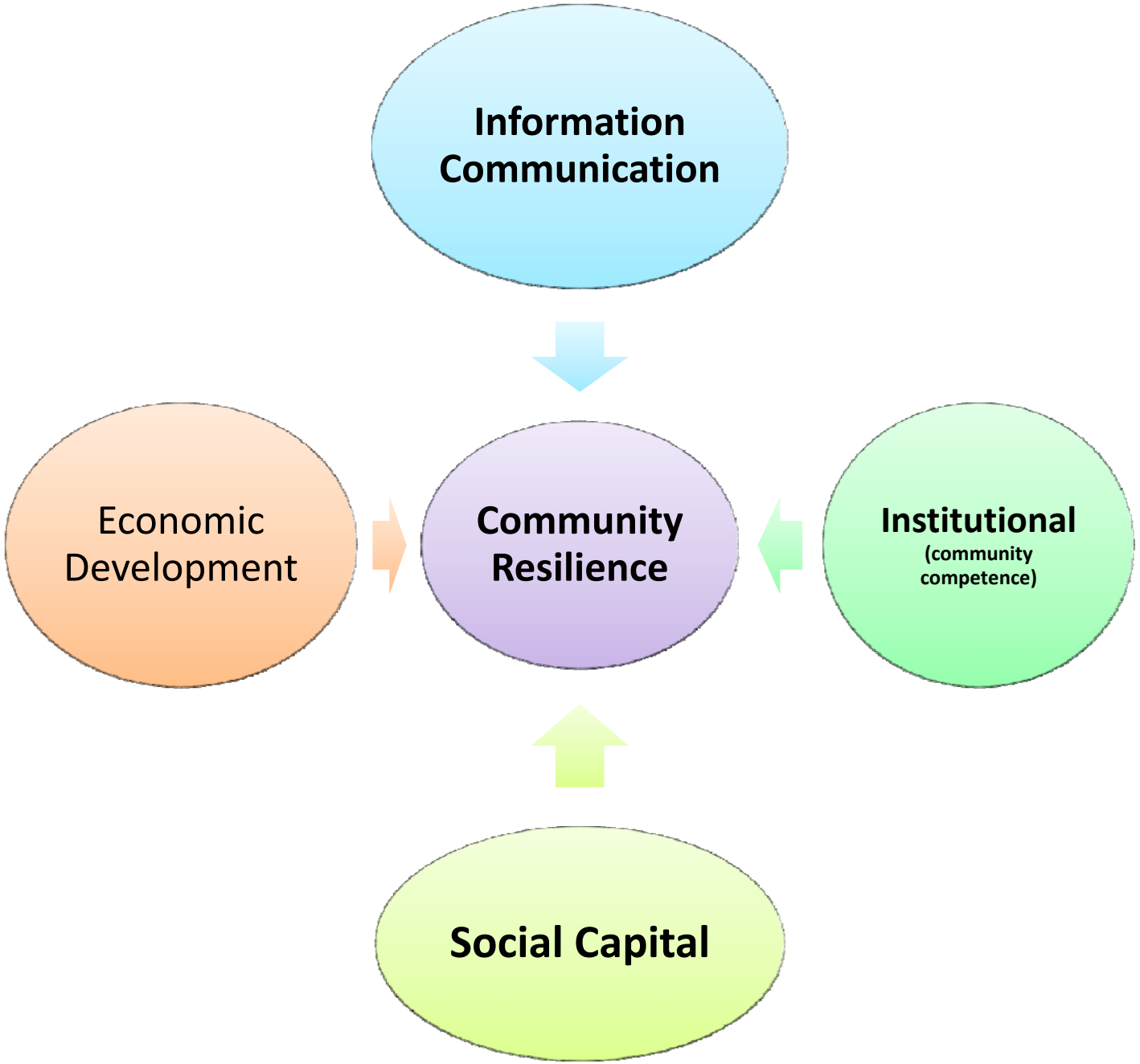
India flooding
June 2013

LIMITS WILL BE HIGHER THE
HIGHER THE MAGNITUDE OF

GLOBAL WARMING

Community Resilience is a process linking a network of 4 resources with dynamic attributes




Information
Communication
Economic
Development
Community
Resilience
Institutional
(community
competence)
Social Capital

Does *Economic Development* create:

Livelihoods' stability?

Equitable distribution of assets and options?

Mobilization of support during and after stresses and adversities:

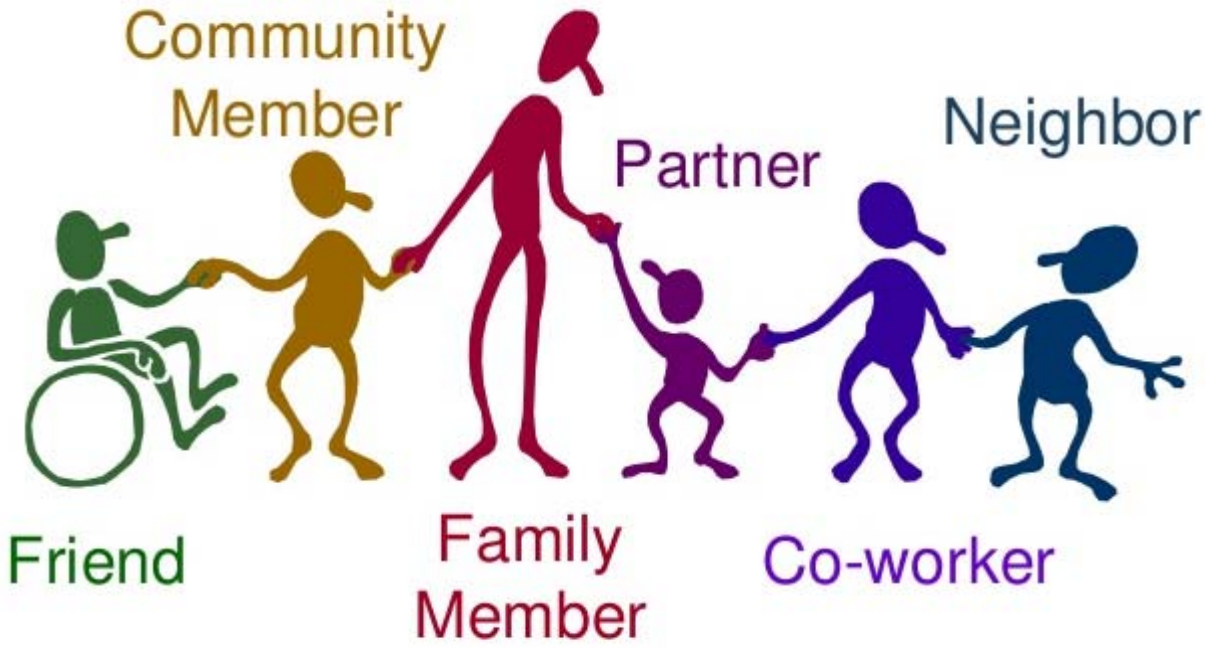
The rule of relative need, or the rule of relative advantage

Race and Recovery in Post-Katrina New Orleans cooperproject.org

Social capital

Individuals invest,

access & use resources embedded in social support networks

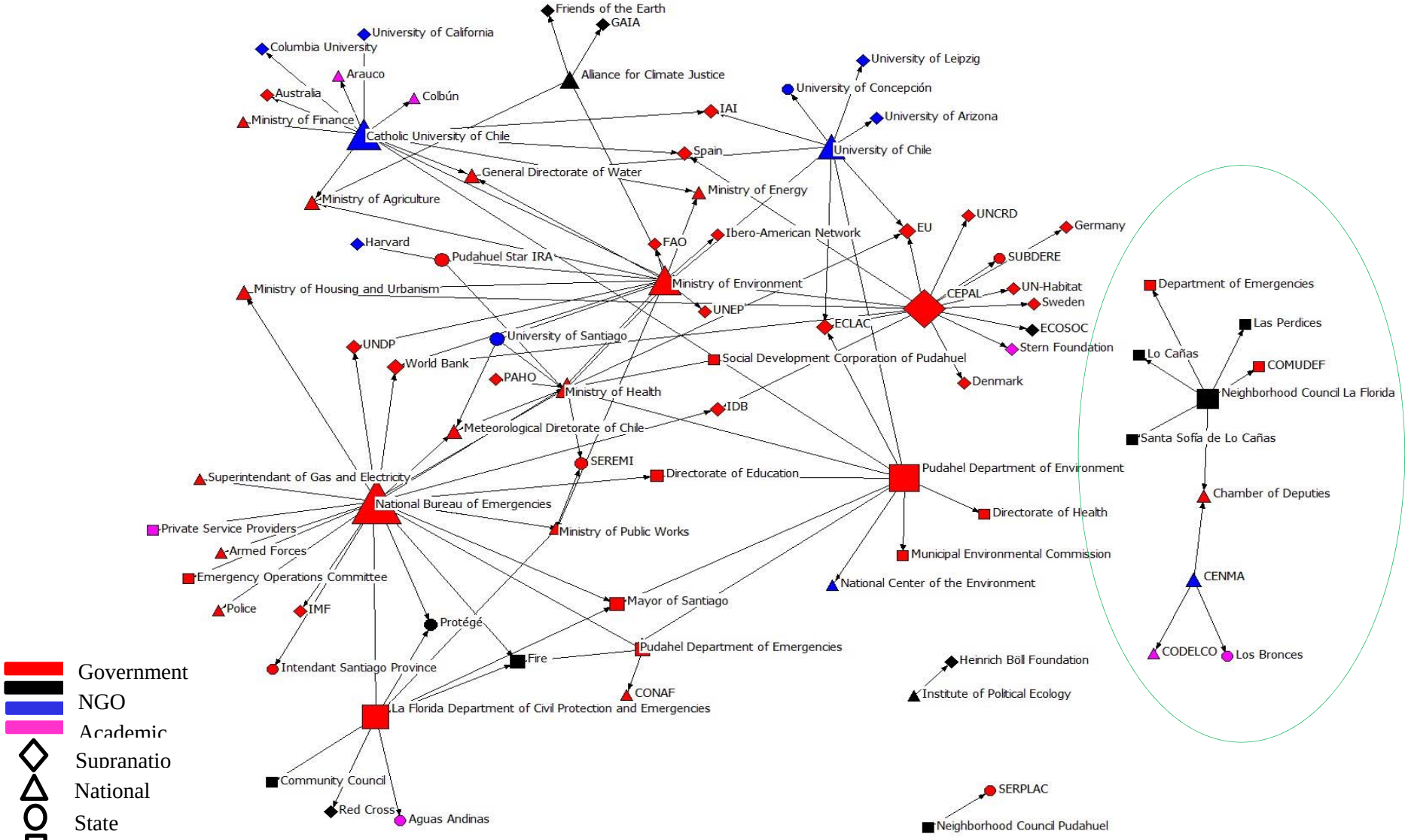


pt.slideshare.net

Social capital influences community resilience in positive and negative ways

E.g., low income people in Buenos Aires Argentina relied on neighborhood network to transmit telephonically storm-surge warnings

When peripherals are not connected to the network



Santiago Chile actor network. Size of nodes is proportional to the number of ties.

Information effective if “usable”, i.e.,

- Tailored to local conditions
- Trusted
- Timely

Communication and community narratives: do the vulnerable feel heard?

"Neither the municipality, nor the Government... they do absolutely nothing, they don't care. They only care about downtown and about *barrio alto"* (inhabited by high-income populations) (neighborhood leader Santiago de Chile).

How are communities portrayed?

Are they blamed?

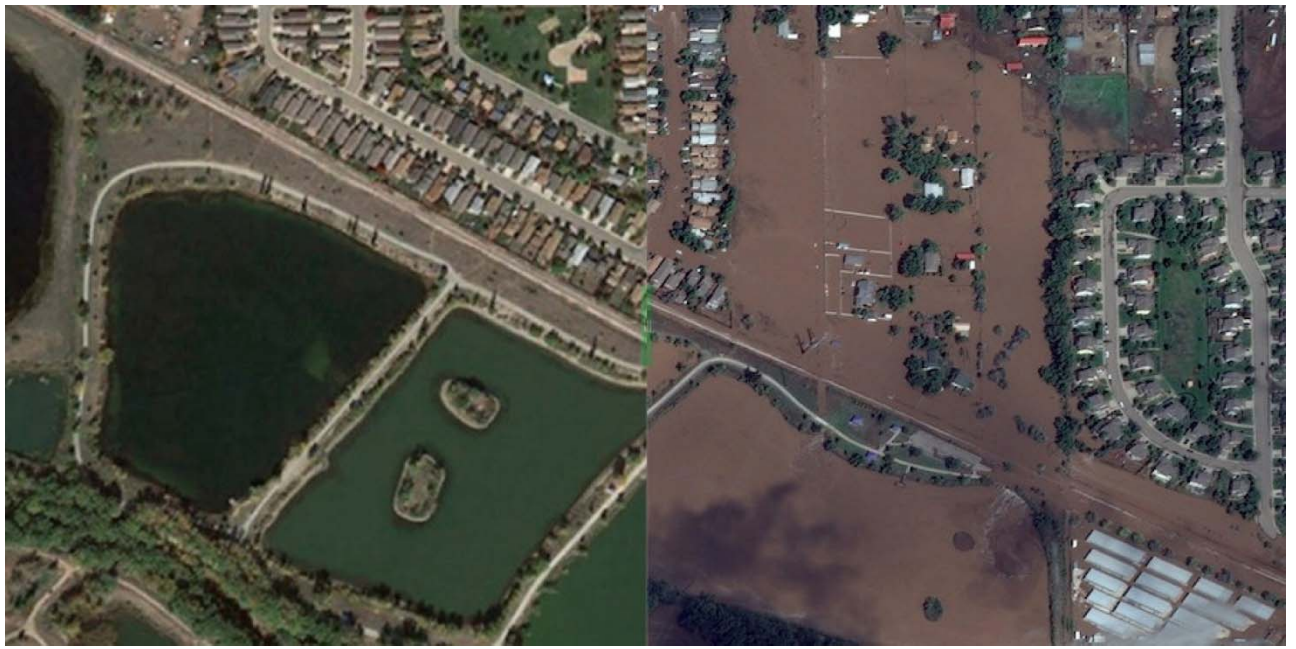
Do media narratives lead responders to attend law breakers rather than safe lives?

Shall we focus on the dynamic attributes of community resilience?

Robustness

Redundancy

Rapidity



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Or shall we also focus on possible outcomes of our community responses?

First, unintentional transformation
Business as usual

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Second, persistence

- Rebuild
- Restore

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Third, proactive navigation of transformation

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