

# ***DISASTER!***

## **A SYMPOSIUM**



**27–29 NOVEMBER 2013**

**HOSTED BY THE POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES RESEARCH  
NETWORK, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, DUNEDIN,  
NEW ZEALAND**

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

**PROFESSOR ROB NIXON (U. WISCONSIN-MADISON)  
PROFESSOR ANNE MCCLINTOCK (U. WISCONSIN-MADISON)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEVE MATTHEWMAN (U. AUCKLAND)**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS EXTENDED DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS**

Catastrophic storms, earthquakes, floods, and fires, along with such forms of 'slow violence' as pollution, deforestation, global warming and rising sea levels, are increasingly drawing attention to the vulnerability of local populations and landscapes to 'natural disasters.' Postcolonial environmental studies, ecocriticism, and disaster studies often trace such events to the ecological, social and economic effects of First World-driven development ideologies and projects. Storms, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, fires have seemingly been increasing in frequency and intensity around the world in recent years, revealing the Global North as not only implicated in the South's disasters, but also as not immune themselves to disasters that bring destruction, loss of life, and hardship. What do postcolonial perspectives contribute to analysis of such events or conditions, and/or what do these events or conditions say to the current and future priorities of postcolonial studies?

The Postcolonial Studies Research Network invites papers, from any disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspective, that consider 'disaster' in terms of

either specific events, or the slower forms of environmental devastation — and their social and cultural consequences — affecting countries and communities around the world. We especially welcome papers that consider Australasia and the larger Asia-Pacific region. Papers may address any of a wide range of issues and questions that bear on the topic of '*Disaster!*' including:

- the relations between 'natural' events and human agency
- the spatial and/or geopolitical and economic terms through which disasters are produced, recognised and responded to
- the uneven distribution of vulnerability
- the politics and effects of special measures and authorities, states of emergency and exception
- the mediatisation of disaster and/or the media prioritisation of the spectacle over the long-term or systemic disaster
- the production or exacerbation of social disadvantage or exclusion in disaster or disaster response
- discourses of resilience, recovery and rebuilding
- the mainstreaming of 'sustainability' discourses
- discourses of victimhood, of community
- social networks and social media/networking
- cultural or creative visions of, or responses to disaster

To preserve the integrity of the event, and foster a productive exchange between participants, the symposium is planned as a single-stream event with no parallel sessions. For this reason, the maximum number of papers we can accept is 30.

Selected papers will be published in a quality-assured international journal.

#### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

New Deadline: 16 August, 2013

Paper and panel proposals should be emailed to Dr Chris Prentice: [chris.prentice@otago.ac.nz](mailto:chris.prentice@otago.ac.nz)

Please give the email the subject 'PSRN Symposium abstract – your surname' and include your name, paper title, an abstract (250 words max) and up to 5 key words. Please also add a short biographical note. Panels should submit an abstract and biographical note for each paper/presenter.