

Gavin Smith, Ph.D., M.S.

Research Professor, Department of City & Regional Planning / Director, Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence at UNC-Chapel Hill

Raleigh-Durham, NC, US

Dr. Gavin Smith is a research professor and director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence.

Description

Dr. Smith is Director of the Department of Homeland Security's Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence, a consortium of universities across the U.S. He is currently engaged in planning and policy-related research within the center, including an assessment of the role governors and state agencies play in disaster recovery. Dr. Smith is also a Research Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning, part of the College of Arts and Sciences, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He has published numerous book chapters, peer-reviewed journal articles and technical reports addressing topics including hazard mitigation, disaster recovery and climate change adaptation. In 2011 he completed "Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery: A Review of the United States Disaster Assistance Framework" (Island Press) as well as several book chapters addressing the linkage between hazards analysis, planning and sustainable development. He is co-editor of "Climate Change Adaptation: Lessons from Natural Hazards Planning" (Springer 2014).

Following Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Smith worked in the Mississippi Office of the Governor, serving as the Director of the Office of Recovery and Renewal. He testified before Congress twice, providing recommended policy changes to improve the delivery of post-disaster recovery and reconstruction activities.

Additional activities include advising nations, states, communities and federal agencies on hazard mitigation and disaster recovery-related topics. Recent examples include working with the State Department to discuss the connectivity between climate change adaptation and disaster management in Hong Kong and the Philippines, assisting the State of Vermont following Hurricane Irene, and advising FEMA's development of rules to implement the new National Disaster Recovery Framework.

Dr. Smith served as the Asst. Director for Hazard Mitigation in the State of North Carolina. During his tenure with the Division, the Mitigation Section administered mitigation and disaster recovery grant funds of more than \$800 million associated with 10 Presidential disaster declarations, leading the acquisition and relocation or elevation of more than 5,000 and 500 homes, respectively. Following Hurricane Floyd, he served as an advisor to Gov. Hunt on policies and programs associated with long-term recovery in North Carolina, including the development of 22 state programs that addressed local needs not met by federal assistance.

Industry Expertise

Architecture and Planning, Public Policy, Public Safety, Research, Education/Learning, Security

Topics

Environment, Higher Education, Climate Change, Homeland Security, Disaster Recovery, Hazards Management, Public Policy, City Planning, Urban Development

Affiliations

American Planning Association : Member, National Hurricane Conference : Mitigation Committee , Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership Governorâ€™s South Atlantic Alliance: Advisory Committee, State of North Carolina Disaster Recovery Task Force: Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function Lead, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council and the National Institute for Building Safety Mitigation Saves 2.0: Technical Oversight Committee, William Averette Anderson Fund (Bill Anderson Fund): Strategic Planning Committee, State of Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority: Resiliency Technical Advisory Committee, Steering Committee Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Planning Division American Planning Association: Chairman, Center for Urban and Regional Studies University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Faculty Fellow, Center for Law Environment Adaptation and Resources; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law: Affiliated Scholar

Sample Talks

Macquarie University

Adapting to Climate Change: International Lesson Drawing from Natural Hazards Planning in Venice, Italy and US Coastal Communities. August, 2016.

RMIT University

Adapting to Climate Change: Lessons from Natural Hazards Planning. August, 2016.

Global Water Resource and Climate Resiliency, Duke University

Issues and Opportunities to Advance Resilience through Natural Hazards Risk Management. February, 2016.

Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography and Mitigation and Adaptation Research Institute Seminar Series, Old Dominion University

Planning for Natural Hazards and Climate Change Adaptation. January, 2016.

40th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Broomfield, Colorado

Disaster Recovery Health Impact Assessments Panel. Key Dimensions of Disaster Recovery and their Relevance to Public Health. July, 2015.

Past Talks

Need for Data and Use of Data â€“ Refining Methodologies for Better Reliability of Risk Data (2015)

Center for Law, Environment, Adaptation and Resources Workshop on Private Sector Climate Change Adaptation

The Role of the State in Disaster Recovery: A Comparative Analysis of Gubernatorial Leadership and State Agency Official Engagement, Collaboration and Capacity Building (2014)

6th Annual Texas Hurricane Center Conference

Disaster Recovery and the Role of the Military (2014)

Strategic Fellows Program. Disaster Response and Recovery Program Panel.

Lesson Drawing from Disaster Recovery in the United States (2014)

Institute of Technology, Department of City and Regional Planning

Education

Texas A&M University

Ph.D. Urban and Regional Planning

Texas A&M University

M.S. Sociology

Texas A&M University

B.S. Sociology

Accomplishments

Leads Natural Hazards Resilience Certificate Program

Instructs graduate certificate program in natural hazards resilience at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

1st Place, Partnership Award “Mississippi Renewal Forum

Dr. Smith was honored by the Environmental Protection Agency, Gulf Guardian Program in 2006.

Testimony before U.S. Congress

Dr. Smith testified before Congress twice in the wake of Hurricane Katrina:

- U.S. House of Representatives Testimony - House Select Committee on Hurricane Katrina, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity

January 2006

- U.S. Senate Testimony - Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Hurricane Katrina

January 2006

Adviser to two governors during post-storm recovery

Dr. Smith advised Governor Jim Hunt (D-NC) and Governor Haley Barbour (R-MS) following the worst disasters in each state’s respective history - Hurricane Floyd and Hurricane Katrina.

Advisor to other nations, states and local governments

Dr. Smith regularly advises other nations, including the Philippines, Hong Kong, South Korea, Australia; other states, including Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Vermont, on issues surrounding hazard mitigation, disaster recovery and climate change adaptation.

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