

## PLENARY SESSION

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### **Plenary Talk 2 - Social Science in Disaster: Tactics, Innovations, Results**

Kim Fortun | *University of California - Irvine*

Social science research draws out both historical and proximate factors that produce contamination and disaster vulnerability, how these are experienced and perceived as they unfold, and the tangle of factors that complicate decontamination and recovery. Social science can be holistic, contributing insight on social, cultural, and political dynamics while also treating inputs from other fields of knowledge and practice as part of (not objectively distant from) phenomena of concern. Social science is useful in both problem characterization and for identifying possible points of intervention and variables to consider in recovery assessment. In this presentation, Dr. Fortun shared examples that illustrate the potential roles of social science in response to contamination and disaster, highlighting a need for methodological innovation within and across disciplines as conditions productive of compound disaster intensify.