

## **Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?**

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Awareness, Education, and Communication. Building Resilience With and Within the Community.

- **Format:**

Written paper and Verbal presentation

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **Abstract (297 words):**

Risk management and disaster relief in the context of city planning has long been the responsibility of specialists and other technocrats whose expertise has allowed the development of tools and instruments. These aim at reducing the impacts of potentially catastrophic events or at helping to bring back the community to its normal functioning the fastest as possible. Furthermore, exogenous and endogenous pressures challenge cities. Albeit the tendencies are slowly changing, resilience practices are still shy in including a bottom-up, or just a more sensible top-down approach. As abounding case studies illustrate though, the importance of community participation in the transformation of the city, and therefore, resilience cannot only rely on expert knowledge. Including everyone in the process, from all-ages and all backgrounds, from

volunteers to the private sector, should increase the overall resilience of a community, not only of its infrastructures.

This presentation will analyse how resilience can be built with and within the community through the analysis of resilience strategic plans as implemented via the 100 Resilient City programme of the Rockefeller Foundation. The programme launched in 2013 offers a technical and financial help to cities wishing to reinforce their resilience capacity. Drawing on three pillars of citizen participation – awareness, education and communication – we will analyse the innovative tools and practices that are put forwards in those plans: what models of participation are used? What best practices are proposed? What expertise is seek? How these expertise are networked on a multi-scale level and multi-layered temporality? The cities of Christchurch (NZ) and New Orleans (USA) will serve as detailed case studies, completed with examples from the 19 other cities that have submitted a strategic plan (as of March 2017). Understanding issues, challenges and risks, participating in the debate, contributing to solution, all can make or break resilience.

- **Authors Biography:**

*Yona Jébrak*

Trained at UQAM and McGill, Dr Jébrak is a professor of urban planning at the Department of Urban Studies and Tourism, Faculty of Management, at the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM) since 2010. Her expertise in post-disaster reconstruction and urban resilience has recently taken her to Christchurch, New Zealand, to study how grass-root initiatives and reimagining the city through vacant spaces reappropriation, and to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to analyse post-earth quake development patterns and metropolisation processes, with a team of Haitian and Canadian scholars and practitioners. In collaboration with Isabelle Thomas from UdeM, she currently questions the impact of the concept of resilience in planning tools.

*Isabelle Thomas*

Dr Thomas is a professor at the Faculty of Planning at the University of Montreal. She got her Ph.D. in urban territorial planning from La Sorbonne University, Paris. She taught and conducted research in the United States, in particular in New Orleans where she was involved, both as a citizen and a professional, in the rebuilding in the city after Katrina. Her expertise lies strongly in using GIS to picture both vulnerability and resiliency of urban communities. Lately, in collaboration with Quebec Ministère de la Sécurité Publique, she is focusing on improving her analysis methods working on Quebec cities

that have been challenged by recurring flooding. She collaborates with Dr. Jébrak on several projects.