



Recovery, Relocation, and Alluvial Awareness in Post-Harvey Houston

After the floodwaters recede, households impacted by Harvey are left with difficult decisions about whether to stay or relocate. Some people who experienced flooding may feel strongly that they wish to remain in their home, while their neighbors may feel they need to move. Everyone whose home was flooded has a story to tell about their experience. Our research uses surveys and in-person interviews to gather those stories and find out how people whose homes were flooded decide to stay or relocate. The insights gained from the experiences of households who navigate post-Harvey Houston can help plan for a better future.

Our research is funded by the National Science Foundation and is based in Rice University's Center for Energy & Environmental Research in the Human Sciences (CENHS) and the Department of Anthropology. We will be sharing the results from our research with City of Houston and Harris County officials to help their planning and recovery efforts. All of the results from our research will be anonymized.

Principal investigator: Dominic Boyer, Ph.D.

Dominic is Professor of Anthropology at Rice and Director of CENHS (culturesofenergy.org), which is a research center that gathers social scientists, humanists, and artists to work on the 21st century's energy and environmental challenges and solutions. His own research focuses on the political and environmental dimensions of energy transition and climate change in the United States, Mexico and Europe.

Project lead: Mark Vardy, Ph.D.

Mark received his doctorate in Sociology from Queen's University in Canada and recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship with Princeton University. His previous studies draw from the sociology of scientific knowledge to study how climate change becomes meaningful for scientists and policymakers.

Contact information:

For more information on this project please contact Dominic or Mark at dcb2@rice.edu or mark.vardy@rice.edu

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CENHS @ Rice University

Mail Stop 110 • P.O. Box 1892 • Houston, Texas 77251-1892
Phone: 713-348-5736 • Fax: 713-348-5455 • E-mail: cenhs@rice.edu