Situated Access:
How Physical and Social Location Influence Post-Disaster Assistance.
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In the aftermath of disaster, the goal to provide equitable assistance is often challenging to achieve. Not only can resources be scare when needs are great, the systems to provide disaster relief are frequently taxed. Findings from such events as the 2011 Tohoku Japan earthquake and tsunami and Hurricane Sandy that struck the American Mid-Atlantic coast in 2012 suggest that situated access also contributes to differential experiences with disaster assistance efforts. This presentation highlights how the ability of disaster survivors to acquire and utilize information, material resources, or services is based both on the physical location of the individual or group (including shelter type to where they have evacuated) and the social standpoint or circumstances of the individual or group within that physical location.

Background Review Article:

The Effect of Situated Access on People with Disabilities: An Examination of Sheltering and Temporary Housing after the 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, Rochelle Brittingham and Tricia Wachtendorf, in print, Earthquake Spectra, Special Issue on the Tohoku Disaster.

[article available on CD]