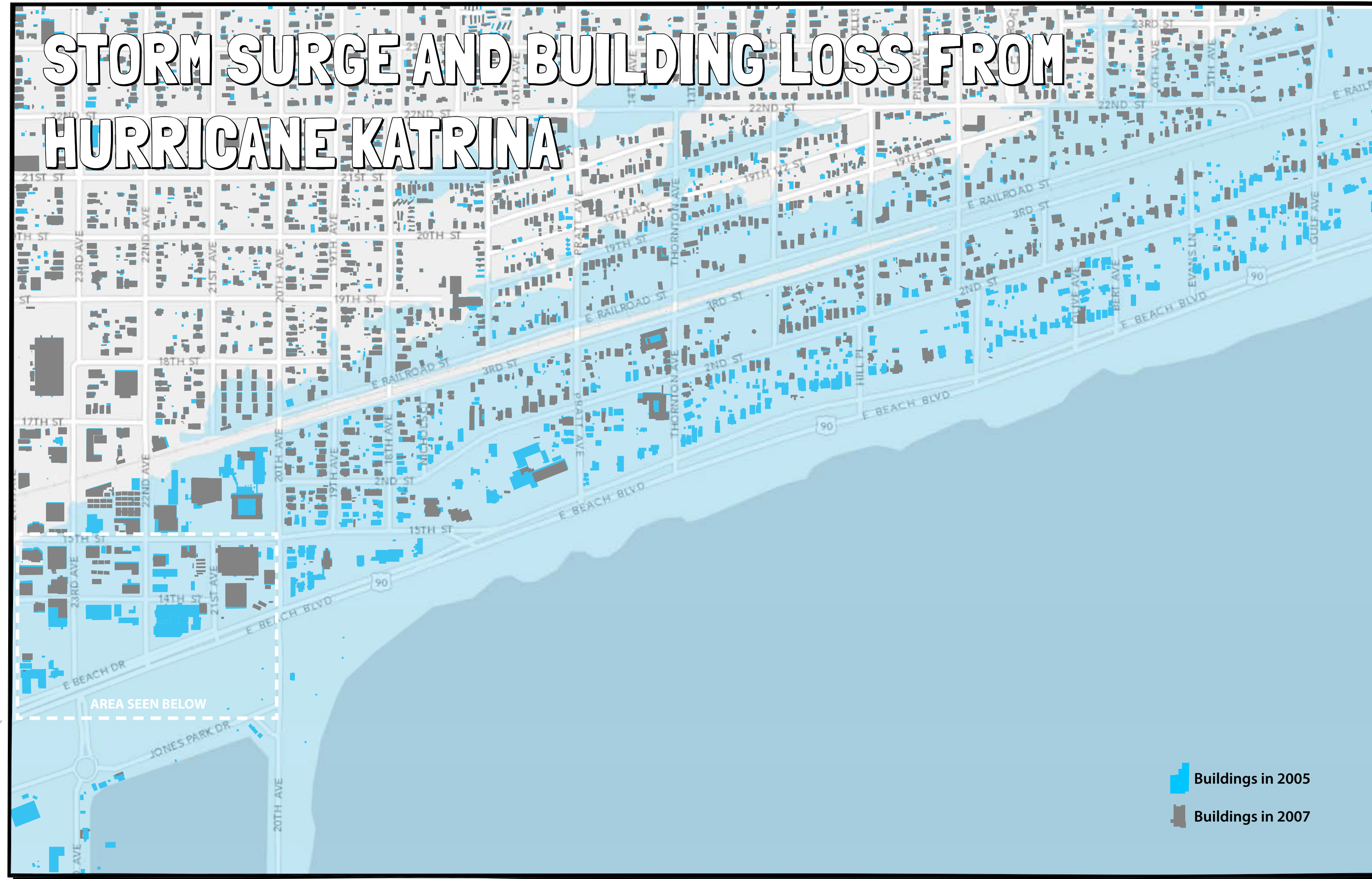


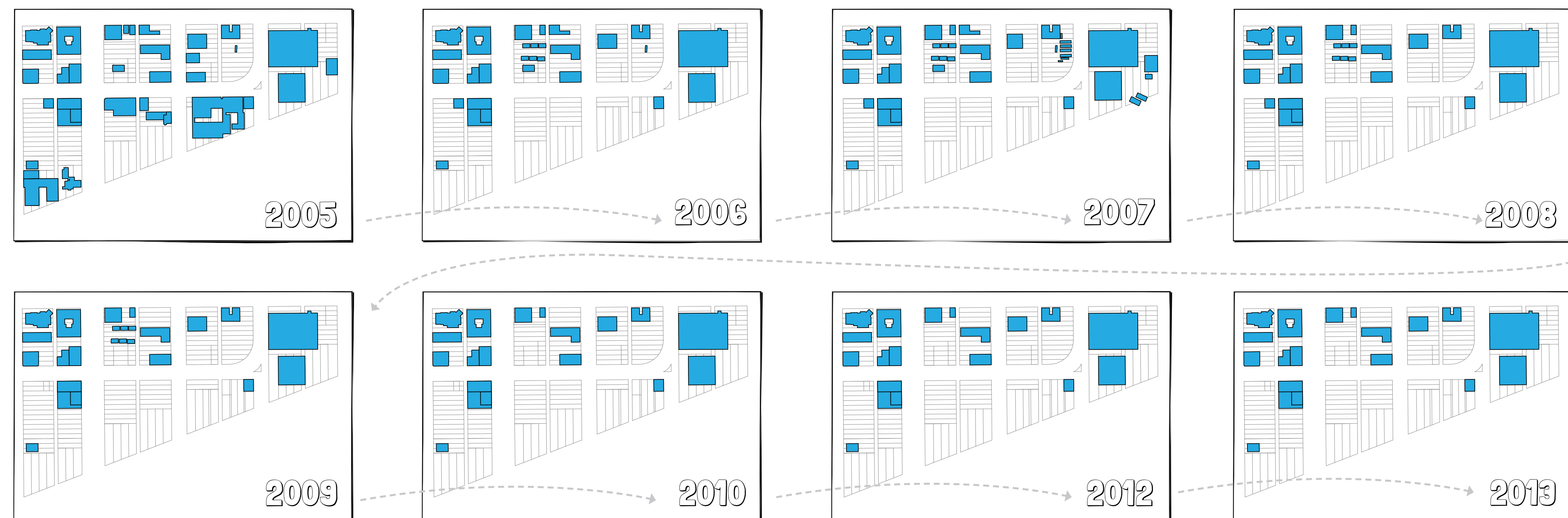
BETTER THAN BEFORE

by: Zachary E. Kenitzer
Knowlton School
City and Regional Planning



MINI-MAPS

Historical Geographic Information Systems (HGIS) methods are used to develop a set of building footprints that will then be analyzed to measure factors such as land coverage, gross square footage and use type. Results from analysis will then be used in conjunction with plans to examine evaluation and/or assessment parameters to see if plans are meeting stated outcomes. Below are the results from one area specific to the Gulfport, showing building footprints by year. This area is also identified in the map above, by the box.



ABSTRACT

Hurricanes are a fact of life for the seven sisters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast; Gulfport, Ocean Springs, Biloxi, Pass Christian, Bay St. Louis and Pascagoula. As the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina approaches, the Gulf Coast will once again be the focus of intense scrutiny. While all hurricanes damage the physical built environment, major storms can be profoundly devastating - ravaging lives, communities and whole regions. Major storms such as Hurricanes Camille and Katrina have long legacies in this regard (Sullivan, 2011b). Already, Hurricane Katrina is one of the most studied natural disasters in the history of the United States. This dissertation further contributes to this body of literature by focusing on lessons related to the evaluation and assessment of plans and planning before and following Hurricane Katrina.

INTRODUCTION

Distinguishing 'good' from 'bad' policy efforts, plans and planning is the core function of Policy Sciences and Planning. Evaluation and assessment allow citizens, professionals and academics to orchestrate that separation, with the goal of better understanding how efforts shape perceived reality. Through a focused examination of policy efforts, plans and planning, reaching a better understanding of the process and systems that these efforts effect is possible. With greater understanding of these effects, we can better implement policies, plans and planning efforts as well as reach a more socially and economically efficient and just use of our time, social and physical resources. Examination of policy efforts, plans and planning includes an examination of how the process affects outcomes in both the physical and social environment.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In the literature on the separation of 'good' from 'bad' plans, a dichotomy suggested by those in Planning, exists as a continuum where only shades of grey exist. These shades of grey are described with an increasingly complex rhetoric. This rhetoric put hurdles between citizens, professionals and academics. Rhetoric further complicates the already messy process of planning and plan development. This is especially evident as the gap between theory and practice is more closely examined.

In our increasingly politically polarized environment planning's role is frequently questioned by groups, regardless of their political leanings. The age of the internet and social media, planners not only combat individuals, or small neighborhood groups, but also large organized groups, who seek to disrupt or aid the process, along with individuals who utilize a large digital presence to sway public opinion in their favor. While the profession of planning, and planners themselves attempt to put a positive or negative spin on such groups (saying to ourselves "we need to listen to them or educate them" - helping them search for the 'show me the light' moment a la 'Joliet' Jake Blues), retrenchment occurs and critics are emboldened.

These pervasive problems have no easy answers. Utilizing Gulfport, Mississippi as a case study this dissertation will engage in debate on evaluation and assessment of plans and planning; provide a narrative of how the community and region differentiate 'good' from 'bad' plans, and; how those plans are being used to make the community more resilient for the next major disaster.

References
Beck, E., & Wehler, S. (2006). *Rebuilding urban places after disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina*. University of Pennsylvania Press.
Bourgeois, D. L., Overfelt, E., & Pines, J. (2007). *The sociology of Katrina: Perspectives on a modern catastrophe*. Columbia, MO: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
Gillmore, D. R., & Stauder, D. M. (2007). *American Bar Association. Forum on Affordable Housing and Community Development Law*. (2013). *Building community resilience post-disaster: A guide for affordable housing and community economic development practitioners*.
Smith, J. P. (2012). *Hurricane Katrina: The mississippi story*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi.
Tunham, J., Burnett, K., Martin, C., McGill, T., Jara, R., & Spadec, J. (2011). *Recovery on the Gulf Coast, Phase II: Results of property owner survey in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research.
Tunham, J., Spadec, J., Chudoff, J., Finkel, M., & Adair Associates, I. (2010). *Recovery on the Gulf Coast Phase I: Results of windshield observations in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Is it possible to separate 'good' from 'bad' plans through evaluation?
Are there any gaps in the evaluation and assessment of plans and planning?
2. Do practitioners and professionals use evaluation and assessment as prescribed by theory, or initiated by practice?
If theory: which theory is dominant?
If practice: what informs use of evaluation and/or assessment?
3. Is HGIS a tool that can be used to help evaluate or assess plans?

METHODS

Through utilizing a mixed-methods approach, interviews will be conducted with Planners and Leaders on the Mississippi Gulf coast to understand what forms of evaluation they are using to inform the second question. The third question will be answered using emergent HGIS techniques to demonstrate their usefulness in understanding Planning problems. The first research question will be answered through an analysis of the second and third research question.

For the HGIS analysis the following sources will be utilized:

- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (1904, 1907, 1912, 1921, 1929 & 1950)
- Polk's Gulfport City Directory
- Demolition Permits as recorded in Newspapers
- Google Earth Aerial Imagery (1989, 1992, 1996, 2003, 2004, July 2005, August 2005, March, May, September 2006, February, September 2007, September 2008, January, September 2010, November 2011 and October 2012)
- Department of Marine Resources and Coastal Environments Aerial Images (1942, 1958, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1988)
- Aerial Imagery from USDA/MGCCC
- Existing building footprints and imagery from city of Gulfport and Harrison County (1965, 2001 and 2012)
- Existing building footprints and imagery from city of USM Gulf Coast
- Property & Platting Records from the Harrison County
- Privately held Aerial Imagery
- Digital Photographs from Mississippi State Archives
- Local University/Library Archives and Preservation Associations
- Personal Journals/Diaries/Letters or Biographies
- Personal Verbal Accounts

Poster By:
Zachary E. Kenitzer
PhD Candidate in City and Regional Planning
kenitzer.1@osu.edu
Advisor Contact
Dr. Jennifer Evans-Cowley, ACP
cowley.11@osu.edu

