HURRICANE [ __________ ] IN PUERTO RICO:
THE PROMISED CATASTROPHE 'RESTRUCTURED'

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Where’s Puerto Rico?

Media coverage coming from the island, forced a short national and global discussion about Puerto Rico.

**Damages**

- Homes destroyed: 70,000
  - Close to half of them were self-built and many do not have titles.
- Telecommunications: All phone and Internet services were affected.
- 80% of all utility poles and all transmission lines were knocked down. The whole island was without electricity.
- Access to health services was limited and unreliable.
- Water service disrupted.
- Uprooted trees, landslides, and broken bridges limited mobility and the distribution of goods and emergency services
- Significant population loss
- Schools and universities closed for over a month
- ‘The thin ice’: Federal and Territorial Relations
Our history is anchored in disasters... and in failed recovery.
INSISTING ON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

• What do we mean by communities?
• What are the different meanings and interpretations of resilience?
• How can we better support neighborhood preparedness?
• Is Puerto Rico ‘recovering’? Are current processes exacerbating our social vulnerability to disasters?
• What this past year of historic losses might teach us? What have we failed to learn?
• Are we taking climate change seriously?
Puerto Rico’s Recovery in the Midst of Restructuration

- Agency consolidation – from 144 to 22 agencies
- Pension cuts – between 5% and 20%
- UPR Tuition raise - ~150% increase
- Labor reform – elimination of benefits
- Minimum salary –
  - 18-24 years - $7.25
  - 25 years and up - $7.50

- The Department of Education must save $53 million in personell spending and $6 million in non-personnel spending.
- Elimination of subsidies to Municipalities and UPR - $451 millions in savings
- An additional $1.1 million Budget cut to the Forensic Sciences Institute
- $1.1 million cut for the Bureau of Emergency Management
- $2.34 million cut for the Bureau of Medical Emergencies
In the meantime... what can be done?

Thank you!
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