



Refugee Resettlement, Belonging and Disaster Risk Reduction:

Case studies from Christchurch and Wellington

Jay Marlowe



THE UNIVERSITY
OF AUCKLAND

NEW ZEALAND

Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

What's in a name?

Hurricane Katrina **refugee** shares his story of life after disaster (USA)

Christchurch earthquake: Thousands of **refugees** head for Auckland (NZ)

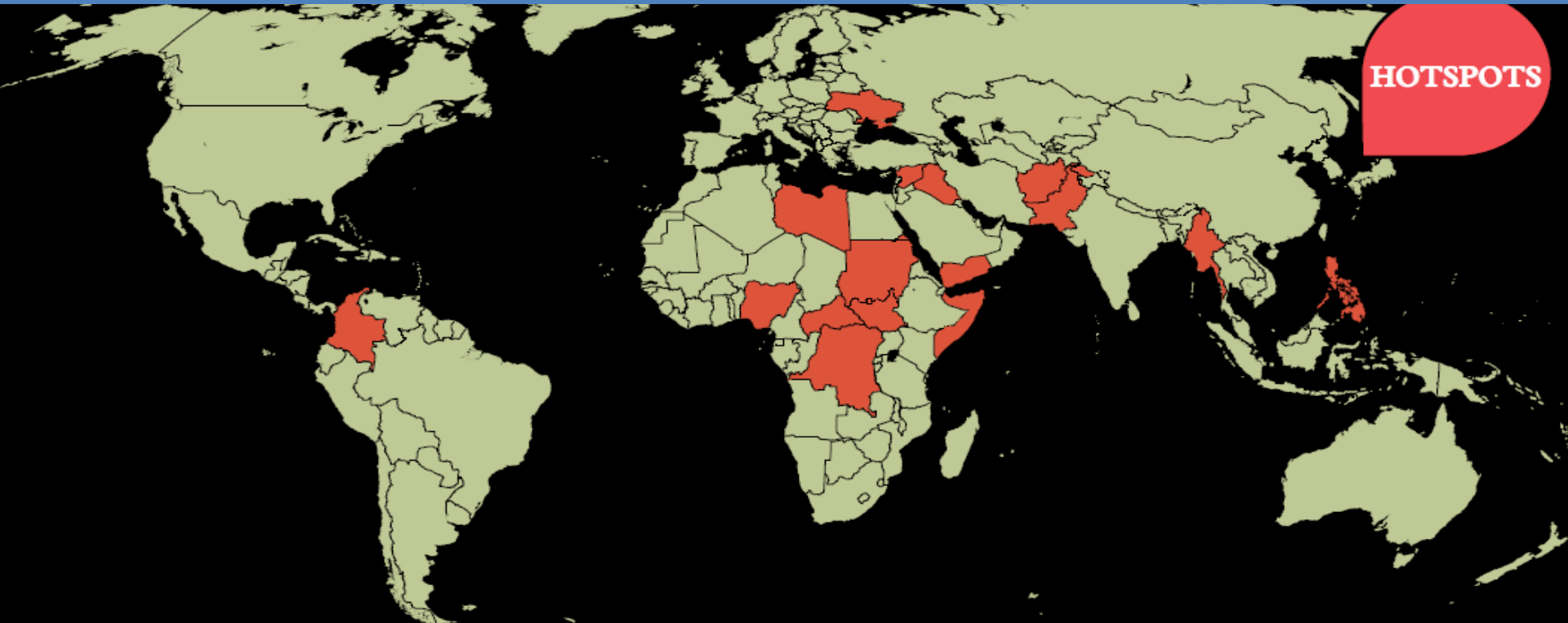
The Untold Story of Japan's Tsunami **Refugees** (Japan)

N.J. renters and low-income **refugees** from Hurricane Sandy find housing help scarce (USA)

Calgary **refugee** camp opens for Alberta residents displaced by June floods (Canada)

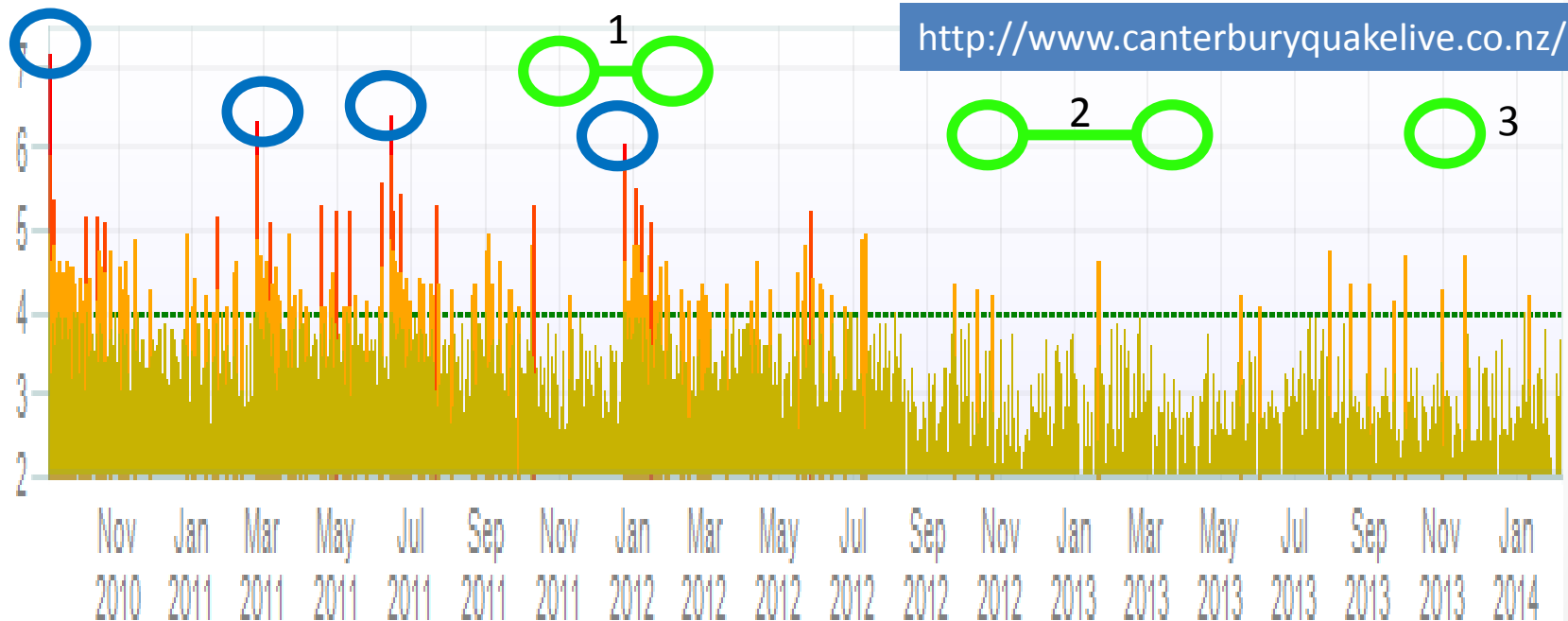
Three years, three floods: the **refugees** of St George (Australia)

UNHCR World Report 2014 – Global Trends



- Forcibly displaced (people of concern) – **59.5 million**
- **13.9 million refugees**
- **26 countries** have formal refugee resettlement programs
- In 2014, there were **105,200 refugees resettled**
- New Zealand takes up to 750 refugees per year

Study Design -- Christchurch



○ Major Event

○ Study Phase

Total: 112 Participants

11 Focus Groups; 32 Interviews (15 Men, 17 Women)

Afghan, Bhutanese, Ethiopian, Somali, Kurdish, Eritrean

Belonging Over Time (Civic, Ethno & Ethnic)

Pre-Quake – Belonging was a 'civic' sentiment -- often through jobs and education (or the possibility thereof), being resettled and rights entitled to all NZers

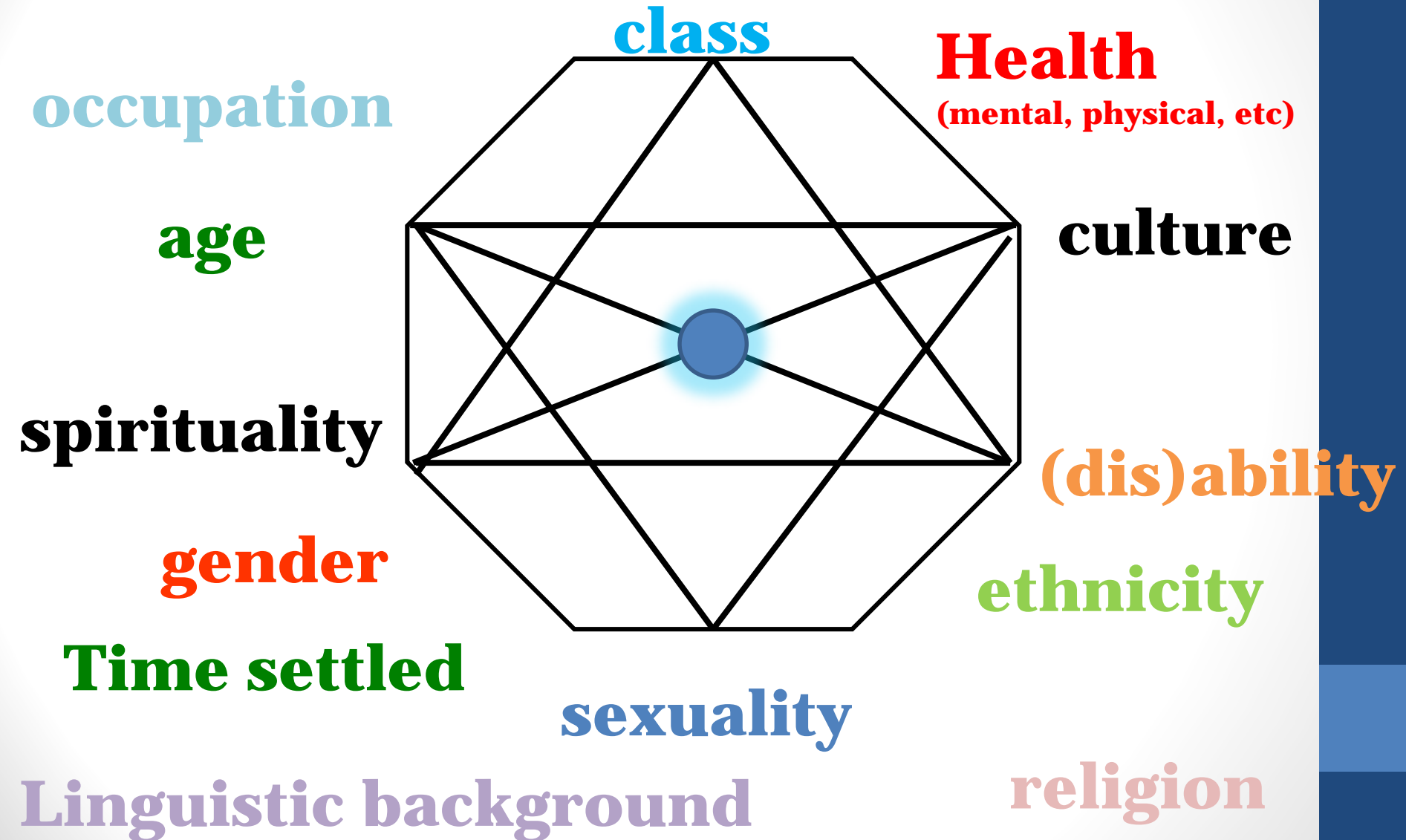
Phase One (early 2012)– Common adversity became a shared solidarity: Belonging also became an 'ethno' sentiment not experienced previously; 'civic' belonging still there and the promise of further 'civic' belonging

Phase Two (late 2012, early 2013) Ethno-belonging not spoken about; the promise of 'civic' belonging in terms of the rebuild/recovery has lost much of its lustre

- It would be hard to say that they will move back because now Christchurch is in a rebuilding state and in that rebuilding state, what part are they going to play in terms of employment? Are they going to find a job easily? (Somali male)

And across diversity – intersectionality of Identity...

Resettlement and Some Markers of Identity

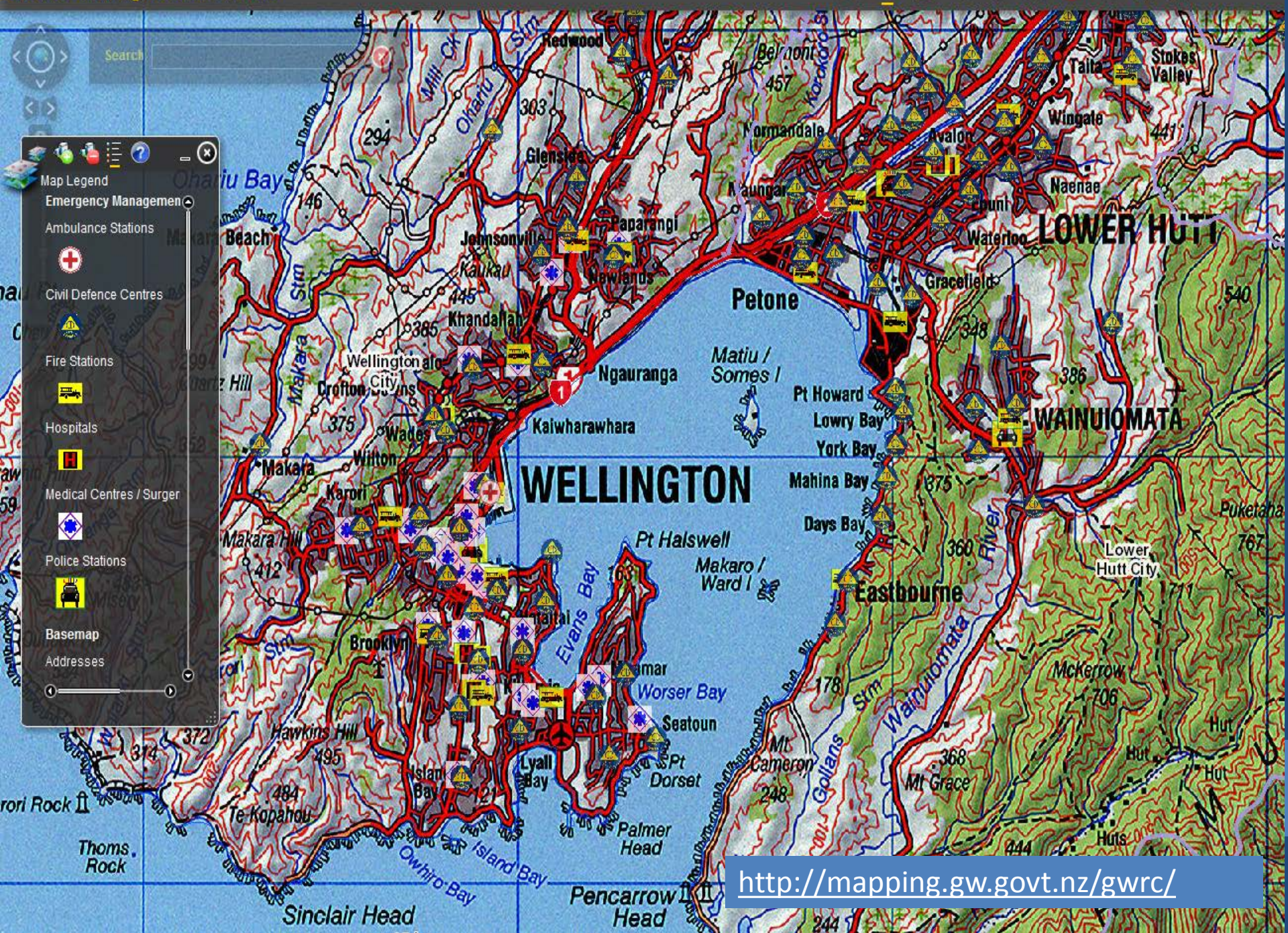


Conversations about men

job







Prioritisation of Hazards

Hazard	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating
Earthquake (e.g Wellington Fault event)	Unlikely	Catastrophic	Very High
Flood (e.g Hutt River flood)	Unlikely	Major	High
Tsunami - Local source	Unlikely	Major	High
Storm	Likely	Moderate	High
Human Pandemic	Possible	Major	High
Terrorism	Unlikely	Major	High
Landslide	Possible	Major	High
Drought	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
Tsunami - Distant source	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
Lifeline Utility failure	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
Hazardous substances incident	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
Transport accident	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
Fire	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
Animal Pandemic	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
Volcanic eruption	Rare	Minor	Very Low

- Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management, Group Plan 2013-2018

Looking Forward, Future Directions and Possibilities

- The term 'refugee' encompasses rich diversity
 - Time of being settled
 - Gender, Cultural Background, Age, English language competencies
 - 'Community' is a contested term and problematic ... though necessary.
- Comparative Perspectives and vulnerability
- The need for 'ethnic', 'civic' and 'ethno' belonging
- Pro-active community responses and multiple communication systems
- Community Development
 - **Community plans, community driven and (collectively) agency supported**
- Local, national and international plans to respond in the future

Hope

So if people work together... maybe the city might not be that beautiful but what makes a city beautiful is not really the buildings. Mostly the people actually make the city beautiful. As long as the people stay friendly and you feel you can belong then there's hope in it.



Alia Bloom

Martine Udahemuka

Mohamud Osman

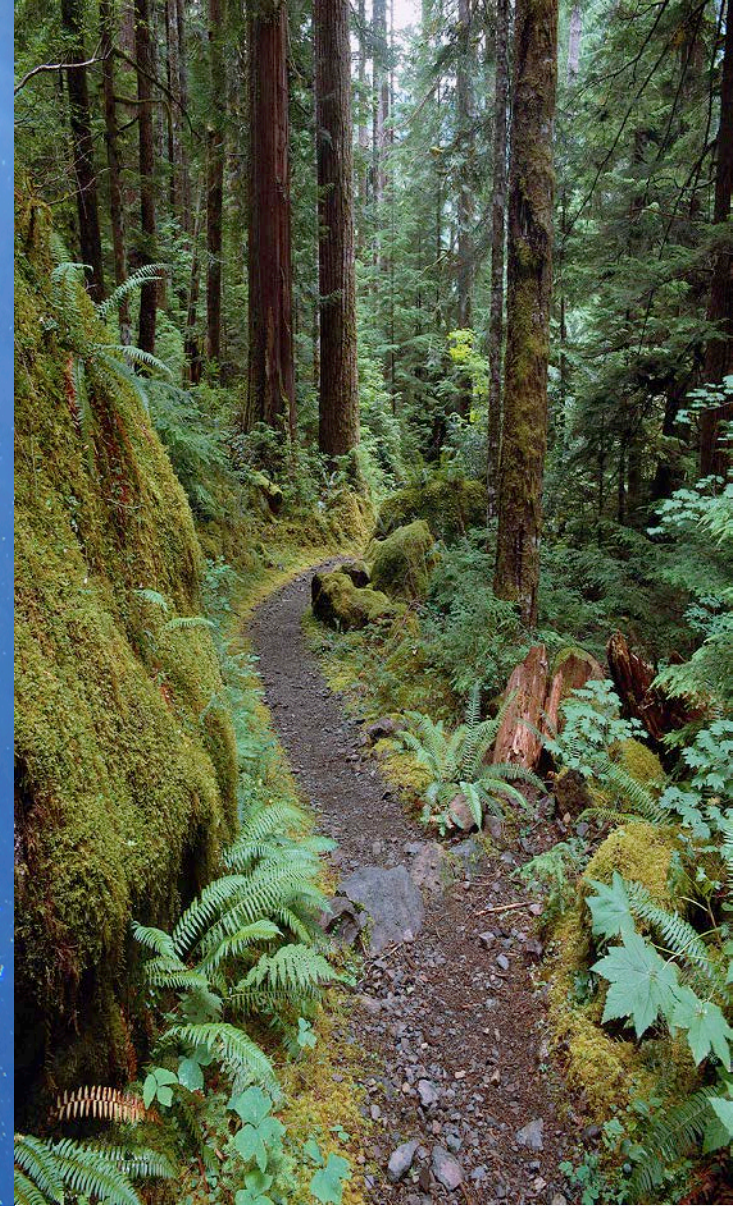
Zeba Alam

Rachel Bogen

Lucy Lou

Anne Marie Reynolds

Jm.marlowe@auckland.ac.nz



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF AUCKLAND**

NEW ZEALAND

Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau