This presentation examines how catastrophic events like hurricanes, earthquakes, as well as forms of political and economic crisis, deepen the fault lines of long-existing racial and colonial histories. Drawing on ethnographic research conducted before and after Hurricane Maria, it explores how attention to the coloniality of disaster requires a move away from an emphasis on resilience, turning instead towards new visions of repair and redress.

Yarimar Bonilla is a political anthropologist specializing in questions of sovereignty, citizenship, and race across the Americas. She has tracked these issues across a broad range of sites and practices including: postcolonial politics in the French Caribbean, the role of digital protest in the Black Lives Matter movement, the politics of the Trump presidency, the Puerto Rican statehood movement, and her current research, for which she was named a 2018 Carnegie Fellow, on the political, economic, and social aftermath of hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. She is the author of Non-Sovereign Futures: French Caribbean Politics in the Wake of Disenchantment (University of Chicago Press, 2015) and editor of the forthcoming Aftershocks of Disaster: Puerto Rico Before and After the Storm (Haymarket, 2019). In addition, she is currently Section Editor of Public Anthropologies for the journal American Anthropologist, and serves on the editorial committee for Small Axe: A Caribbean Platform for Criticism. She is also a frequent contributor to media outlets such as The Washington Post, and The Nation as well as a frequent guest on National Public Radio and television news programs such as Democracy Now!