

these services had they been available, his suggestion is a misleading one. However likely his explanations might seem, they are unnecessary. There is no need for him to nudge the reader in a specific direction: the narratives and photos evidence clearly the failures of public services and government.

They are a special sect, those who stood by New Orleans, and their photos are haunting. Neff poses his subjects in settings that help tell their stories. Melvin Smith stands with the flat boat he used to taxi many scared people to safety. Many other subjects are shown with artifacts central to their survivals. Neff also styles some of the images to the story he wants to tell. The photo of Ashton O'Dwyer, for example, depicts this strong-willed man sitting at a table with his rifle, ammunition, and a strategically placed can of bug-spray showing the words "Hot Shot." While this beautiful photograph effectively conveys Mr. O'Dwyer's character and experience, it leads the viewer to believe that most of these images, though sincere, are less-than-candid.

Even though Neff filters these narratives and photos through the lens of his own beliefs, through his compassion and rapport with his subjects, he communicates well the unique experiences of those witnesses to the city immediately following Katrina. This work serves as a powerful reminder to the rest of America that although Hurricane Katrina hit almost three years ago, it continues to affect a wounded but healing New Orleans.

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Erin Agemy and Rosemarie Fike are graduate students in economics at George Mason University and Mercatus Center Masters Fellows.

## A SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

### **Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program**

"Created in 1996, the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program provides decision makers with cutting-edge research and policy ideas for improving the health and prosperity of cities and metropolitan areas. Our work is designed to help metropolitan areas achieve three goals that are central for success in the new global order: growth in robust, inclusive and sustainable ways." The Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program works with other research groups to produce the Katrina Reading Room that compiles research on the progress of post-Katrina recovery. The New Orleans Index is a publication, produced in conjunction with the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center ([www.gnocdc.org](http://www.gnocdc.org)), tracking the progress of the area through empirical data collections and summaries.

[www.brookings.edu/metro.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/metro.aspx)

### **Bureau of Governmental Research**

"BGR is a private, non-profit, independent research organization dedicated to informed public policy making and the effective use of public resources for the improvement of government in the New Orleans metropolitan area. BGR also addresses state and national public policy issues that affect the metropolitan area. We are an independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization that is dedicated to gathering information on government and other public issues. Our research professionals analyze government policies, finance, management, and administration, and present the facts to the public."

[www.bgr.org](http://www.bgr.org)

### **Greater New Orleans Community Data Center**

"The Data Center is building sustainable sources of data and information to support nonprofit planning in a rapidly changing post-catastrophe environment. We present this data in a highly usable web format to increase the New Orleans nonprofit sector's access to

this essential information. We work directly with many local organizations to increase their ability to interpret indicators of recovery progress, to act on these indicators to eliminate obstacles to recovery, to identify needed reprioritizations, and to advocate for equity in rebuilding activities."

[www.gnocdc.org](http://www.gnocdc.org)

### **Hurricane Katrina Social Science Research Database and Hub**

"The Hurricane Katrina Social Science Research Database and Hub is a platform for sharing information and promoting collaboration among social science researchers working on issues surrounding Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. Projects are conceived as formalized, focused, small-scale collaborative research efforts. Networks are larger, more diffuse collaborations generally organized around broader themes or problems."

[katrinaresearchhub.ssrc.org/rdb/katrina-hub](http://katrinaresearchhub.ssrc.org/rdb/katrina-hub)

### **Institute for Southern Studies**

"Since 1970, the Institute for Southern Studies has established a reputation as a resource for grassroots activists, community leaders, scholars, policy makers and others working to bring lasting social and economic change to the region. The Institute has maintained a commitment to developing research and publication projects that directly support grassroots organizing, especially efforts for corporate and government accountability. In the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Institute launched Gulf Coast Reconstruction Watch to document and investigate post-storm rebuilding in the South. Reconstruction Watch has become a must-read resource, featuring dozens of pioneering investigative reports, profiles of innovative community leaders, and resources to promote a more democratic and accountable rebuilding process."

[www.southernstudies.org/facingsouth](http://www.southernstudies.org/facingsouth)

### **Kaiser Family Foundation – Health Care and Hurricane Katrina**

"The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation focusing on the major health care issues facing the U.S. with a growing role in global health. We serve as

a non-partisan source of facts, information, and analysis for policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the public. As part of the Kaiser Family Foundation's commitment to help respond to the devastation from Hurricane Katrina, we produce resources related to an ongoing effort to monitor and study the health coverage and needs of the victims." Kaiser compiles articles on survivor experiences, surveys, health coverage, state facts and HIV/AIDS issues to inform those affected by Katrina.

[www.kff.org/katrina](http://www.kff.org/katrina)

### **Louisiana State University – Reconstructing Community: Paths to Recovery in New Orleans Since Hurricane Katrina**

"This project is a comparison of communities in New Orleans and surrounding areas since Hurricane Katrina. We conducted surveys of churches and faith-based organizations, neighborhood associations, and other communities. Research includes evaluations of stress, and assessments of damage and re-flooding risk. Research investigates the contributions of community, social networks, and organizations to recovery and rebuilding."

[www.lsu.edu/fweil/KatrinaResearch](http://www.lsu.edu/fweil/KatrinaResearch)

### **New York University for Catastrophe Preparedness and Response**

"The Center for Catastrophe Preparedness and Response (CCPR) at New York University was founded in 2002 as a university-wide, cross-disciplinary center to improve preparedness and response capabilities to catastrophic events including terrorism, natural disasters, and public health emergencies. CCPR facilitates research projects that address issues from first responder capacity during crises, to public health response, to legal issues relating to security. After seeing Hurricane Katrina unfold in August 2005, CCPR mobilized to engage the NYU community through a university-wide research competition."

[www.nyu.edu/ccpr](http://www.nyu.edu/ccpr)

### **Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana and Rockefeller Institute – GulfGov**

GulfGov is a partnership of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana and the Rockefeller Institute of Government at the State

University of New York at Albany. "GulfGov Reports assesses how well federal, state, and local institutions including governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and civic leaders respond to [the challenges of rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina.] Over three years, GulfGov Reports will examine and issue regular reports on what these institutions are doing (or not doing) to improve and restore the living conditions of the people affected by these disasters. These reports will provide valuable lessons and insights for dealing with future disasters."

[www.rockinst.org/gulfgov](http://www.rockinst.org/gulfgov); [www.la-par.org](http://www.la-par.org)

### **RAND Gulf States Policy Institute**

"RAND conducts research and provides analysis to address challenges that face the United States and the world. Today, RAND emphasizes several areas of research that reflect the changing nature of a global society. The RAND Gulf States Policy Institute (RGSPI) is assisting in long-term recovery efforts [from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina] by providing evidence-based policy guidance to facilitate and speed regional recovery and growth, re-establish services and result in a wise investment in infrastructure. Within a week of Katrina's destruction, RAND researchers were on the ground identifying issues that would benefit from the nonprofit research organization's ability to analyze data and provide policy options."

[www.rand.org/rgspi/](http://www.rand.org/rgspi/)

### **Urban Institute**

"The Urban Institute gathers data, conducts research, evaluates programs, offers technical assistance overseas, and educates Americans on social and economic issues — to foster sound public policy and effective government. The Institute works to analyze policies, evaluate programs, and inform community development to improve social, civic, and economic well-being. Urban Institute researchers have studied urban blights such as widespread poverty, a failing public education system, low wages, and a weak tax base for nearly 40 years and knew what to reinforce when the storms of September 2005 compounded the old problems and swept in some new in New Orleans."

[www.urban.org/afterkatrina](http://www.urban.org/afterkatrina)