



## UNC Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility, the Cancer Epidemiology Seminar Series, and the Environmental/Occupational Epidemiology Seminars

# Storms of a Lifetime: Oral History as a Method for Understanding Older Adults' Experience of Disasters

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February 4, 2022 from 2:00-3:00

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://unc.zoom.us/j/91463330889?pwd=QStNYUE5MWx6MFhRR3ppVU5IR2ZzUT09>

Meeting ID: 914 6333 0889 Passcode: 3320024295

### Session Description:

As the United States faces the realities of an aging population and increasingly severe weather events due to climate change, concern about older adult vulnerability to disaster has increased significantly. Even so, the growing scholarly literature on the topic rarely centers older adults as experts on their own experiences. In this seminar, Sarah Torgeson will discuss how collaborative, qualitative methodologies like oral history can be used to invite elders to challenge, affirm, amend, or qualify narratives about their vulnerability to disaster.

Sarah Torgeson is a PhD candidate in American studies at UNC Chapel Hill, where she currently serves as a field scholar for the Southern Oral History Program. She received her BA in history from Yale University (2014) and an MA in American studies from UNC Chapel Hill (2020). Before graduate school, she worked as an historic resources' specialist at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson, MS.