

**A SERIES OF
UN/NATURAL/
DISASTERS**

COMMUNE EDITIONS

Red Epic, Joshua Clover

We Are Nothing and So Can You, Jasper Bernes

That Winter the Wolf Came, Juliana Spahr

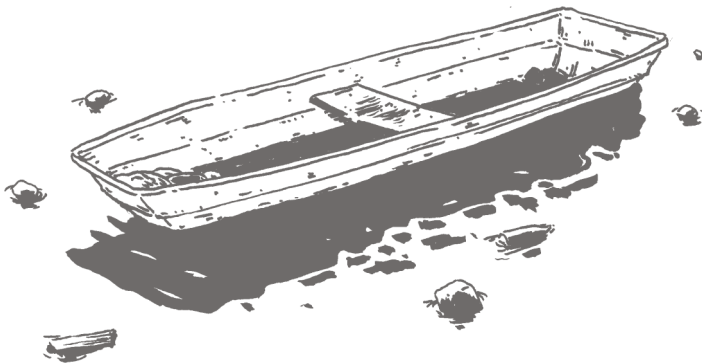
A Series of Un/Natural/Disasters, Cheena Marie Lo

Still Dirty, David Lau

Maximum Ca'Canny the Sabotage Manuals, Ida Björel

A Series of Un/Natural/ Disasters

CHEENA MARIE LO



Commune Editions
Oakland, California
communeeditions.com

An imprint of AK Press / AK Press UK
Oakland, California (akpress@akpress.org)
Edinburgh, Scotland (ak@akedin.demon.co.uk)

© 2016 Commune Editions
we encourage the sharing of this book and everything else: *omnia sunt communia*

Commune Editions design by Front Group Design
(frontgroupdesign.com)
Cover illustration by Amze Emmons

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data 2015959389

Lo, Cheena Marie
A series of un/natural/disasters / Cheena Marie Lo

ISBN 9781934639191 (pbk.: alk. paper)

Printed on acid-free paper by McNaughton & Gunn, Michigan, U.S.A. The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of ANSI/NISO Z39.48-1992 (R2009) (*Permanence of Paper*).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Always Already	7
Because Another Tropical Storm is Looming	9
Connect Policy to Built Environment	13
Consider Definition —	15
Direct Sunlight Looking Over 4725 Dauphine Street	17
How There Was so Much Water	19
How Nature is Layered on the Manmade	20
“It Keeps Getting Better”	21
o	22
2 15 10 75 40	25
New Maps	26
Orange X Spraypainted on Eight Lines	27
Poor Marks for His Handling of Federal Response	28
Q: What Happened?	35
So What About the Instinct to Survive	38
Something About Being Maddened by Hunger	39
See Also:	40
Successive Water Lines on Door in Lakeview	41
A State Could be Said to “Succeed”	46
Some of the Basic Conditions and Responsibilities of	47
TRANSLATE INTO DATA TO TRANSLATE	48
Towards the Amalgamation of Larger Divisions	49
The State is in Danger of Collapse	52
(Unspeakable this Anxiety I Am	53

VARIABLE DESCRIPTION LIST	54
WARNING SIGNS AND SIGNALS	56
We Are Alone	57
We Have Backup Generators to Accommodate	58
White Bedsheets Wave from Windows	59
X-codes Mark the Spot on Every Home,	60
Xs May Shine with Startling Clarity	61
Yellow House Leaning Forward	62
Zones are Color-coded and Labeled A, B and C	64

always already

another

an other

as in, an Other

as in, “different,”

as in, one of these things is not like the other

and used to define “normal”

as in, status quo

as in, this is the way things are —

a system

a system of relations

a social system

a socialized system

a structure

an institution

a number of overlapping networks

a complicated history

a feedback loop

a nuance

a trace

a complex web of connected services and systems

a problem

a disaster

because another tropical storm is looming

because the levees that protect New Orleans from floods are weak

because of his failure to step in

because of a dispute over where to install them

because FEMA regulations prohibit them from being installed in flood-prone coastal areas

because most of the victims were black

because of the war in Iraq

because many of the victims were poor and black

because the Hurricane Center says at least another twenty minutes
before we call where the eye made landfall

because the winds come up this way over this way and then down this
way

because, in fact, the wind is actually blowing offshore

because the lights went out in this block

because you're, obviously, potentially in harm's way there

because we're not here to play around in the wind and then take cover

because the water was so deep already, flooding so immense at this
point, that it was too unsafe to keep driving

because of that

because there is just busloads of people

because, of course, that's not really the priority

because I guess that's the real problem, isn't it?

because it's a point of contention when the eye makes landfall

because that's when you know that if you look outside, you can actually
see stars or see the sun rise through the eye

because the power is out

because it is, after all, built below sea level

because now it looks like we're going to be in the most dangerous part
of the storm

because clearly he doesn't have a radar there that he can see

because thousands and thousands of people there affected, thousands,
ten thousand maybe

because it started to rain

because, of course, the Superdome can fit many tens of thousands of
people

because they were concerned—and still are, of course—about flooding

because there's the eye itself moving right over Empire

because right near here is the only phone in the house that is a land
line

because we have focused a lot of our attention on New Orleans,
because of great concern about the number of people there and the
fact that it is so low-lying

because the sun was shining outside, but they were not allowed to go
home

because it reveals clearly the complete fraud of the “war on terrorism”

because the entire purpose of the “war on terrorism” has not been to
respond to a disaster, natural or otherwise

because a new owner would have to pay substantially higher flood
insurance rates

because the new data assumes that repaired levees will not break

because of the area's important oil and natural gas infrastructure and
fisheries

because we'll have people dying

because of water coming up

because we can't get them medical treatment in our affected counties

because he ignored the risks of global warming

because he diverted funds and manpower to Iraq

because his unfair tax policies inflicted on the poor and vulnerable no
other choice

because of a combination of factors that had not been anticipated

because of the inherent weakness of the soils behind it and pushed into
the adjoining neighborhood

because tens of thousands of mostly African-American voters displaced
by the storm have not yet come home

because I have to keep up now with where everybody, where they are now

because they didn't trust voting early or absentee

because of flooding

because of damage or flooding

because so much is really at stake in all of this

because my heart was just failing

because it's exactly what you want

because I've got to go home

because of security concerns

because of the storm

connect policy to built environment

connect built environment to people

connect people to data

connect data to design

connect design to policy

connect telephones

connect with anything

connect feedback loops to webs

connect reinvestment to enforcement

connect enforcement to reentry

connect reentry to legislation

connect legislation to analysis

connect analysis to prisons

connect prisons to police

connect police to policy

connect policy to probation

connect probation to reinvestment

connect reinvestment to jails

connect jails to enforcement

connect enforcement to legislation

connect this web to something

consider definition —

consider disasters caused by an act of nature

avalanches

blizzards

communicable diseases, see also: epidemics

cyclones (including hurricanes)

earthquakes

famines, note: may be caused or partially caused by humans

floods and landslides, note: may be caused or partially caused by humans

heat waves

lightning strikes

limnic eruptions

storms (non-cyclone)

tornadoes

tsunamis

volcanic eruptions

wildfires and brushfires

see also: list of natural disasters by death toll

2005, hurricane. new orleans, lousiana. 1,836.

2008, earthquake. sichuan, china. 68,712 (18,392 missing).

2010, earthquake. port au prince, haiti. 316,000 (haitian sources),
50,000-92,000 (non-haitian sources).

can a disaster be qualified by the number of lives lost?

/how to quantify absence?

direct sunlight looking over 4725 dauphine street creates black shadow
straight line broken by either an arch on a porch roof or just the
way the light bends.

lines of parallel panels painted gray and peeling.

eight lines of parallel panels in the frame painted gray and peeling.

orange X spraypainted on eight lines of parallel panels in the frame, so
bright against paint gray and peeling.

green lines, also peeling, of presumably a doorway and certainly a
window perpendicular to eight lines of parallel panels in the frame
painted gray and peeling.

green lines, also peeling, of presumably a doorway and certainly a
window perpendicular to eight lines of parallel panels in the frame
reveal the gray paint underneath.

green lines, lighter and of a different hue, of parallel panels in the
window pane.

green lines of parallel panels in the window pane angled in different ways, some letting the light in, a few reflecting the light back out, some missing and letting the light through anyway.

how there was so much water. how things need water to survive. how to
be human. human bodies are made of water. how to find the line.
how can there be too much of a good thing.

hyponatremia. the imbalance of water to salt in the body.
how overwatering can be more hazardous than going without.
how water enters the lungs and prevents the absorption of oxygen.

houses filled with water.

how struggle is replaced by cooperation. how to be human.

how there is a difference between refugee and evacuee. how one is
marked as an other. how to be human.

how nature is layered on the manmade.

or how man interferes with nature and fails. something about lines and
boundaries and naming. something about the ugly being beautiful.

how what's dirty is actually crystal clear.

“it keeps getting better” “it reminds me of a little joke” “in order to move forward” “immense part played by mutual aid” “is more cost effective” “in the evolution of the animal world” “implement the following recommendations” “in the evolution of mankind” “implement a coordinated emergency plan” “in societies” “institute of corrections” “in common” “is capable” “individual jails” “it would be quite contrary” “in mutual support” “in the months after” “its performance” “in nature” “in assisting” “in evacuating” “it is encouraging” “it has never found a lack of supporters” “it does not appear” “in its most primitive position” “interest” “in evaluating” “if the institution” “it be possible” “it may be taken as a rule” “in any other” “insufficient” “in what should be” “individuals held” “in all possible circumstances of village life” “investigative body” “is part of the routine life” “identifying” “in light of these projections” “improve jail conditions” “it has been shown that” “inefficiencies” “in all parts of the country” “in the system” “is no public”

○
○
○
○
○
○
○

9,900
57,700
59,300
71,200
73,900
78,300
87,000
106,700
114,600
123,000
126,900
141,600
142,400
156,100
164,000
166,300
172,600

178,400
203,600
206,300
238,100
250,000
251,900
276,000
282,100
284,500
286,000
289,800
346,100
383,400
384,500
393,100
406,200
422,800
444,500
478,200
517,600
556,700
580,300
592,500
617,600
636,800
639,400
649,300
651,400
688,400
691,700
715,900
763,500
787,900
897,100
903,500
938,900

1,132,400
1,207,000
1,276,500
1,315,900
1,401,500
1,553,100
2,130,400
2,687,300
4,317,200
4,624,400

2	15	10	75	40
4	24	17	88	44
7	14	9	87	39
all	.3	100	73	28

new maps
new plans
new ways of thinking
new orleans

nothing out there
no lights
no hope
no people
no police
no sound
no horizon

orange X spraypainted on eight lines of parallel panels in the frame, so
bright against paint gray and peeling

orange X, spraypainted after the fact

orange paneled house with spraypainted yellow X

orange cross painted over red X painted over beige panels

orange “stay out i have a gun”

poor marks for his handling of federal response
pursued policies that do not just ignore the
plight of the
poor but compound it

poor folks were told to evacuate, and they had no means to do it

the poor are still with us
plagued

poor planning and communication
poor planning and apathy
poor would suffer disproportionately in
poor excuse for inaction
poor and black
poor and mainly black
poor folks are black
poor went back to being invisible
poor left low and wet in high waters
poor nations
poor, uncaring country

poor people who were caught in the wake
poor folks whose lives were washed away
poor have lost most
poor without transportation would be left behind
poor people at a relocation center in Houston were faring better than
before
poor planning on the part of our government
poor people were not able to evacuate
poor black residents
poor judgment in not evacuating
poor are suffering most from shortage of doctors
poor response would be silly, if it weren't so mean
poor, vulnerable
poor minority and rural areas had difficulty getting help
poor response to victims
poor communication and bureaucratic issues
poor without reliable electricity, decent schools, television sets or
proper sewage
poor people had no family or transportation
poor, people of color in general and African Americans in particular
poor man's beaches
poor people will be able to build anything back there
poor or too frail to leave
poor, local communities are using to cope
poor or barely registered
poor soil quality underneath New Orleans
poor or very poor
poor decisions and judgments, and failed policies
poor people are having a much tougher time
poor locked out of that American Dream
poor black communities
poor black schools
poor black people
poor black neighborhoods
poor –er level or standard of existence
poor with the unnecessary

poor in this country right now is a low priority
poor and disadvantaged and working class
poor people always get the shaft
poor people are black
poor people or black people
poor people are going to suffer more
poor person's disaster
poor city not a predominantly well off city
poor, or middle class and rich in America
poor, many people are still in a holding pattern
poor, white or black
poor people were evacuated by gunpoint
poor in this city
poor folk question
poor so I think it's more an issue of class than race that's going on
poor black people
poor black people
poor black people
poor black people
poor blacks
poor and homeless
poor Ninth Ward
poor people
poor black people
poor blacks
poor people
poor people
poor and African American
poor and African-American
poorest and blackest
poor whites uptown
poor, double the national average
poor black people
poor blacks
poor throughout the middle class
poor, black people

poor people and African Americans
poor and black americans were “disadvantaged”
poor say razing of houses another blow
poor new orleanians
poor or aged
poor to be reopened
poor people return to the city
poor prisoners in similar circumstances
poor people facing criminal charges
poor people to pay for the system
poor were left behind because they had no transportation, couldn’t
 afford to leave or didn’t know where to go
poor planning
poor decisions and judgments, and failed policies
poor construction and maintenance, and inadequate funds
poor were exposed in the days after
poor planning, untested procedures and communication breakdowns
 added to the devastation
poor contracting oversight
poor communications among federal and state FEMA agencies
poor were left to fend for themselves
poor communication systems
poor was not deemed practical
poor planning execution
poor chain of command
poor white folks
poor people of color
poor people of color
poor black residents
poor and black
poor backwards
poor planning and dereliction of duty
poor though studies had warned for more than a decade
poor and black folk
poor suffered most, study confirms
poor, black residents

poor, black population
poor and outrage
poor blacks
poor all along
poor blacks
poor so horrible
poor blacks and other minorities
poor whites
poor whites
poor blacks
poor whites
poor blacks
poor blacks
poor whites
poor white children
poor whites
poor working class
poor and black folk
poor while denying their need to be responsible for their own destinies
poor hampered their own progress
poor suffered because they desired
poor, nearly a week after
poor more than two decades ago
poor were simply too lazy to improve their prospects and their misery
 was their own fault
poor, but we also bought
poor are illiterate, sick and unemployed
poor in the wake
poor to their own devices
poor for their ills
poor under our collective social carpet
poor, they didn't have \$50
poor deserve better than this
poor for their problems
poor to the margins
poor creating the conditions of their success

poor when they originate from white society
poor when they emerge outside the race
poor blacks
poor blacks suffer
poor while overlooking the inequality
poor are flooded daily by material misery
poor in principled fashion
poor stranded
poor and outrage
poor blacks
poor all along
poor had been abandoned
poorest folk in the nation
poor since long before
poor and spit them back up
poor and how long they remain that way
poor might get
poor by chiding them for lacking
poor blacks
poor combat such a vile legacy
poor saw in us
poor black civilians barely endured the fury
poor response
poor and members of minorities
poor population, who should be encouraged to return
poor and African American
poor population was its supply of middle-aged workers
poor, black
poor black people
poor Black people
poor Black people
poor and black
poor black residents
poor from such post-disaster trauma
poor and middle class should not have to pay
poor and black

poor government response
poor and black
poor people

pouring water into a pail with no bottom

Q: What happened?

Q: Were you born in the United States or some other country?

Q: Which of these categories best describes your origin or descent?

Q: Who is missing?

Q: Is it simply a question of leaving out?

Q: Should we move to higher ground?

Q: What does disaster look like?

Q: What is the cause?

Q: What is the effect?

Q: Did this take place in your own neighborhood or somewhere else?

Q: Did this take place in the street or on the sidewalk?

Q: Did this take place outside, for example, in a yard, area surrounding a building, a park or a parking lot?

Q: Did this take place in or near a public housing project?

Q: Did the [OFFENSE] occur in [CITY]?

Q: Did the [OFFENSE] take place inside a building?

Q: For what other authorities are you being held?

Q: What is important to you?

Q: Who is to blame?

Q: Are you not being held for any federal, state, or local authorities other than this jail?

Q: Who?

Q: What is the context?

Q: Do you expect to ever be released from jail or prison?

Q: Say there is a massive flood and you have a rowboat with enough room to row yourself and three others to safety, who do you choose?

Q: How do you choose?

Q: Which is the most important reason?

Q: What happens to everyone else?

Q: When were you most recently admitted to jail?

Q: What is your plan?

Q: What counts as a crime?

Q: How much did you, your family, or friends pay?

Q: How much was returned?

Q: How much money is spent on prisons a year?

Q: How many schools have been shut down this year?

Q: What harm has been done?

Q: What needs have been created?

Q: Who is responsible for repair?

Q: Power.

Q: Who has the answers?

Q: Who has the longest life expectancy from birth?

Q: Who has insurance and access to care?

Q: Who delayed or did not receive needed medical care due to cost?

Q: Who are the fittest in the struggle?

so what about the instinct to survive.

so what about birds and burying beetles.

so what about support and what about struggle.

so what about ants and bees and termites.

so what about the field upon which tender feelings develop
even amidst otherwise most cruel animals.

so what about migration. breeding. autumn.

so what about the numberless lakes of the russian and siberian steppes
and what about aquatic birds, all living in perfect peace —

something about being maddened by hunger.

something about exuberant life and bird-mountains and new forms.

something about association and consciousness.

something about the family and then the group.

something about the isolation of groups.

something about the necessity of communicating.

something about simply feeling proximity.

see also:

act of god, civil protection, crisis, disaster medicine, disaster convergence, emergency, emergency management, human extinction, list of disasters, list of disasters by cost, maritime disasters, risk governance, risks to civilization, humans and planet earth, sociology of disaster, survivalism, theklaxon.com, disaster film.

successive water lines on door in lakeview.

successive water lines on white door in lakeview.

successive water lines on white door in white wall in lakeview.

successive water lines beginning beneath address, 6855, on white door in white wall in lakeview.

successive water lines beginning beneath address, 6855, which sits beneath more numbers on white door in white wall in lakeview.

successive water lines beginning beneath address, 6855, which sits beneath more numbers, 9-22, spraypainted in orange after the fact, on white door in white wall in lakeview.

second line begins right under peephole.

second line begins right under peephole in white door in white wall.

second line begins right under peephole in white door in white wall, which sits underneath another set of numbers, 1340, also spraypainted in orange after the fact.

second line begins right under peephole in white door in white wall, which sits underneath another set of numbers, 1340, also spraypainted in orange after the fact, followed by a third line fainter than paint, more like rust.

successive water lines beginning beneath address, 6855, which sits beneath more numbers, 9-22, spraypainted in orange after the fact, on white door in white wall in lakeview.

successive water lines intersected by orange paint brighter than rust, two thick lines intersecting each other into an X, coded messages in each quadrant.

speaks through its sheer numbers.

74,782	77.7	14.8	3.5
66,542	84.9	10.9	0.3
2,569	93.5	5.8	0.2
190	92.1	6.3	0.5
1	^	^	^
465	82.6	14.2	0.2
1,380	98.1	2.5	0
415	94.2	5.5	0.5
86	84.9	10.5	0
32	75	15.6	0
12,202	60	32.6	0.8
10,403	60.2	31.6	0.9
646	46.7	40.4	2.2
8,677	60.8	30.7	0.8
73	60.3	34.2	1.4
1,007	63.9	33.8	0.8
1,799	58.7	38.2	0.6
53	83	15.1	0
1,307	53.2	43.8	0.5
58	67.2	15.5	0

165	82.4	17	0.6
166	69.3	28.3	1.8
50	54	44	0
24,472	92.9	4.9	0.2
22,450	93.2	4.7	0.2
2,022	90.4	6.3	0.5
4,398	71.3	25.2	0.7
1,106	52.4	39.3	1.4
17	23.5	52.9	17.6
28	32.1	67.9	3.6
113	36.3	56.6	2.7
55	89.1	12.7	0
23	26.1	69.6	4.3
61	44.3	44.3	1.6
18	27.8	66.7	0
791	55.5	35.5	0.8
3,292	77.6	20.4	0.4
425	62.4	36.5	0.2
138	50	50.7	0
208	70.7	25	0.5
52	71.2	19.2	5.8
415	91.6	5.5	0.2
844	77.1	20	0.5
25	28	72	0
1	^	^	^
724	95.6	5.2	0
32	78.1	18.8	0
26	80.8	15.4	0
34	44.1	47.1	5.9
24	37.5	62.5	0
344	68.6	27.9	0.6

8,082	93	6.7	0.1
14,819	90.3	2.1	0.1
8,240	19.4	46	29.3
774	25.2	49.9	4.1
919	11.3	69.2	18.4
1,464	38.7	47.2	7.4
520	73.1	12.9	1.3
2,906	4.1	38.1	57.5
1,657	14.1	54.8	26

a state could be said to “succeed”

the term *failed*

state is often used to describe

a state perceived as having failed

some of the basic conditions and responsibilities of
a sovereign government

TRANSLATE INTO DATA TO TRANSLATE INTO FACT TO TRANSLATE

1935	Social Security Act
1938	Fair Labor Act
1946	National School Lunch Act
1960	Aid to Families with Dependent Children
1961	Food Stamps
1964	Economic Opportunity Act
1965	Housing and Urban Development Act
1966	Child Nutrition Act
1972	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children
1982	Job Training Partnership Act
1984	Truth in Sentencing
1984	Comprehensive Crime Control Act
1988	Office of National Drug Control Policy
1994	Three Strikes Law in California
1996	Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act
1998	Workforce Investment Act

towards the amalgamation of larger divisions of the species for purposes
of mutual protection

towards some determined point

towards the end of August, and remain for the winter

towards the shore

towards the sea

towards the trees nearest to the field

towards family life

towards the development of higher moral sentiments

towards each other

towards the community

towards his community, that he not only refuses to be rescued

towards our neighbours

towards a new life of mutual support and liberty

towards the peasants; attempts to free them

towards the citizens: a public function, as honorable as any other.

An idea of “justice” to the community, of “right” towards both
producer and consumer

towards the State

towards the end of the winter

towards the end of your sentence

towards the community at large, but also among the co-operators
themselves

towards establishing better relations

towards one sort of heroism

towards the establishment of an infinite variety of more or less permanent
institutions for the same purpose.

towards the poorer classes

towards the poor, from whom the well-to-do-people are separated by
their manner of life

towards further progress

toward Medicare and Medicaid expenditures

toward higher income

towards the right questions rather than ready-made formulas

toward achievement of its vision

towards the middle

toward rebuilding

towards the constructivist learning model

toward a curriculum that acknowledges the importance of making students
conscious at a young age of their position in a global society

towards the benefit of a people and a place in need

toward the top of the levee

toward its prisoners

toward the boats

towards the perimeter fence

toward repopulating his jail

toward the center of the city

toward the top of the wall

toward the houses on the other side

toward a geography of incarceration and return

towards a final catastrophe

the state is in danger of collapse

the phones have been shut down

there is no way home—

the people you love, every last one, are all on

the other side

(unspeakable this anxiety i am
unable to find the language
until long after waking
until then, there is this)

VARIABLE DESCRIPTION LIST

“CORRECT AGE” “AGE” “COMPUTED AGE” “RACE?” “OTHER RACE RECODE” “SPANISH/HISP ORIGIN?” “WHICH BEST DESCRIBES ORIG/DESCNT” “BORN IN THE US OR OTHER” “NOW A CITIZEN OF [COUNTRY]” “COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP” “CRIME VICTIM ONE OR MORE PERSONS” “PERSON OF SPANISH/HISPANIC ORIGIN” “RACE OF PERSON” “SEX OF PERSON” “AGE OF PERSON” “PERSON WAS FAMILIAR OR STRANGER” “HOW WELL WAS PERSON KNOWN” “UNUSED VARIABLE” “ANY PERSONS OF SPANISH/HISP ORIGIN” “ALL/MOST WERE HISPANIC” “ALL PERSONS OF THE SAME RACE” “THE PERSONS WHITE/BLACK/OTHER RACE” “RACE OF MOST OF THE PERSONS” “SEX OF PERSONS” “MOST PERSONS MALES OR FEMALES” “HIGHEST GRADE OF SCHOOL ATTAINED” “WAS THAT GRADE COMPLETED” “WAS THAT YEAR COMPLETED” “REASONS FOR STOPPG: CONV CRIME” “REASONS FOR STOPPG: BEHAV PROB” “REASONS FOR STOPPG: LOST INTER” “REASONS FOR STOPPG: FINAN PROB” “REASONS FOR STOPPG: FAM PROBS” “REASONS FOR STOPPG: WORK” “REASONS FOR STOPPG: PREGNANCY” “REASONS FOR STOPPG: OTHER” “MOST IMPORTANT REASON” “GED OR HS EQUIV CERTIFICATE” “GED OR HS DIPLOMA” “CONDITION LIMITING WORK AMOUNT” “DIFFICULTY SEEING NEWSPRINT” “DIFFICULTY HEARING CONVERSATN” “HAVE: LEARNING DISABILITY” “HAVE: PHYSICAL DISABILITY” “HAVE: PHYSICAL DISABILITY” “HAVE: MENTAL CONDITION” “HAVE: NONE” “FULL-TIME/PART-TIME

OR OCCASIONAL” “LOOKG FOR OTHER WORK AT THE TIME” “LOOKING
FOR WORK” “REASONS NOT LOOKG: NOT AVAIL” “REASONS NOT LOOKG:
COULDN’T FIND” “REASONS NOT LOOKG: LACK OF EDU” “REASONS NOT
LOOKG: MED CONDITN” “REASONS NOT LOOKG: FAMILY RESP” “REASONS
NOT LOOKG: WELFARE” “REASONS NOT LOOKG: IN SCHOOL” “REAS FOR
NOT LOOKG: DIDN’T NEED” “REAS FOR NOT LOOKG: DIDN’T WANT” “REAS
FOR NOT LOOKG: ILLEG ACTS” “REAS FOR NOT LOOKG: ON DRUGS” “REAS
FOR NOT LOOKG: RETIRED” “REAS FOR NOT LOOKG: OTHER” “REAS FOR
NOT LOOKG: NONE” “MOST IMPORTANT REASON” “WHO LIVED W/WHEN
GROWING UP” “EVER LIVED IN FOSTER CARE” “PARENTS EVER RECEIVE
PUB ASSIS” “EVER LIVE IN PUB HOUSG GROWG UP”

WARNING SIGNS AND SIGNALS

the gap in life expectancy at birth between persons and persons persists but has narrowed since 1990. life expectancy is a measure often used to gauge the overall health of a population. as a summary measure of mortality life expectancy represents the average number of years of life that could be expected if current death rates were to remain constant. shifts in life expectancy are often used to describe trends in mortality. racial disparities in life expectancy at birth persisted in 2007 but had narrowed since 1990. the gap in life expectancy between white males and black males narrowed from eight years to six years the gap between white females and black females decreased by six years to four years. most children enjoy good health this is a period when concerns about growth and development emerge and access to diagnostic and treatment services in health care mental health and the school system is critical. both chronic health and developmental conditions have important consequences for children's ability to participate in school. death and dying are complex processes with implication for all involved.

we are alone

we are walking

we are walking, completely alone

we must have missed the message

where has everyone gone?

why are all the doors locked?

we have backup generators to accommodate any power loss

we're fully staffed

we're under our emergency operation plan

we've been working with the police department

we're going to keep our prisoners

where they belong

white bedsheets wave from windows—in times of
war it is a classic sign of surrender or negotiation—it might be a
way out, perhaps, or a signal—
where they belong is not here now

we must recognize that we cannot defeat the mighty forces of nature

X-codes mark the spot on every home, spraypainted messages

xeroxed in krylon haunt buildings for miles, seem to say

xo rip miss you

Xs may shine with startling clarity

X	12/9	NE	○	1/8
X	9-20	○	○	FL
X	9-10	○	○	DF
X	9-10	○	○	DE
X	911	NEO		DE
X	9-6	NE	○	1
X	9-6	NE		TX
X	9-6	NE		TFI
X	9-6	NE		TXTF1
X	9-6	○	○	TX-1
X	9-2	NO	1DEAD	TX1
X	9-16	○	○	1/8
X	9-10	○	○	DEA
X	9-16	○	○	1/8
X	9-21		○	FL2
X	9-14		○	FL1
X	9/8	NE		AZ
X	9-12	E	○	
X	9-6	NE	○	TX-1
X	○	○	9-8	9-8
X	912	NA	NA	186

yellow house leaning forward

foundation damaged by force of flood, yellow house leaning forward

shingled roof on yellow house leaning forward is patchy, blue-ish gray shingles left on only the bottom right corner.

shingled roof on yellow house leaning forward is patchy, dark brown and light brown patches of the roof underneath exposed, blue-ish gray shingles left on only the bottom right corner.

white obtuse angled side of roof over line of black shadow. pale yellow parallel panels.

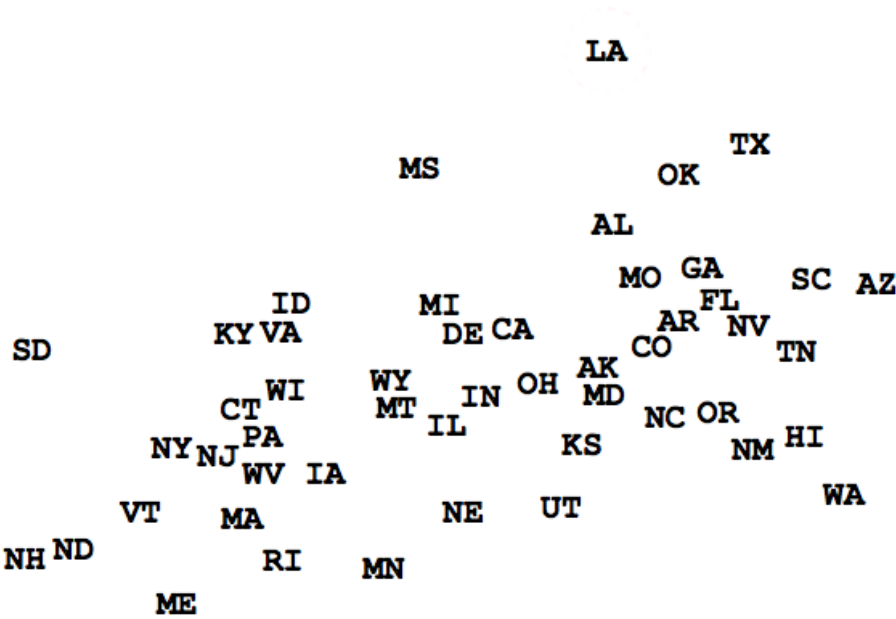
thicker dark yellow panels revealed underneath missing pale yellow parallel panels.

insulation revealed underneath missing thick dark yellow panels revealed underneath missing pale yellow panels.

bottom of house a mess of wood, concrete, raw materials of foundation damaged by force of flood, forcing yellow house to lean forward.

coded markings spray painted in red, blue on pale yellow parallel panels
indicate the structural instability of this home.

Zones are color-coded and labeled A, B and C when represented on a map



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work borrows from *Mutual Aid* (Peter Kropotkin), *Katrina + 5: An X-Code Exhibition and The X-Codes: A Post-Katrina Postscript* (Dorothy Moye, originally published in Southern Spaces), publications from the Spatial Information Design Lab, surveys from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Health Interview Survey, and numerous news articles aggregated by Google News searches.

Thank you to everyone at Commune Editions—I can't think of a better home for this book. Special thanks to Juliana Spahr, I am grateful for your guidance and commitment to this work.

Endless gratitude to friends Brittany Billmeyer-Finn, Michelle Geck, Jess Heaney, Tessa Micaela Landreau-Grasmuck, Claudia Castro Luna, Syd Staiti, Truong Tran, Zoe Tuck, and Stephanie Young for reading drafts, asking questions, and helping me think through these poems. Thank you, Taylor King, for everything.

