Disasters in the United States

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Vera Brusentsev is a labor economist and educator with extensive teaching experience in the United States, Australia, Canada, Latvia, Nepal, and the People’s Republic of China. Her joint work with Wayne Vroman is policy oriented: unemployment protection throughout the world, and labor market policy responses to the Great Recession in the United States and other regions in the world, including the economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. When Brusentsev visited relatives in Schoharie, New York, after the devastating effects of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, she was inspired to focus her research interests on disasters in the United States.

Wayne Vroman is a labor economist specializing in social insurance programs. He has worked at the Urban Institute since 1977. He has directed numerous Institute research projects, many of which have focused on unemployment insurance (UI). Besides his work with the federal administration of UI, he worked directly with state UI programs on questions of program financing. Vroman also conducted research on workers’ compensation, paid family leave, worker disability, old age pensions, wage inflation, and union wage contracts. He was a consultant for the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the United States Agency for International Development on several projects in foreign economies. His work in the United States and abroad stimulated his interest in the causes and consequences of disasters, as he was exposed to several extreme weather events.