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Abstracts of Presentations

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**Vulnerability, Risk and Complexity:
Impacts of Global Change on Human Habitats**

Topic 1

consumption and climate change across the five case study countries (UK, Czech Republic, Hungary, the Netherlands and Germany) and thus across Eastern and Western Europe. Findings were also similar across urban and rural locations. This suggests that these findings reflect social representations which are European, rather than country specific.

Rural shelter in case of disaster

Julia Theodoraki-Patsi

National Technical University Athens, Greece

The issue discusses the emergence of the rural habitat as a shelter in times of unfolding emergencies. After an approach of the tautology of the terms emergence and emergency, historical cases of rural habitation patterns are presented. For centuries human population found refuge in protected clusters. In the current century population growth and concentration in urban centers is reversing the safety of condensed patterns and the emergence of the rural shelter is postulated. While Greece in general has a low population density (80 inh./km.2), a demographic development is expected and a surge for new houses in rural areas. The feeling of the population not to be safe in urban centers advantages the situation. In this framework the Greek rural habitation pattern is presented. Rural habitation system in Greece is organized since antiquity in a hexagonal pattern, distributing six settlements in a distance of about 4 to 6 Km around a central one. This pattern does not only provide efficiency for the every day agricultural practices but also a daily walking communication. Finally the resilience and sustainability of the Greek rural settlement in times of disasters is concluded. Key words: Rural shelter, emergency, emergence, disaster.

Sustainability, evolution of social behavior, and population collapse in the prehistoric American Southwest

Jesse Voss¹, George Gumerman², Alan Swedlund³

¹Notre Dame University, Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon

²Santa Fe Institute & School for Advanced Research, USA

³Santa Fe Institute and University of Massachusetts, USA

The Kayenta Anasazi occupied the Long House Valley, located in the Black Mesa area of northeastern Arizona (USA) from about 1800 B.C. till A.D. 1300. After 1300 no further archaeological traces of the Kayenta Anasazi, or the Anasazi Civilization are found in the southwest north American region they occupied, and it remained empty for nearly 300 years. Christopher Columbus did not arrive in the Caribbean for another 200 years – and Europeans did not set foot on their former lands for yet another 100. They had no wars, and they lived in harmony with nature. The lands were just abandoned, their civilization simply ceased to exist. This region preserves a rich paleoenvironmental record, based on alluvial geomorphology, palynology, and dendroclimatology, that permits the accurate quantitative reconstruction of annual fluctuations in potential agricultural production. We