



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

National Wind Institute™

Wednesday, September 20th

3:30 p.m.

Experimental Sciences Building, Rm. 120

**WiSE Wednesday Lecture Series Presents:**

**Transdisciplinary Teamwork to Study Human Vulnerability and Resilience to Wind Disasters**

**Dr. Zhen Cong, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor

Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Texas Tech University

**ABSTRACT:**

This presentation will focus on using a multilevel socioecological perspective to model individual behaviors and responses to wind disasters. Specific questions addressed include 1) how social determinants of individuals' access to tornadoes and protective action taking are different across social and historical contexts, 2) how social disparities in relocation decision-making at the individual and community level are different between younger and older adults, 3) how family functions as an institution that contextualize individuals' response to wind disasters. The studies presented cover EF-5 Joplin and EF-4 Tuscaloosa in 2011, EF-5 Moore and EF-4 Hattiesburg tornadoes in 2013, and Hurricane Sandy in 2013.

**BIOGRAPHY:**

Dr. Zhen Cong is an associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Texas Tech University. She received her Ph.D. in Gerontology from School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California. Her research interests focus on older adults' social relationships and their well-being in different social and cultural contexts. Affiliated with and supported by colleagues from the National Wind Institute, she has conducted a series of studies examining individual behaviors related to wind disasters, particularly behaviors that vary across the lifespan. She adopts a multilevel socioecological perspective featuring human-environment interactions and social disparities at multiple levels. Her work is supported by the National Science Foundation.