

## **Thomas A. Birkland, SUNY Albany**

### **Week 8**

Tom Birkland is an Associate Professor of public administration and policy, and political science at the University at Albany, State University of New York, where he also directs the Center for Policy Research. Dr. Birkland received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Washington in 1995. He is interested in how disasters and crises change media and policy makers' agendas and reorder what are perceived to be important problems. Dr. Birkland was a 1993-94 EERI-FEMA Fellow as well as a Faculty Fellow in the Social Science Research Applied to Hazards and Disasters program. More recently, Dr. Birkland was a plenary speaker and moderator at the 9/11 Summit on emergency planning and management for the judiciary. He is currently a member of the EERI's Social Science/Learning from Earthquakes committee. Dr. Birkland is the author of numerous articles about natural hazards policy and politics as well as *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making* (M.E. Sharpe, 2001) and *After Disaster: Agenda Setting, Public Policy and Focusing Events* (Georgetown University Press, 1997).