William Siembieda applies urban planning principles to the study of resiliency, risk reduction and hazard mitigation. His policy interest is how best to integrate complex actions in the management of resilient and safe urban places.

Transnational describe his professional practice hazard and risk reduction efforts. Examples include subject matter expert to the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Chilean National Center for Integrated Management of Disaster Risk, New Zealand's Joint Center for Disaster Research. Plan work includes the Prevention and Preparedness Plan for the Federal District of Caracas (with JICA), the State of California Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the State of California Adaptation Planning Guide.

His work appears in a range of publications including: The Journal of Disaster Research, Journal of the American Planning Association, the International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters, the International Journal of Disaster Risk Science Research, Journal of Integrated Risk Management, the U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report, and Earthquake Spectra. Professional publications include the Asian Development Bank Report Series, the World Bank's Learning from Mega Disasters series, and the Natural Hazards Observer.

He is full Professor of City and Regional Planning at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and founding director of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design's Resilient Communities Research Institute (RCRI). Previous academic appointments include the University of New Mexico and the University of California-San Diego. Dr. Siembieda holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an Economics B.A., University of California, Berkeley.