

2020 VIRTUAL CRHNet SYMPOSIUM & DRR ROUNDTABLE



2020 OCTOBER DRR ROUNDTABLE

Thursday 15th

12:15PM



Dr. Brenda L. Murphy
Professor; Social & Environmental Justice



Bryce Gunson
Project Manager / Lecturer

Resilient Communities Research Collaborative, Wilfrid Laurier University

Moving Sendai Towards “Just Resilience”

This presentation focuses specifically on Principle D of the Sendai Framework. Principle D states that disaster risk reduction (DRR) requires an all of society engagement, empowerment, inclusive and accessible participation, with special attention to those disproportionately impacted by crises. To address the needs of marginalized groups and increase resilience, consideration of socio-economic factors including class, gender, age, disability and culture/race/ethnicity should be integrated into all DRR policies and practices. We argue that an emerging framework, “Just Resilience”, combining the key tenets of environmental justice, resilience and emergency management, works towards achieving this Principle. Just Resilience is defined as the ability to proactively prepare for, and rebound from, crises and changes in a way that increases future emergency management capabilities, prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable and addresses social inequities across a range of dimensions (location, age, class, gender, etc.) (Agyeman, Schlosberg, Craven, & Matthews, 2016, p. 574). In this presentation we provide an overview of the framework and outline the best practices for practitioners, policy makers and researchers.

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1:05PM



David Etkin
Associate Professor; Disaster and
Emergency Management



Peter Timmerman
Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental
Studies

York University

Narratives of Disaster: Sensemaking in Crisis

Storytelling as a way of understanding the world around us, both literally and metaphorically, is a powerful tool. Disasters come in many shapes, sizes and forms, but have in common the need for people make sense of these tragic events that disrupt their perception of normalcy, and perhaps even their worldview. The process of sensemaking is not limited to times of crisis; it occurs continually throughout our lives, but is particularly active and important during times of crisis. Part of what makes disasters is the potential for bewilderment: what is going on? What are the threats? What do I have to do? Will we survive? And so on. Trying to make sense of things throws us into temporary or permanent narratives — storytelling. This paper is about disaster narratives, the individual, community and cultural stories we try to use to place disasters within an explicable conceptual, cultural and emotional framework.

Disaster narratives do not begin with a damaging event, but rather are pre-existing constructs that people tap into when explanatory frameworks are needed. They then form the basis of personal stories, media reporting, institutional analyses and after-action reports. These narratives are heavily imbued with morals, judgments and descriptions of our relationship to the world around us, though they are often implicit in the language, tone and metaphors used rather than explicitly stated.

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1:55PM

Vanessa Howard

Chair of the Core Competencies Working Group, IAEM Canada, IAEM Canada

Jack Lindsay

Brandon University

Jodi Manz-Henezi

CRHNet

Core Competency Working Group Area of Exploration

The emergency management core competency project was a Public Safety Canada (PSC) initiative supported by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Canada, CRHNet and others, including strong representation from Canadian academia. Important work toward this initiative was completed in 2017 however the working group had to focus on other priorities and active work on this project paused.

With the support of PSC, IAEM Canada has re-invigorated this important project and has begun the initial work related to developing a framework for the emergency management core competencies in Canada. The Core Competency Working Group has formed to inform/develop an Emergency Management Competency Framework within Canada that will be relevant to the diverse makeup of Emergency Managers and align with priorities for Canada. The intent of the Framework is to inform national training/standards for practitioners/roles/succession of roles.

In order to ensure relevance and inclusion of the diverse emergency management audience the working group will create a pan-Canadian engagement strategy. This strategy will be informed by the proposed Area of Exploration in which we will discuss the nature of the strategy; including appropriate participant groups, regional and sector implications, and necessary tools to leverage in a COVID-19 environment. The knowledge gained through this shared exploration will directly inform the working group's overall engagement strategy.

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2:30PM



John Robertson
Fortlog Services

Communication is NOT what is said, it's always what is heard!

"Have you ever noticed that when there is a critical event happening, people don't always seem to 'get it'? Sometimes they are told something, or even what to do, yet within 5 minutes they seem to have misplaced what they were told to do. Additionally, some people think that saying it louder will help. The issue is comprehension not deafness.

What can very easily happen during a crisis is the kids' 'broken telephone' game. When communication is focussed on merely sharing information, the result will often become an entirely unmeant meaning by the time it gets to the third or fourth check point. Then when external inputs have their influence, including media of any form, the result can create such a ripple that the plan is requiring more work and effort and not yielding the result that had been hoped for.

The ripple of this approach can last well beyond any emergency. In truth, since it takes an emotion to make a memory stick, and how people feel is not about emotions but about impact, the result can be leadership gets compliance without ownership. This can be a death nail for a healthy, thriving workforce never mind successful leadership