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## DISASTER RESEARCH – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INTERFACES

Disaster research has evolved into a distinctive area of study within sociology through linkages to alternative theoretical perspectives. Increasingly, interdisciplinary work has reflected concepts and frameworks within multiple disciplines that have relevant to specific questions being explored. Simultaneously, the profession of emergency management has matured both in scope of mission and intellectual rigor. Increasingly, emergency management professionals are pressing researchers from multiple disciplines to provide insights and guidance. This interface will provide significant new research opportunities. Among these will be explorations of questions like these.

1. How can disaster researchers best develop, test, and expand future theory? Related questions include: What defines the boundaries of the field? Which theoretical paradigms can best be extended to improve our understanding of disaster impacts, both anticipated and actual? Which theoretical paradigms can best be tested and extended to improve our understanding of social vulnerability and resilience at multiple system levels?
2. How can disaster researchers best identify the limits of generalization for their study findings and conclusions within samples of events, impacted social systems, and cross-societal settings? When emergency managers try to implement program changes reflecting research findings, what guidance can researchers provide regarding the limits of generalization? As emergency management is increasingly internationalized, what research guidance is required to reduce implementation failure?
3. How can disaster researchers more effectively disseminate research findings and conclusions to emergency management professionals in both pre and post-service settings? As emergency management education continues to expand within academic institutions of all types, what research is required to assess quality and relevance to career performance? What alternative feedback and evaluation mechanisms can be modeled, implemented, and assessed?
4. How can more effective models of collaboration be developed between disaster researchers and emergency management professionals? How can emergency management professionals better inform and guide portions of future research agenda? How can emergency management professionals better assist disaster researchers in the implementation of their studies?
5. How can social problems theoretical perspectives better inform emergency manager professionals regarding their mission as community change agents? What research could provide guidance for emergency management professionals implementing community mitigation and preparedness measures? What research could assess and extend the understanding of emergency management professionals regarding alternative strategies for enhancing community resilience through social network development, incorporation of improvisations and empowerment of all community members, especially those typically disenfranchised? How can disaster research better inform and prepare emergency

management professionals to cope more effectively with pre and post-event “cross fires” that reflect the dynamics of community conflict, pluralist values, and political priorities?

6. What aspects of the popular culture of disasters merit priority research designation? How can better documentation and understanding of emergent temporary memorials, like monuments designed as permanent, assist professional emergency managers during recovery? To what extent and in what ways do various aspects of the popular culture of disaster, e.g., songs, poetry, and other forms of artistic expression, assist community grieving and processes of emotional recovery?

In short, how can disaster researchers better inform, and be informed by professional emergency managers? How can disaster research assist this profession as it explores, expands, and implements a core theoretical foundation to guide action, procedures and policy development in societies throughout the world?