

Assessment of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (AIRDR)

Why Now? Our old ways of knowing are being challenged by a new set of urgencies.

- increasing interdependencies of human systems
- cascading impacts of disasters (local to global; natural to technological)
- tipping points and thresholds in human and physical systems (“shocks”)
- risk and responsibility (private to public; spatial; temporal)
- political and economic instability
- crises as normality; the new normal conditions
- economic/environmental movement
- reflexive nature of capital and land markets in production of risk
- global interest in sustainability, and climate change

Purpose: to undertake the first systematic and **critical global assessment of published research on disaster risk under the auspices of the IRDR—new knowledge**

Approach:

1. Documentation and critical assessment of extant literature on disaster risk
2. Identification of what is known well and empirically supported, what is less well known, and what gaps exist in our research knowledge base, and what opportunities exist for new research in the co-production of knowledge

SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths</p> <p>What is known well?</p>	<p>Weaknesses</p> <p>What is known less well?</p>
<p>Opportunities</p> <p>What can we learn from the co-production of knowledge?</p>	<p>Threats</p> <p>What is not known, but should be?</p>

Goal

- Provide a baseline of the current state-of-the-science in integrated research on disaster risk to measure effectiveness of multiple research programs
- Use to identify and support longer-term science agenda for the research community and funding entities
- Provide scientific evidentiary basis in support of policy and practice

How do we get there?

Write a proposal for funding of AIRDR

1. Create a team (6 members) to write the proposal that includes colleagues with experience in extramural grant writing (**April 2011**)
2. Convene one meeting of proposal team (**August 2011**) for face to face meeting and drafting
3. Draft a proposal for major funding to support the initiative (**December 2011**)
4. Use IRDR network to solicit listing of potential funding sources and/or mechanisms for a multi-year, multi-millions of Euros (dollars, pounds) project (IPO in conjunction with ICSU, ISSC, ISDR) (**ongoing starting in April 2011**)
 5. Submission of AIRDR proposal for funding (**Sept 2012 depending on funding source deadlines**)

To pique the interest of funders

- Develop a short white paper on some of the disaster myths (e.g. lack of empirical evidence to support some of the “conventional wisdom” such as disasters are “acts of God”)

Myth: We can expect widespread panic in disasters

Reality: Panic (as anti-social irrational behavior, not feelings of anxiety) is rare in disasters; creative coping is the norm.

Myth: We can expect widespread looting and other anti-social behavior.

Reality: Some does exist, but vast majority of affected people exhibit pro-social and helping behavior in disasters.

- World’s top ten catastrophes waiting to happen (Black swan events)

Surprise events with major impact

In hindsight, event rationalized

http://www.rff.org/rff/Events/upload/20180_1.pdf

comments

- Dualisms as myths
- Definition of integrated research and advantages of this—factors that impede; where more is needed
- Myths focus on disaster risk and construction of it
- Black swan vs. Everyday cumulative events—include both
- Likely group—more brainstorming in Australia