



# Forensic Investigations of Disasters

FORIN

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*Forensic Investigations of Disasters*

# Content

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- A wide-angle photograph of a coastal site. In the foreground, there is a large, weathered piece of driftwood with intricate root structures. Behind it, a concrete foundation or wall is visible, surrounded by various pieces of debris, including white plastic containers and pipes. In the background, a small, simple building with a red door stands on a grassy hillside. The sky is overcast with soft, diffused light.
1. FORIN 2.0
  2. Current activities
  3. Future activities

## The FORIN Project



FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS OF DISASTERS



## The FORIN Project



Understanding the Causes of Disasters

[www.irdrinternational.org](http://www.irdrinternational.org)

# 1. FORIN 2.0



After a full year of work, including a workshop here at **ICSU** funded by UNISDR, and two subsequent meetings in **Mexico City** and **San Jose, Costa Rica**, funded by ICSU of the editorial committee of Tony Oliver-Smith, Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Ian Burton and Allan Lavell, the second version of FORIN was completed in time for the distribution of **500 copies** at the Science and Technology Advisory Group conference in Geneva in January.

The document appears as consistently downloaded from Research Gate. There have been as well **xxx** downloads from the IRDR website.

ResearchGate

**Book**

Forensic Investigations of Disasters (FORIN): a conceptual framework and guide to research

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 Lavell AM

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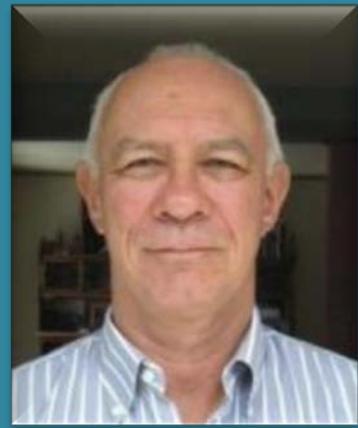
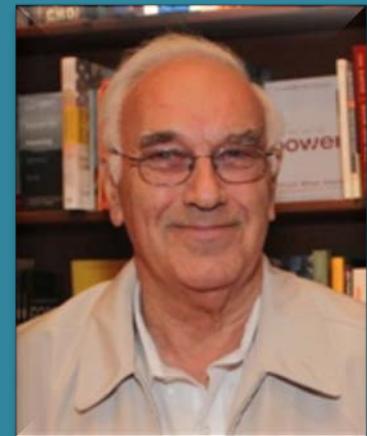
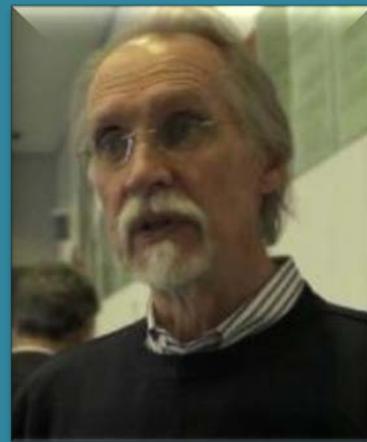


# Forensic Investigations of Disasters (FORIN)



## A conceptual framework and guide to research

Anthony Oliver-Smith,  
Irasema Alcántara-Ayala,  
Ian Burton and Allan Lavell



# FORIN objectives



- ✓ Research objectives
- ✓ Educational and extension objectives
- ✓ Policy objectives
- ✓ Development and equity objectives

# FORIN Key areas of investigation



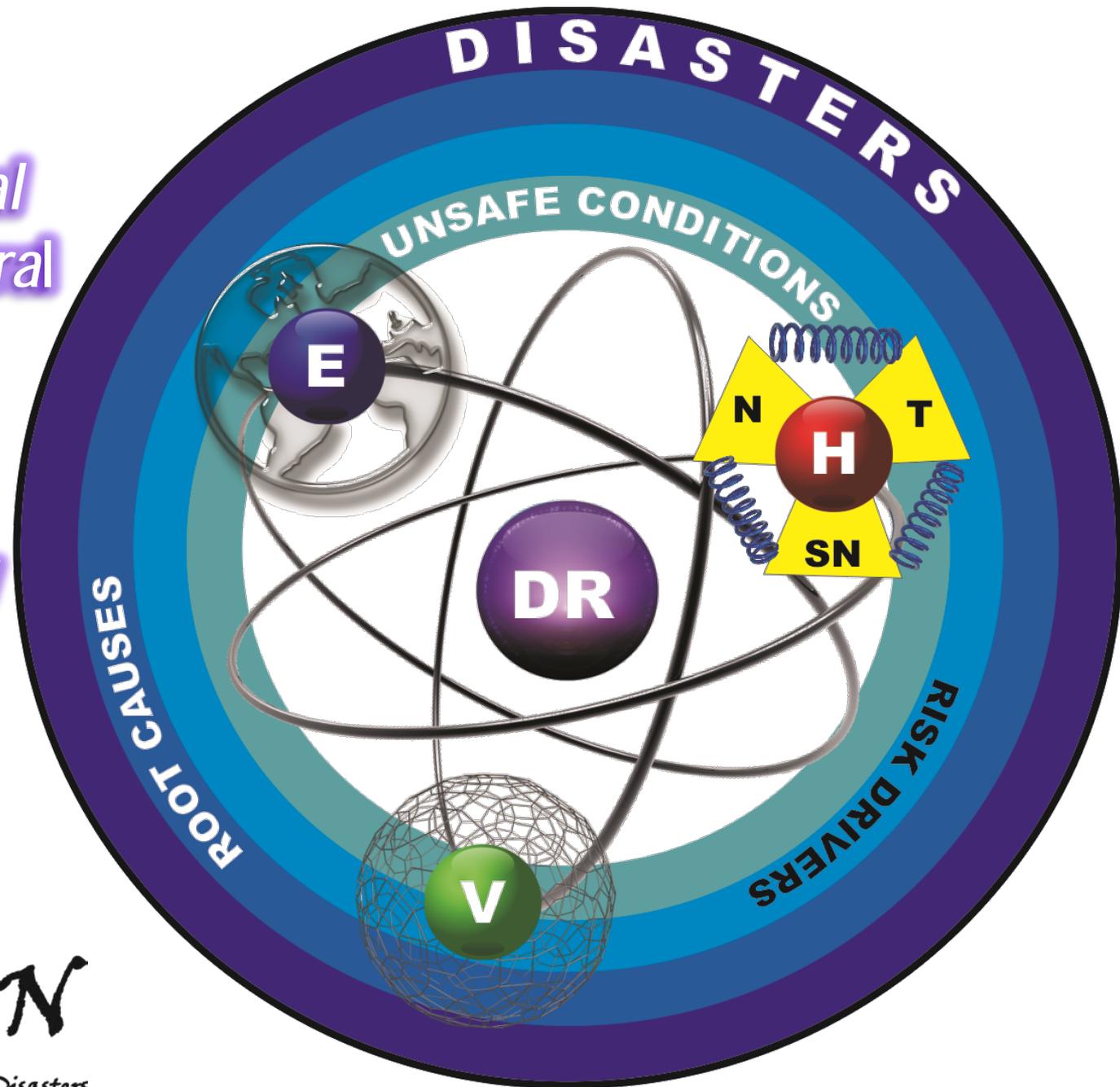
- ✓ The triggering event(s).
- ✓ Exposure of social and environmental elements.
- ✓ Vulnerability: The social and economic structure of exposed communities.
- ✓ Institutional and governance elements.



H = Hazard  
N *natural*  
T *technological*  
SN *socio-natural*

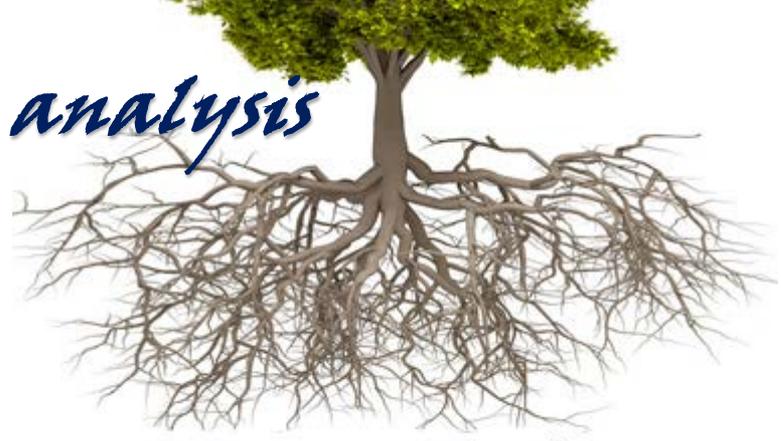
E = Exposure

V = Vulnerability



## *Root cause analysis*

# **Guides for Research**



- 1. Retrospective longitudinal analysis (RLA)**
- 2. FORIN disaster scenario building (FDSB)**
- 3. Comparative case analysis**
- 4. Meta-analysis**

**A causal chain must be established between the patterns of damage and loss in a disaster and those social forces that mobilize the construction of risk, examining root causes and particular expressions of exposure and vulnerability.**

## 2. Current activities

We are also nearing the final draft of the translation to Spanish of the new version of FORIN supported by IRDR and with the collaboration of UNAM and ICSU-ROLAC.

Irasema Alcántara-Ayala led the effort to translate FORIN, which was done by Sarah Lavell, with the assistance of Alonso Brenes, Allan Lavell, Irasema Alcántara-Ayala and Tony Oliver-Smith.

This translation will expand the readership of FORIN considerably.

Investigaciones Forenses de Desastres will be published by the Institute of Geography, UNAM, IRDR and ICSU-ROLAC.

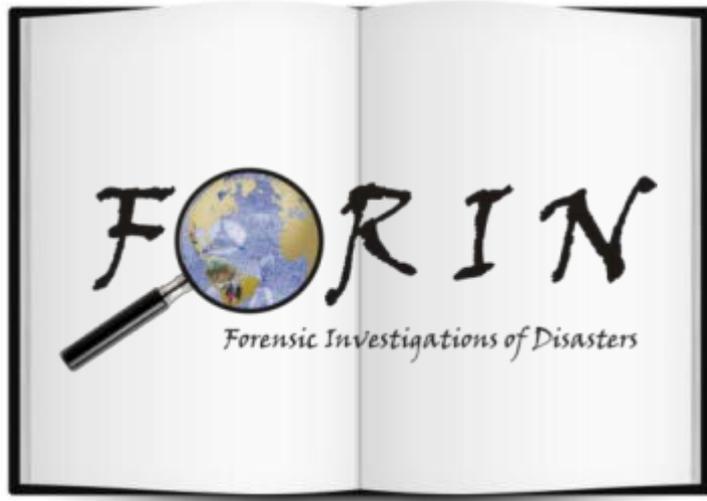


### 3. Future activities

We have an offer from David Alexander, the editor of the **International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction**, to write an editorial, based on the second version of FORIN, of a length of our choice on the need for research on root and underlying causes.

We have explored the possibility of a **seminar or workshop among all the different groups involved in research on root and underlying causes and forensic investigation** such as PAR (Ben Wisner), SEI (Frank Thomalla), and DKKW, for whom Joern Birkmann has written on the topic. We are considering applying to the Bellagio Center of **the Rockefeller Foundation** to hold the workshop.





We have an offer from Oxford University Press to write a **FORIN online handbook**. Tony Oliver-Smith has discussed the possibility with senior editor Allan Graubard. Since Irasema Alcántara-Ayala is a member of the editorial board, as well as co-chair of the FORIN working group, we are looking forward to establishing a format (an authored book by the working group members or perhaps an edited volume composed of multiple authors from IRDR and the field in general) and firming up the commitment and getting a contract.

# The persistence of memory

*S. Dalí*



Who controls the past controls the future,  
Who controls the present controls the past

*George Orwell*