

# NEEDS 2021

5th edition of the Northern European Conference  
on Emergency and Disaster Studies

Östersund / online 21–23 September

Abstracts from the panel

How differences matter in emergency,  
risk and crisis management



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# Gender in disaster risk reduction before a disaster: case studies from Fukuoka, Japan

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Until the early 2000s, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies did not properly recognise gender vulnerabilities (Enarson and Morrow, 1998). Following the first reports showing the effects of gender-unequal or gender-bling DRR strategies like unequal access to house subsidies (Masai et al, 2009), an international consensus on the importance of gender equality in disaster management and reconstruction developed (Asia-Pacific Gender and Disaster Management Forum, 2009). Currently, gender is integrated in disaster policy design through international reports, official guidelines, and online series for policymakers and international organisations (IRF, 2009; UNISDR, UNDP and IUCN, 2009; IFCR, 2011).

Although these are remarkable advances, reports and guidelines only address gender-based risks after a disaster happens and are based on the assumption that all the stakeholders share the same understanding of gender-based disaster risk (Enarson and Pease, 2016). Thus, there is a need to analyse critically different conceptualisations of gender in DRR education strategies *before* the emergency.

I propose a comparative study of four conceptualisations of gender in DRR education strategies: gender as women empowerment, gender as motherhood, gender as equality between men and women, and gender as genderblind. I analyse each variant through case studies of gender-sensitive disaster education in Fukuoka City (Japan): the *Mini-Book for the disaster prevention for mothers* by the Gender Equality Affairs Office, the family-oriented *simulation* organised by a local NPO, and the *Citizen's Disaster Prevention Centre*, managed by the Fire and Disaster Prevention Department. The study aims to compare gender-based disaster education based on inductive versus deductive educational system, goals, priorities, and challenges.

The study contributes by informing a complex notion of gender in DRR education strategies and gives practical recommendations to include gender-perspective in DRR.

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# Women's invisible work in disaster contexts: Gender norms in speech on women's work after a forest fire in Sweden

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The aim of this study is to investigate what women do in disaster situations and how both men and women perceive and discuss the work of women. These patterns were evidenced in the stories that were told following the fire. The study is based on 31 retrospective interviews with volunteers involved in a large Swedish forest fire and focuses on stories about the supportive work of women during this fire. The results indicate that women were praised when they followed the traditional norms but were denigrated when they performed what was perceived as male-coded tasks. The stories reveal norms about what a woman is and is not by focusing on women's age and clothing and by directly and indirectly questioning their abilities and authority. The norms are also rendered visible by the positive attention that women receive while describing doing what is expected of a woman.

# Gender difference in risk perception of public health crisis

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The current COVID-19 pandemic presents a global public health crisis. Policymakers are finding ways to encourage individuals to take preventive measures. Perceived risk of the pandemic was found a good predictor of the intention of taking preventive measures (Park et al. 2021). In the risk perception literature, a gender difference is often found (Siegrist and Árvai 2020). Females tend to perceive lower risk than males in different domains such as health risk. This difference is especially pronounced between white males and females and is thus known as the “white male effect” (Finucane et al. 2000). One possibility of such difference is that females and ethnic minorities are often disadvantaged. This inequality drives the difference in risk perception (Olofsson and Rashid 2011). To support this hypothesis, Olofsson and Rashid find that the gender difference disappears in Sweden, which is a more gender-equal country.

Another factor that drives risk perception is the degree to which an individual underestimate one’s own risk relative to similar other’s predicted (Park et al. 2021). In particular, more optimistic individuals perceived their own risk of COVID-19 to be lower. This underestimation of one’s own risk is known as “optimistic bias.” In the current study, we study gender difference in the optimistic bias of the COVID-19 risk. We find that the gender difference in risk perception of self is small. More interestingly, the optimistic bias is larger among females. This gender difference is not driven by the females’ underestimation of their own risk but a more pessimistic perception of other’s risk.

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# Oil, Religion, Manuel and Emergency Management: about 7 exercises showing that difference matters

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The presenter wishes to share observations and analyses of a series of table top and field exercises conducted in a multi-national High Reliability Organisation (HRO) in the oil exploration industry.

As part of an emergency preparedness project, bi-national emergency management teams were subjected to different scenarios, disposing of different tools or the lack of.

The unique character of these exercises / experiments consists in the fact that the exercises were conducted in parallel with two teams of varying ethnicity, cultural background, religion, ... yet with similar professional training and knowledge of the installation and the activities within their professional context.

The exercises resulted in different approaches by both teams, alternative ways of tackling different scenarios (industrial accident, infectious disease and terrorism) and changes in behaviour based on the availability of instruction sets.

As part of the After Action Review (AAR), the exercise staff's observations were shared with the participants and the approach, motives and processes were discussed to obtain first hand motivation and explanation why and how some decisions were made.

The exercises themselves were observed and recorded and afterwards analysed in view of group dynamics, decision making processes and remaining improvement in the emergency planning effort.

The exercises indicated that team participants acted and influenced the group decision making based on their own perceptions, beliefs, risk appetite, strategic insights and various other aspects. Six table top exercises (TTX) and one field training exercise (FTX) resulted in a very rich variation in decisions, actions and outcomes and clearly demonstrated that the human factor is instrumental in the outcome of crisis management.

The resulting challenge is to determine both the positive and detrimental consequences of this diversity and to develop courses of action, measures to allow for high quality consistency in emergency and crisis management.

# Expressions of gender – in a mono gendered setting

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Expressions of gender – in a mono gendered setting

17.11.2019

The local Danish Rescue and Fire Services are characterized by a very low percentage of female fire fighters. A number of initiatives have been launched to increase the obvious imbalance, however a rapid shift in this inequity is not expected due to several circumstances: e.g. a number of cultural constraints and a minimal turn over among fire fighters.

Due to this, male dominance is expected among fire fighters for a period of years from now. In this paper, we will address some of the organizational challenges in a cultural setting that is heavily dominated by men with the point of analytical departure in the question: How is masculinity enacted in a culture of male members?

One of Denmark's largest fire and rescue services, with a large proportion of full time employees (in opposition to part time or voluntary fire fighters) have recently implemented new principles of training, exercises and court examinations of the employees. This has triggered several reactions in the organization: Sceptisime, anxiety, criticism and reluctance among some. One of our preunderstandings is, that the social category of gender is central to understand and learn about the responses to the novel mandatory training courses – and not least for the organization to comply to the negative reactions.

Based on a method of participating observations two researchers have initiated a study that implies an initial analysis of the learning culture that investigate have gendered practices of learning might produce constraints towards the newly implemented practices in the organization. One male researcher who is part of the organization besides being occupied with research, and one female researcher with a very limited experience of operational firefighting.