



Research Committee on the Sociology of Disasters

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello amazing colleagues! Welcome to this issue of Unscheduled Events. Once again, I want to acknowledge that we are in times of great political, social, and environmental change. Attacks on science, particularly climate science, are coming at unprecedented rates. Attacks on peoples, cultures, and humanitarian aid are truly gut wrenching. I started my career in humanitarian aid, including working for the now decimated USAID, living in various countries around Africa for many years. I am frightfully aware of the devastation and death tolls that American policy changes are going to have. I can barely fathom this level of cruelty. I find it hard to even write this note for you without tears. Know that this truly hurts my heart. Also know that myself and so many others are on the ground not taking this lying down. I am engaging in civil disobedience or, as the late Congressman and Civil Rights icon John Lewis advocated, getting into "good trouble." I am attending rallies, marching, engaging in letter writing, campaigns – anything I can think of. It feels hollow and not enough, but I will do anything I can.

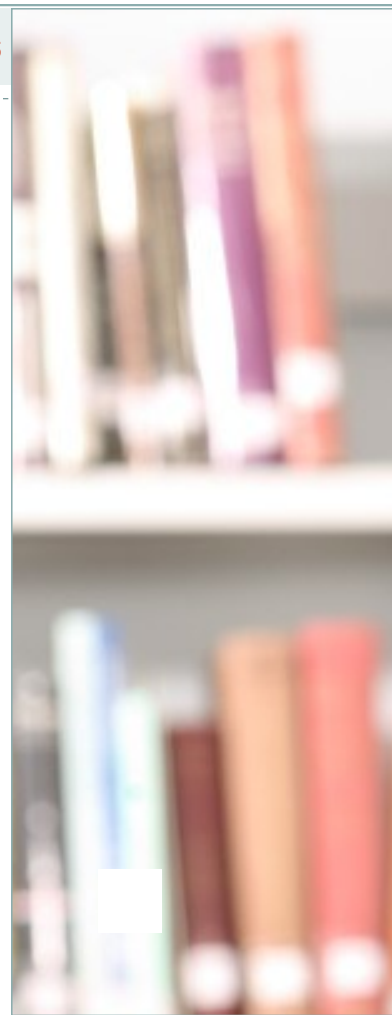


Michele Companion

With that being said, one step that we have taken, along with ISA, is to remove ourselves from any association with X (formerly Twitter). As ISA stated, "After careful consideration and with the ISA Executive Committee's full approval, the ISA has decided to discontinue our activities on X (formerly Twitter). This decision stems from our increasing concerns about the rise in hate speech and changes in moderation policies, which we believe are in conflict with ISA's ethics and objectives." My heartfelt thanks to our incredible board on moving this forward unanimously and quickly. Special thanks to our social media coordinator Rosie Lin for setting up and launching our new account on BlueSky! You can find us at: @isarc39.bsky.social – Bluesky in addition to our other platforms.

I know I keep repeating myself, but, again, this is worth repeating - my heartfelt thanks, admiration, and support goes out to all of those working in difficult conditions, facing/making difficult choices, and dealing with trauma at any level.

Please stay safe and well! With tremendous respect, Michèle Companion



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Note ..... 1
5th World Forum .....2
Natural Hazards Workshop and Researcher's Meeting .....4
Great News .....6
Donations/Legacy Giving.....8

# The 5th World Forum

الرباط  
RABAT



V ISA Forum of Sociology  
6-11 July, 2025

#ISAforum25 #Morocco

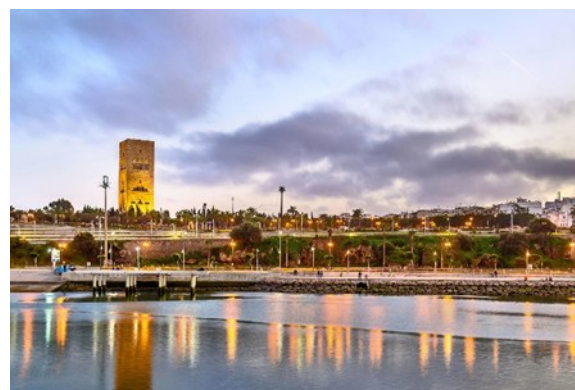
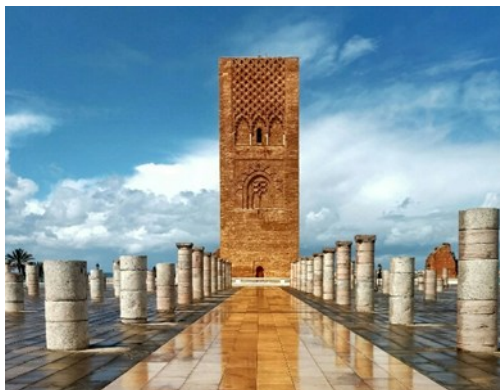
Marlon Era and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Rabat and learning about your work! As you recall, we are hosting SIXTEEN sessions, chaired by colleagues from around the world. We are also co-hosting an additional three sessions. You will be really pleased by the range of papers and contributors!

Following our RC's commitment to sponsoring students and helping our colleagues, we were able to extend several registration grants to applicants from around the globe. The registration for the conference will close March 22, 2025! If you do not register, you will be dropped from the program. The sessions have been scheduled for dates, times, and rooms, but the formal schedule will not be posted online for a few more weeks. This is to give Program Coordinators a chance to move things around if people have dropped out of the program. I will post an update to our social media when the program is online.

If you are attending, all kinds of great information about the venue (Université Mohammed V de Rabat), the hosting faculty (Faculty of Education), the city and more can be found at:

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/rabat-2025/5th-isa-forum-venue>.

Please check regularly because they are always adding new information. Next week, they will be adding information on local tours, sightseeing, and more to help enrich your travel experience. Doesn't Rabat look beautiful??



Below, please find the list of our sessions. We look forward to seeing you in Rabat!

**RC-39 Sessions:**

1. Polycrisis — Bridging or Deepening the Divide between the Global North and the Global South: Global Conflicts, Food Insecurity and Innovative Food/Agricultural Technologies
2. How Nongovernment Organizations Affect Justice and Equity in Climate Disasters: New Directions in Theory and Practice
3. The Affective Turn in the Sociology of Disasters
4. Women Practitioners in Emergencies
5. Disasters Studies in the Global South
6. Cultural Heritage and Disaster
7. Displacement, Migration, and Relocation
8. Understanding and Mitigating Urban Disasters
9. Adapting Disaster Response Strategies to Unique Environmental Challenges
10. Community Engagement in Disaster Recovery: Bridging Research Perspectives
11. Digital Sociology of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
12. Disasters, Resistance and Change: The Politics of Disaster Risk Creation
13. Issues in Disaster Studies I
14. Women's and Children's Health and Wellbeing Following Disaster: Toward a Human-Right-Based Recovery Framework
15. Threats, Challenges, and Opportunities to Livelihoods
16. Unequal Impacts: Disaster Vulnerability and Resilience in the Anthropocene

*See you in Rabat!*

# The Natural Hazard Workshop and Researchers Meeting

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Natural Hazard Workshop. Wow! This year's theme is "The Next 50 Years: Charting a Course for the Hazards and Disaster Field." Make your plans now and register and book your hotel early. Registration is open!

You can find information at: <https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2025>

The workshop will be held Sunday, July 13 to Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield, Colorado USA. It will be followed immediately by the 2025 Researchers Meeting, which will be held from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. MDT on Wednesday, July 16 and from 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 17. The meeting schedule includes breakout sessions for paper presentations, roundtable discussions, and networking events. This meeting is open to all members of the hazards and disaster community. Registration for the Researchers Meeting can be added to the Natural Hazards Workshop registration or is available at a stand-alone rate. You can find more information here:

<https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2025/researchers-meeting>

Both are amazing opportunities to present your work and to network!



For questions about the Researchers Meeting, please contact the Natural Hazards Center team at [researchersmeeting@colorado.edu](mailto:researchersmeeting@colorado.edu).

The Researchers Meeting is organized by the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Disasters (ISA-RC39) with the support of the Natural Hazards Center and the Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) CONVERGE facility at the University of Colorado Boulder.



## Great News

### Congratulations to our amazing colleagues!



**Russell Dippy** had a new publication! It's entitled "Professionalism: defining the Emergency Manager, Response Manager and Recovery Manager."

#### *Abstract*

Emergency management and the people who undertake the roles encompassed by this term are undergoing a process of professionalisation in Australia. To support the process of professionalisation, research has found that the term 'emergency manager' is undefined, conflated and confused in its current use across literature, emergency event inquiry reports and when used to recruit, train and deploy staff. This paper proposes the separation of the undefined 'emergency manager' into 3 new roles of Emergency Manager, Response Manager and Recovery Manager. This paper proposes a definition for each defined role. Comparison of the new roles is provided to support the broad understanding and implementation of the terms and their roles. A series of actions to support the implementation into practice of the newly defined terms is proposed across academic and practitioner environments. The definitions underpin further outcomes from this current research to be presented in forthcoming papers.

You can find it here!

<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/ajem-january-2025-professionalism-defining-the-emergency-manager-response-manager-and-recovery-manager/>

## Great News

**Michèle Companion** is the new Series Editor for the Berghahn Books series Indigenous Studies: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives. Please pass this information to colleagues! This is a great publication opportunity for colleagues who are working on either edited volumes or manuscripts in this topical area. You can find out about the series here: <https://www.berghahnbooks.com/series/indigenous-studies>

**Brief series description:**

Around the globe, Indigenous Peoples, organizations, and entities are actively engaged in the exercises of sovereignty, empowerment, and decolonization, as guided by their own unique cultures. However, historical and continued abuses of power, legacies of settler colonization, and other manifestations of structural violence have contributed to socially, culturally, politically, and economically inequitable circumstances, leading to silencing and gaps in the literature. This series will redress silencing by presenting positive examples of Indigenous empowerment through the work of Indigenous authors and their proponents in the academic and professional communities. This series will elevate Indigenous voices, perspectives, successes, and challenges encompassing a variety of topics, including climate change.

**Formal submissions should be sent directly to Berghahn Books.** For more information on Berghahn's manuscript submission procedure, please look at the [Info for Authors](#) section on this web site. All submissions to this series, as well as any queries about the formal procedure, should be sent to [Berghahn](#).

## Donations & Legacy Giving

The International Research Committee on Disasters is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization. This was the original name for ISA's Research Committee 39 – Sociology of Disasters. The charitable organization uses this name. Tax-deductible donations can be made to IRCD to help us support students and members from Category B and C Countries (See the following link for ISA's Table of Economies by Category: [Table of Economies by Category \(isa-sociology.org\)](http://isa-sociology.org)). We can apply donations to support both member and student registration and travel grants to ISA/RC-39 World Forums and World Congresses. We have (funding permitting) the T. Joseph Scanlon Student Travel Award, which is given to a student attending the ISA World Congress who demonstrates exceptional talent to provide financial support for participation. To donate, please reach out to our Secretary/Treasurer Tristan Wu at [ircdsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ircdsecretary@gmail.com) for more details on donations or providing for IRCD in your will or trust.



Joe Scanlon (1933 – 2015)



For more information about our research committee, please visit <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/research-committees/rc39-sociology-of-disasters/>

Information about the V ISA World Forum can be found here: [V ISA Forum of Sociology \(isa-sociology.org\)](https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/world-forum/)



Sociology  
Of Disasters

ISA RC39  
P.O. Box 130422  
Dallas, TX  
75313, USA

E-mail: [ircdsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ircdsecretary@gmail.com)  
[International Journal of Mass  
Emergencies & Disasters: Sage Journals  
\(sagepub.com\)](#)

Follow us on **Bluesky** : [ISA RC39](#)

Follow us on **Facebook** : [ISA RC39](#)

Follow us on **Instagram**: [ISA RC39](#)

Social Media: [isarc39disasters@gmail.com](mailto:isarc39disasters@gmail.com)

