CADAN

Culture and Disaster Action Network

Practitioner-Oriented
SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW

COVID-19 QUESTION BANK

Prepared by

CADAN Working Group:
Cumulative Effects of Successive Disasters
https://converge.colorado.edu/v1/uploads/images/
cumulativeeffects_successivedisasters-1594338824711.pdf

These interview questions will help you ask people who have endured successive disasters about their prior disaster experience and applied learning, in relation to their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note to Users: This question bank includes three types of questions (ethnographic, semi-structured, and survey). Please see the suggested use guidelines for each and carefully review the protocol prior to selecting or administering any questions from this bank. This question bank is intended to support global cross-cultural comparisons. As such, we expect that most questions will need to be adjusted to varying degrees dependent on the locations and populations you are working with to be culturally appropriate. Please also refer to the protocol for how to assign/attribute/use the [*prior disaster*] prompt in many of these questions.

Ethnographic Questions: Use in one of two ways.

- Option A, <u>for use in ongoing and follow-up research</u> where you have explicitly studied prior disasters with your research participants (i.e., not for new recruitment), so you can contextualize their answers with their direct prior disaster experience. We suggest using just the ethnographic questions and the survey questions perhaps accompanied with a few focused semi-structured questions.

- Option B, <u>for use in new research</u>, these ethnographic questions will only make sense contextualized with research participants' past disaster experiences. We suggest a longer interview that makes use of many or most of the semi-structured interview questions first, followed by the ethnographic and survey questions. Please note, this option is for more comprehensive research and may require more than one interview with each participant.

1. **Baseline question about new awareness/capacities gained from a prior disaster.**

   1.0 Imagine you are talking to someone who is taking on a similar role or responsibilities as you, but they have not experienced anything like [*prior disaster*]. Now, tell this person your story about [*prior disaster*], what that disaster required of you and how you got through it. [Allow participant to answer]

   1.1 What would you tell them about the greatest challenges for you personally and professionally?
        1. the greatest challenges for your family and friends?

        2. the greatest challenges for your associates/coworkers?

        3. How about the greatest challenges for community/communities you worked with at that time?

   1.2 What would you tell them about what you learned from [*prior disaster*] –good or bad, positive or negative, anything you believe may have a lasting effect.

2. **Baseline question about the experience of COVID-19.**
   2.0 What has the pandemic been like for you personally and professionally? Has this experience required anything differently of you (and your household)? How about in your workplace and your associates/coworkers? How about the community/communities you work with right now? [Allow participant to answer]

   2.1 What would you say about the greatest challenges that you and those around you are dealing with because of the pandemic?

   2.2 Have you learned or are you learning anything that you believe may have a lasting effect on you understanding or effectiveness in your role as [professional role/community organizer/etc.]?

   2.3 Is there anything new or different that you are doing because of the pandemic that you want to continue doing once it's over?

3. **Question about application of prior disaster awareness/capacities to COVID-19.**
   [*NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: Keep in mind what respondent has said in Questions 1 and 2 as you ask about these same areas of influences on their COVID-19 experience from new knowledge/skills they have gained from a prior disaster.*]

   3.0 Consider whether there is a relationship between what you learned from all disasters you have experienced and your experiences with COVID-19*.* In other words, try to describe as best you can if anything you learned in terms of knowledge or skills from prior disasters has been useful in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. *[Allow participant to answer]*

   3.1 What knowledge, connections, or skills from your cumulative experience with prior disasters has been less helpful than expected, or perhaps even had negative effects in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic?

3.2 Reflecting on your experience, what knowledge, connections, or skills do you wish you had that you think would have helped you deal with the COVID-19 pandemic?

3.3 When you think about others (including family, friends, coworkers, colleagues, and communities you work with), have you seen any examples of knowledge, connections, or skills that people learned during prior disasters that are showing up as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic?

3.4 Are there any changes in your awareness or any new capacities that you gained from your cumulative experience with prior disasters that you are using in some way to deal with COVID-19 that we have not yet talked about?

3.5 Finally, are there any other life experiences outside of disasters that you feel have shaped your capacity to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic? [NOTE TO INTERVIEWER, this may be getting at coping skills, experiences of systemic racism, personal circumstances, social emotion health etc.]

Semi-structured Questions: Use in one of three ways. Please read Option A-C and their associated instructions carefully and realize that some of the semi-structured questions may be eliminated or changed if you are also using the ethnographic instrument.

- Option A, <u>for use in ongoing and follow-up research</u> where you have explicitly studied prior disasters with your research participants (i.e., not for new recruitment) so you can contextualize their answers with their specific prior disaster experience in conjunction with these ethnographic and survey questions. In such cases your existing data will be the basis for asking these ethnographic and survey questions. Optionally, in the interest of comparative analysis, researchers may also choose to ask a few of the semi-structured questions.
- Option B, <u>for use in new research</u>, select as many of these semi-structured questions as make sense for the study you want to build along with specific questions you may want to write on your own. We recommend asking the semi-structured interview questions first (culling those that are redundant with ethnographic questions), followed by the ethnographic and then survey questions. Please note, this option may require more than one interview with each participant.
- Option C, <u>for use in new research</u>, use only semi-structured questions along with specific questions you write on your own, and the survey may be adequate. This approach will allow for a shorter way to gather comparative data. Administer survey questions at the end.

1. What has the pandemic been like so far for you, personally?
2. What has the pandemic been like for you, professionally/formally/in your current role?
3. Is there anything in your life that you found you relied on to help you get through COVID-19, both on a personal and/or professional level?
4. Can you spend a few minutes telling me about your role in [x job, group etc.] and how you got involved in it?
5. Have you responded to prior disasters when you were in this particular role?

      5.1. If yes, what was the disaster? Please describe your experience, considering what went well, what were some of the challenges for you and [*job, group etc.*] and the community(ies) you were working with.

      5.2. If no, did you respond to a prior disaster(s) in a different role? What was your role and the disaster? Please describe your experience, considering what went well, what were some of the challenges for you and [*job, group etc.*] and the community(ies) you were working with?

6. How was the recovery process going for [*prior disaster*] before the pandemic hit? Where was recovery at? What was going well and what wasn't? Are there things you've noticed, experienced, or realized personally during this experience that will influence how you approach your work in the future?

7. When you think about both the pandemic and past disasters experience with, what differences are you seeing in responses and impacts?

      7.1. Are there differences in priorities and needs in the response process?

8. What role do you see past disasters and the current Covid-19 crisis having on [locations/ community/group] future capacity to respond/cope/recover?

9. In thinking about your experience from [prior disaster], has it...

      9.1. helped or hurt how you manage your social relationships with colleagues, friends, or community members during the pandemic?

      9.2. helped or hurt how you know where to go for resources and help?

      9.3. helped or hurt how you deal with the stresses of the pandemic?

      9.4. helped or hurt how you learn to activate your strengths and manage your vulnerabilities in a way that was useful during the pandemic?

10. A lot of mutual aid and grassroots support networks form following disasters.

      10.1. In your professional role, have you engaged with mutual aid and grassroots support networks in a prior disaster? What went well in the more collective-type organizing during the disaster response and recovery? What were the challenges?

      10.2. What about during the pandemic? Have you engaged with mutual aid and grassroots support networks during this time? Are there differences from your prior experiences engaging with these networks?

      10.3. Do you see any ~~in common or~~ additional benefits for disaster survivors and practitioners/responders participating in such engagement?

      10.4. What pathways or opportunities do you see for practitioners and responders engaging with these networks in future disasters? What are the barriers for outside practitioners wishing to engage these networks?

11. In your view could current responses to COVID-19 be improved in certain ways? Would these strategies also help communities prepare for and mitigate future disasters?

12. Are there things you've noticed, experienced, or realized personally during this experience that will influence how you approach your work in the future?

13. Is there anything new you are doing because of the pandemic that you would like to continue doing after the pandemic is over?

14. Finally, please let me know if there are any new awareness or capacities you gained from [*prior disaster*] that you are using in some way to deal with COVID-19 that we have not talked about?

Survey questions: Use in all studies. These questions are necessary for allowing comparison across studies, even if some of the information does not feel relevant or necessary to your own

research. Administer survey questions AFTER the interview, ideally using a tool that the researcher or participant can fill out (Qualtrics, Google, question pro etc.) that primarily offers check and drop-down boxes etc. to standardizes the collection (can include text boxes too of course). Using a tablet or phone for this data collection can allow the researcher or the participant to fill out the survey depending on preference. Respondents should be reminded that they may skip any questions they do not wish to answer. When thinking through how to select categories of options, we recommend taking a look at this resource https://www.uwlax.edu/globalassets/offices-services/institutional-research/ir-resources/irap-demographic-questions-final-1-17-19.pdf

1. How old are you? [responses can be bucket categories such as 18-20; 21-25, 26-30 etc. up to 80+]
2. What is your gender? [responses should include male / female / non-binary / non-conforming, prefer not to answer, etc.]
3. How do you identify in terms of race or ethnicity? [select an inclusive set of categories appropriate to the region you are working in]
4. How many people live in your home (include yourself) [drop down numbers]
5. What is your estimated total monthly household income? [drop down box with annual household salaries buckets appropriate for region you are working in]
6. What is your marital status? [Single, married or domestic partnership, widowed, divorced, separated]
7. What is the highest level of education you have completed? [elementary, high school or GED, Some college, Trade/technical/vocational training, Associate degree, Bachelor's degree, postgraduate degree]
8. What is your employment status? [use regionally useful categories, such as those defined by labor dept etc.]
9. Did your employment change in any way related to COVID-19? [yes/no/ unsure-]
   a. Use survey logic to offer people that select yes or unsure the option to select all that apply related to the changes [lost job, reduced hours, increased hours, reduced pay and or benefits, decreased pay and or benefits, change in responsibilities]

Please answer the following questions prior to the COVID-19 pandemic [these questions should be administered using survey logic to avoid repetition and unnecessary length]:

10. Please indicate how many times you have been impacted by any of the following disasters by entering a number in the box next to each type [Earthquake; Extreme Drought; Extreme Heat Wave; Extreme Snow/Ice Storm; Oil Spill; Extreme Drought; Terrorism; Extreme Heat Wave; Flood; Hurricane or Tsunami; Landslide; No previous disasters; Tornado; War; Wildfire; Other (please explain)]
11. Did you experience significant impacts from any of the disasters that you listed above? [if they indicate a disaster, this question should populate next]

12. Please describe the disaster that has had the greatest impact on you:
    a. When did it occur [year]?
    b. What type
    c. Did this disaster have a name and or ranking or category? and name (if possible) of this disaster and then describe its impact?
13. Please describe how this disaster impacted you. What kind of losses or damages did you experience from this disaster? [open ended]