
CADAN

Culture and Disaster Action Network

RESEARCH PROTOCOLS AND GUIDELINES

Prepared by

CADAN Working Group:

Cumulative Effects of Successive Disasters

https://converge.colorado.edu/v1/uploads/images/cumulativeeffects_successivedisasters-1594338824711.pdf

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Hello and welcome to CADAN’s research protocol guide for our Question Bank on the cumulative effects of successive disasters!

Overview of Question Bank

This question bank supports global cross-cultural comparisons in how populations, communities, and practitioners experience successive disasters. Disasters may include weather, geological, technological, or public health-related, or other extreme events, or as defined by the population in focus. The question bank is intended to be used by researchers who want to know more about the cumulative effects of successive disasters in their study locale, such as how people’s response to one event may be affected by previous experiences. It includes ethnographic, semi-structured, and survey questions that can be used in new or ongoing social science research. Researchers can ask these questions of disaster survivors, including practitioners who respond to an incident. We encourage researchers to participate in the global comparison by sharing their findings back to the project. All researchers who use this question bank need to meet their institution’s human subjects research requirements and agree to the research ethics detailed to this project, which we include because of the importance of not adding to the trauma or marginalization of disaster survivors.

The COVID-19 Question Bank and Research Protocols is intended to contribute to filling the dearth of radically comparative research; it is designed so that the same methodological approaches and questions can produce data comparability across a wide range of researchers and settings. The purpose is for researchers to leverage this tool if they are working to understand how successive disasters change awareness and capacities for people across various domains of life and work (such as their awareness of organizations, preparedness behaviors, resources, potential roadblocks, etc.). All researchers who contribute data will be eligible to also compare data via the *Successive Disasters Directory of Comparative Data* for this project.

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1. How to Use the Question Bank

This question bank includes three types of questions (ethnographic, semi-structured, and survey). ***Please review each section below in order to identify which components work best for your study and how you can ensure that your data can be used for comparison.*** The questions

in this bank have some overlap and redundancy, this is intentional. We expect that most questions will need to be adjusted depending to varying degrees dependent on the locations and populations you are working with to be culturally appropriate.

The question bank can be used by different groups of research users, so you will see Options A and B for the ethnographic and semi-structured sets of questions. The **first group** are **researchers with ongoing or follow-up research** on communities impacted by disasters. They can use the questions to “add-on” to their existing study. This group should use **Option A** in the Question Bank. We assume that these researchers will already understand the past disaster in many respects, as well as have collected other contextual data to support understanding the successive impacts. For studies that fit this category, we recommend using the ethnographic questions, targeted or no semi-structured questions, and the demographic survey.

The **second group** of researchers are those who are **starting a new study** in communities that have experienced another disaster and the COVID-19 pandemic. This group should use **Option B** in the Question Bank. In this case, we assume no prior knowledge, and that researchers will need to write additional questions (ethnographic and/or semi-structured) to fully capture the context and information needed to understand their research participants’ experiences. For studies that fit this category, we recommend using the ethnographic questions, most semi-structured questions, and the demographic survey in addition to new questions that you prepare specific to your study site and context.

The **third group** of researchers are those who are also doing **new research** but are not embarking on a full ethnographic study due to study design or time constraints. Researchers that might fit in this category include assessment or baseline studies, supplemental or interdisciplinary research, studies with limited time, pilot studies, applied research, or preliminary research. For studies that fit this category, we recommend using **Option C** in the semi-structured questions and the demographic survey, in addition to new questions that you prepare specific to your study site and context.

Ultimately, any questions may need to be tailored to meet your research population and study needs. What is key in terms of preserving the ability to use your data in comparative studies is that you keep track of how you change things so that you can translate them back for the comparison when you share your data.

Please feel free to reach out to CADAN if you have questions or want assistance in deciding which categories best fit your needs!

Ethnographic Questions:

These questions allow a participant to express their own thoughts without being led in a particular direction. Use in one of two ways.

- If your research fits Option A above, (for use in ongoing and follow-up research): Your research with participants who have experienced a prior disaster allows you

to contextualize answers to new questions having already learned about their direct prior disaster experience. We suggest you rely primarily on the ethnographic questions and survey questions with a few focused semi-structured questions that may also be of interest. The same applies to researchers who fit Option B or Option C

- If your research fits Option B above (for use in new research): We suggest a longer interview that relies on many or most of the semi-structured interview questions *first*, followed by the ethnographic and survey questions. The ethnographic questions will only make sense once you understand the context of research participants' past disaster experiences. Please note, this option is for more comprehensive research and may require more than one interview with each participant.

Semi-Structured Questions:

These questions offer a variety of ways that interviewers may deepen their data collection based on the themes they are interested in. Please refer back to Options 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. Use in one of three ways.

- If your research fits Option A above, for use in ongoing and follow-up research (i.e., not for new recruitment). Since you have explicitly studied a prior disaster with your research participants, you are able to contextualize their answers to these ethnographic and survey questions without the need for semi-structured interview questions. 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.
- If your research fits Option B above, for use in new research, we recommend you ask the semi-structured interview questions first (culling those that are redundant with ethnographic questions), followed by the ethnographic and then survey questions. 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. Please note, this option may require more than one interview with each participant.
- If your research fits Option C above, for use in new research, we recommend using your choice of semi-structured questions and the survey, along with specific questions you write on your own. This approach will allow for a shorter way to gather comparative data. Administer survey questions at the end.

Survey Questions: *Use in all studies.*

These questions capture basic demographic data *critical to comparative study*, even if some of the information does not feel relevant or necessary to your own research. Administer survey questions AFTER the other interview questions. If possible, use a tool that the researcher or

participant can fill out (Qualtrics, Google, Question Pro etc.) formatted with check and drop-down boxes, for example, to standardizes the collection. Using a tablet or phone for survey data collection can allow the researcher or the participant to fill out the survey quickly and results can be captured automatically. If traditional formatting in Word with text boxes is easier to prepare, that too is fine). 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>

2. Definitions and Keywords for Question Bank

In the bank we use two terms that need to be defined in order to facilitate coordinated use by all researchers.

How to assign/attribute/use the [prior disaster] prompt in many of these questions. In all uses of the bracketed term “prior disaster” we intend for this term to reflect back on the specific disaster that your participant has experienced prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the Option A case, where researchers have ongoing research (or recently completed research) with people who experienced a common disaster (such as Hurricane Maria for example), each question you ask that references [prior disaster] is a prompt for you to fill in the blank by stating the name of the specific disaster that your participant has already discussed with you. For researchers who fit the Option B or Option C category of research, the same rule applies with one exception. You will need to ask whether a participant has experienced a disaster prior to the pandemic. If the participant says yes, that specific disaster is what you will reference in all other questions. If the participant has experienced more than one disaster, you will need to establish which prior disaster had the biggest impact on them and then reference that disaster in all other questions asking you to identify the “prior disaster.”

Practitioner: The term “practitioner” is used more expansively than only those who are officially responsible for implementing emergency management programs; here, we use “practitioner” to include all people engaged in formal and/or informal response and recovery, from emergency professionals to community organizers. Consider in your research design the fluidity of roles and identities of all actors (e.g., survivors, civic actors, disaster response professionals, and other agents of recovery whose roles may overlap).

Sample of Keywords for Analysis	Definition
Natural Hazard	Naturally occurring geophysical, hydrological, climatological, meteorological, or biological processes, that involve the potential for harm to living populations.

Compound Hazard	The combination of physical environmental processes that have the potential to result in harm.
Cascading Disaster	“Extreme events, in which cascading effects increase in progression over time and generate unexpected secondary events of strong impact.” (Pescaroli G., Alexander D. (2015) <i>A definition of cascading disasters and cascading effects: going beyond the “toppling dominos” metaphor. Planet and Risk, 2(3):58–67.</i>
Successive Disasters	A disaster occurs when still recovering from a previous disaster.
Pandemic	“Event in which a disease spreads across several countries and affects a large number of people.” (National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases, 2020)
COVID-19	“Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.” (World Health Organization, 2021)
Human Hazard	Hazards that are human-produced, caused by human actions (or inactions)
Inequality	Not being equal in status, rights, and opportunities (e.g., social, racial, economic, health inequality), often driven by systemic forces
Vulnerability	A combination of factors that determine the level of potential harm from a hazard.
Risk	The potential losses or harm that could occur due to a hazard.
Awareness	“knowledge or perception of a situation or fact.” (Oxford Languages)
Disaster recovery	Restoration efforts to rebuild in material and non-material sense following a disaster, and to reduce vulnerability.
Disaster response	Occurs immediately following a disaster, to minimize the harm (e.g., relief, search and rescue)
Disparities in Access and Outcomes	Population-specific differences based on, but not limited to, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion

3. Ethical Considerations of CADAN Approach:

- The mission of CADAN is to take action that can build and integrate cultural comprehension into the work of disaster risk reduction and disaster recovery.
- If your work draws from our Research Protocols and Question Bank, you must cite CADAN and our working group- See Creative Commons Attribution Agreement and Citation info on (pg 9).
- Our research applies a social justice framework, considering in particular the overwhelming and disproportionate impact of disasters, most recently of COVID-19, on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.
- Informal networks of aid and assistance are commonly overlooked or undervalued by formal institutions, and their work is insufficiently cited and recognized. Further, investigators from marginalized backgrounds and a range of cultural contexts are often excluded in disaster research. As a matter of course, our COVID-19 project seeks colleagues who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color as collaborators. Their leadership is of particular importance when research takes place in communities with which they have relationships or affinity. Together, as researchers, we will design, conduct, and share the work of people from marginalized backgrounds with affected communities as well as other researchers and practitioners. This commitment includes working with local communities to understand what questions the community wishes to see answered and what information they regard as most useful to their recovery efforts. Recognition and awareness combined with participatory research will help build trust where it doesn't exist, and thus enhance research accountability and improve recovery outcomes.
- Do no harm ethic, free, prior and informed consent principle; Be aware of your own positionality in a given context, considering histories of and dynamics between population groups, and respect people's diverse experiences; respect the participant's right to retract consent.
- For reference, see the [Society for Applied Anthropology's Statement of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities](#)

4. Guidelines for Using This Research Tool

We ask that you abide by the protocol and research guidelines, including the ethical statement, prior to using the interview and survey questions. The questions are intended to serve as either an additional body of questions that can be added to an existing research project, or as the basis for a standalone project. If you are beginning a new, standalone project, you will need to broaden the scope of the questions so that you understand that prior disaster and its impact on the community you are working in. It is our recommendation that you carefully review the wording of the questions and the annotations and instructions associated with them so that you can ensure that they will be appropriate for your particular research and still accomplish the aims of the questions. We require that you do the following:

- Agree to the CADAN Ethical Statement in the Protocol (pg 7)
- Agree to the Creative Commons Attribution Agreement and Citation (pg 9)

- Respond to a brief, annual researchers questionnaire
- Consider registering your study to be included in the CADAN Cumulative Disasters Directory.
- Before beginning research, secure Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, or alternative approval that corresponds to basic ethical measures for the protection for human subjects: <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/human.jsp>.

5. Guidelines for Data Sharing following Study Completion

While we do not require it, we hope that you will participate in the multi-sited synthesis part of this research. We strongly encourage all researchers who use these tools to share link to select data with one another through the CADAN Cumulative Disasters Directory. All contributors will also gain access to the directory for access to links of all studies using this research tool. The value of knowledge produced by this research will increase exponentially with each new study's contributions.

Basic information you will need to share about your data collection:

- Project Title
- Lead Researcher(s)
- Primary email
- Secondary email
- Primary phone
- Research Subject
- Brief Research Description (250 words or less)
- Prior disaster(s) your study will cover
- Keywords
- Time period of data collection
- Related publications
- Notes

6. Creative Commons License

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“This license lets others remix, adapt, and build upon your work even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit you and **license their new creations under the identical terms**. This license is often compared to “copyleft” free and open-source software licenses. All new works based on yours will carry the same license, so any derivatives will also allow commercial use. This is the license used by Wikipedia, and is recommended for materials that would benefit from incorporating content from Wikipedia and similarly licensed projects.” <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

7. Attribution: How to Cite this Work:

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