

**HENRY W. FISCHER**  
**DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR DISASTER RESEARCH & EDUCATION**  
**MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

EDUCATION

- B.A. Millersville University of Pennsylvania (Sociology) 1973
- M.A. University of Delaware (Sociology) 1983
- PhD University of Delaware (Sociology) 1986

RELEVANT POSITIONS

- 1986-1989 **Assistant Professor**, Sociology Department, Mount Union College
- 1989-1994 **Assistant Professor**, Sociology Department, Millersville University of Pennsylvania
- 1994-1999 **Associate Professor**, Sociology Department, Millersville University of Pennsylvania
- 1999-Present **Professor**, Sociology Department, Millersville University of Pennsylvania
- 2000-Present **Coordinator**, Environmental Hazards & Emergency Management Program, Millersville University of Pennsylvania
- 2003-Present **Director**, Center for Disaster Research and Education, & **Chair**, Master of Science Degree Program in Emergency Management—*Totally Online Degree Program* Millersville University of Pennsylvania

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2003 *Emerald Literati Award for Excellence*, Outstanding Paper Published in 2002, International Journal of Disaster Prevention & Management, Literati Society – London
- 2004 *The William H. Duncan Award for Outstanding Teaching, Leadership, Scholarship, Fellowship, Dedication & Devotion to His Students*, Phi Sigma Pi, The National Honor Fraternity
- 2004 & 2005 *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, Who's Who in America

DESCRIPTION OF EXPERTISE

Twenty years experience in conducting research into behavioral and organizational response to disasters and terrorism, has resulted in the production of a body of work that includes the following: presentation of more than three dozen papers at professional conferences, the publication of almost two dozen scholarly journal articles (6 articles specially addressing issues in terrorism and 3 articles specifically addressing the use of cyberspace in emergency management and distance learning issues), three books, two monographs, consulting for Research Planning, Inc./Department of Defense, consulting for the Office of Emergency Management/Justice Department on TOPOFF2, consulting and completion of deliverables for the FEMA Higher Education Project, consulting on the First Responders Project (DVD Deliverables, Risk Communication for First Responders) for the Early Responders Distance Learning Center, appearances on CNN and MS-NBC to discuss high consequence events issues, presentations at international conferences in various European nations. Professional memberships are held in the International Sociological Association, the International Research Committee on

Disasters (serving since 1998 as editor of *UnScheduled Events*, the organization's official newsletter, editor of the organization's new online journal of reviews *Contemporary Disaster Review* since 2002, and founder and creator of the internet launch of the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* since 2004), the European Sociological Association, the American Sociological Association (served as Pennsylvania Membership Representative 1989-1993) and the International Association of Emergency Managers.

Primary expertise is in the behavioral and organizational response to high consequence events (disasters and terrorism), the role of the media in high consequence events, as well as developing educational curricula for delivery in traditional teaching environments and distance learning/internet based environments. I have been teaching Sociology of Disaster since 1996 and Sociology of Terrorism since 2000. I have worked with the FEMA Higher Education Project since 1995 and was the leading developer of the multi-disciplinary undergraduate minor in Environmental Hazards & Emergency Management at our campus, currently serving as the Program Coordinator. I am the leader of the university team creating the totally online (multi-disciplinary) master's degree in emergency management (MSEM) which is currently going through the approval process (the program has the support of the FEMA Higher Education Project and the IAEM)—I serve as MSEM Chair. The MSEM program will begin to offer courses in Fall 2006. I am the founder and Director of the Center for Disaster Research & Education (CDRE). In addition to the director, the CDRE includes an Associate Director and 13 additional faculty associates from multiple disciplines from across the university. It also employs a secretary and eight research assistants. The CDRE is involved in consulting, contract and grant work. Funding sources have included the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Research Planning Inc., the Natural Hazards Center of the University of Colorado, the First Responders Distance Education Center, and the National Science Foundation.

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Fischer, H. (1998) *Response to Disaster: Fact Versus Fiction & Its Perpetuation. The Sociology of Disaster. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.* Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America.
- Fischer, H. (2000) "Mitigation & Response Planning in a Bio-Terrorist Attack." *International Journal of Disaster Prevention & Management.* 9-5. December.
- Fischer, H. (2002) "Terrorism and 11 September 2001: Does the Behavioral Response to Disaster Model Fit?" *International Journal of Disaster Prevention & Management.* 11-2:123-127. June.\*Award Winning Paper: "Outstanding Paper of 2002," Emerald Literati Awards, London, 24 April 2003.
- Fischer, H. (2003) "The Sociology of Disaster: Definitions, Research Questions, & Measurements. Continuation of the Discussion in a Post-September 11 Environment." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters.* 21-1:91-107. March.
- Fischer, H. (2004) "Behavioral and Organizational Responses to Terrorism: Research-Based Model and Evidence from September 11, 2001." *Journal of Emergency Management.* Winter 2004.