

# Workshop Tasks

- Group 1 – According to Kreps (2001), what are the major trends in disaster research? (select 4)
- Group 2 – Why are the thousands of people killed annually in car crashes not defined as “a disaster”? Why is it important to ask this question?
- Group 3 – According to Kreps (2001), how do disasters differ from other social problems?
- Group 4 – What are disaster “claims-making” activities? (select 3 examples)

# First Sociological Study of Disaster

- Event: Explosion
- Date: December 6, 1917
- Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- Cause: Ship Collision
- Deaths: 1,963
- Injured: 9,000
- Researcher: Samuel Henry Prince
- Doctoral Thesis: Columbia University, New York City
- Title: *Catastrophe and Social Change (1920)*
- Importance: First empirically documented observations **generalizable** to other disasters

# First Disaster Research Field Teams

- National Opinion Research Center (NORC)
- Location: University of Chicago
- Dates: 1950 – 1954
- Director: Charles E. Fritz
- Funding: Army Chemical Center, Chemical Corps Medical Laboratories
- Example Events Studied:
  - A. Earthquake – Bakersfield, California
  - B. 3 Consecutive Air Plane Crashes – Elizabeth, New Jersey
  - C. Tornado – Several towns in Northeast Arkansas

Source: E.L. Quarantelli. 1987. "Disaster Studies: An Analysis of the Social Historical Factors Affecting the Development of Research in the Area." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 5:285-310.

# Sociology of Disaster Research Matrix

Social Systems	Disaster Life Cycle			
	Preparedness	Response	Recovery	Mitigation
Individuals	a	b	c	d
Groups	e	f	g	h
Organizations	i	j	k	l
Communities	m	n	o	p
Societies	q	r	s	t
Int'l Systems	u	v	w	x

# Sustainable Hazards Mitigation Approach

- Origins: Hazard Adjustment Paradigm
- Early Developers: Social Geographers
  - Gilbert White
  - Robert Kates
  - Ian Burton
- Basic Principles
  - Environmental Quality
  - Quality of Life
  - Disaster Resiliency
  - Economic Vitality
  - Inter and Intragenerational Equity
  - Participatory Process

Source: Dennis S. Mileti. 1999. *Disasters By Design: A Reassessment of Natural Hazards in the United States*. Washington, D.C.: Joseph Henry Press, pp.31-35.