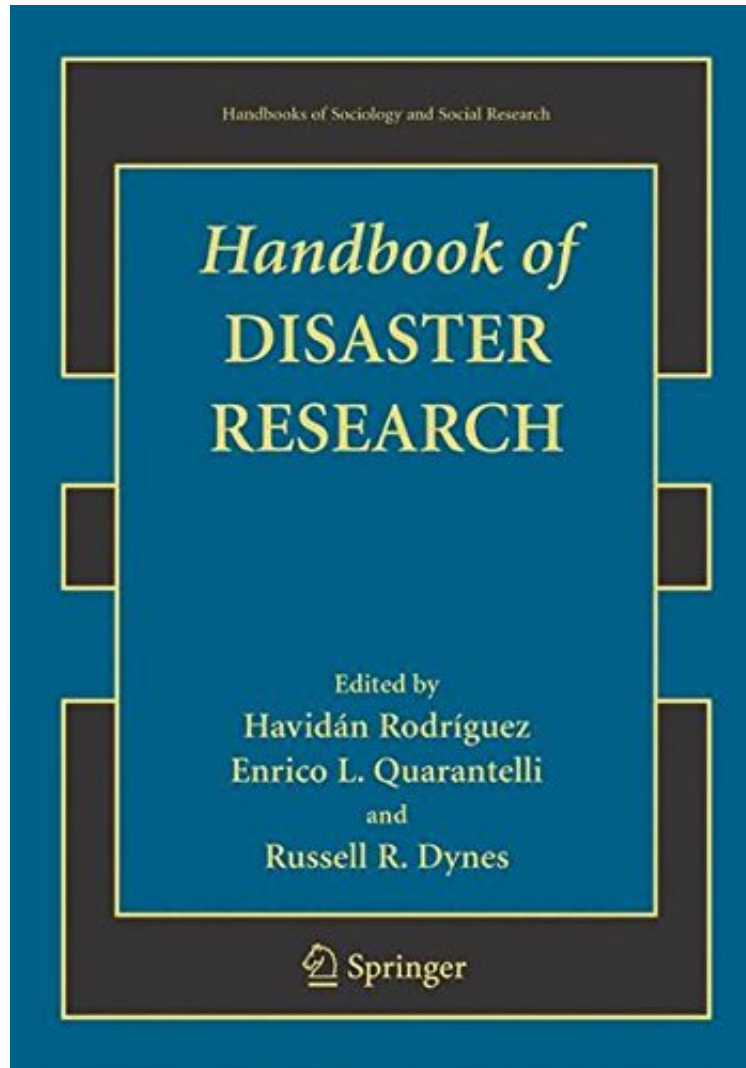


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The Handbook of Disaster Research is unlike any other handbook I've seen. It covers "the field," but does a great deal more than that. For it is provocative and creative, each chapter providing much, much more than mere "coverage." By this I mean the authors present and develop new ideas, about disaster, risk, uncertainty, warning, or, more generally, social behavior. This is not surprising when you look at the list of individual authors. Luminaries in their fields, they represent some of the most creative thinkers in the social sciences today. It is surprising, however, to find so much creativity in a Handbook. The editors have done a superb job. I'm impressed, too, with the breadth of expertise that is represented. Practitioners as well as academics, the "old guard" of disaster research as well as the young, rising stars, and the refreshing appearance of scholars from places other than the United States. I need this book on my shelf." Lee Clarke, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Author of Worst Cases: Terror and Catastrophe From the Back Cover From the reviews: "The Handbook of Disaster Research will, without a doubt, be the most important publication of its type during this decade. Just about everyone who is anyone in the disaster research community has shared their knowledge on the important topics of the day. The authors and the publisher are to be congratulated for completing the book that will be widely sought after by practitioners, researchers and students of disaster planning and response. Thank you for this outstanding contribution to the field." Henry W. Fischer III, Director, Center for Disaster Research Education, Millersville University "The Handbook of Disaster Research will generate considerable excitement amongst international disaster research and management professionals. 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I need this book on my shelf." Lee Clarke, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Author of Worst Cases: Terror and Catastrophe in the Popular Imagination; Mission Improbable: Using Fantasy Documents to Tame Disaster; and Terrorism and Disaster: New Threats, New Ideas. Recent disasters, such as the Indian Ocean Tsunami, bomb explosions in London, Hurricane Katrina, the Pakistan Earthquake, floods in Central America, landslides in Indonesia, and September 11, 2001 among many others, have resulted in an extensive loss of life, social disruption, significant economic impacts to local and national economies, and have made headline news in countries throughout the world. Thus the Handbook of Disaster Research is a timely and much needed contribution to the field of disasters. The Hand