



1,230 Members • 20+ Disciplines • 1,100+ Events Studied

[converge.colorado.edu/research-networks/sseer](http://converge.colorado.edu/research-networks/sseer)

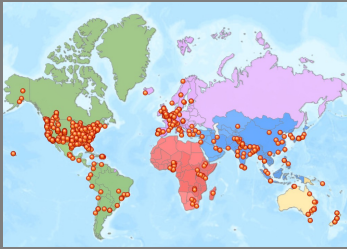
# Social Science Extreme Events Research (SSEER) Network: 2018-2020 Census Reports

Jessica Austin, Heather Champeau, and Lori Peek  
Department of Sociology and Natural Hazards Center, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado Boulder

## What is SSEER?

The **mission** of the Social Science Extreme Events Research—SSEER—network is to *identify* social scientists involved in hazards and disaster research in order to *highlight* their expertise and connect social science researchers to one another, to teams, and to communities at risk. The **goals** of SSEER are to *amplify* the contributions of social scientists and to *advance* the field through expanding the available social science evidence base in order to *enhance* collective well-being.

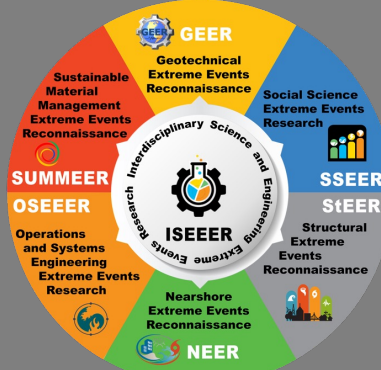
## SSEER Researchers Map



[converge.colorado.edu/research-networks/sseer/researchers-map](http://converge.colorado.edu/research-networks/sseer/researchers-map)

## SSEER in Context

The National Science Foundation currently supports seven Extreme Events Research (EER) networks focused on: geotechnical engineering, social sciences, structural engineering, nearshore research, operations and systems engineering, sustainable material management, and interdisciplinary research.



SSEER is part of this larger EER ecosystem, which is designed to help coordinate disciplinary communities, while also encouraging cross-disciplinary information sharing and interdisciplinary integration.

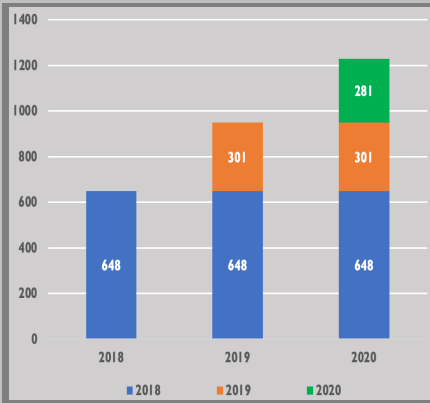
## Researcher Location (2020)

UN Subregion	Researchers	Percent
Northern America	941	76.50%
Northern Europe	50	4.07%
Australia and New Zealand	43	3.50%
Southern Asia	39	3.17%
South America	34	2.76%
Western Europe	31	2.52%
Southern Europe	23	1.87%
Eastern Asia	20	1.63%
South-Eastern Asia	12	0.98%
Eastern Africa	10	0.81%
Western Asia	7	0.57%
Southern Africa	6	0.49%
Western Africa	6	0.49%
Caribbean	3	0.24%
Central America	3	0.24%
Eastern Europe	1	0.08%
Melanesia	1	0.08%

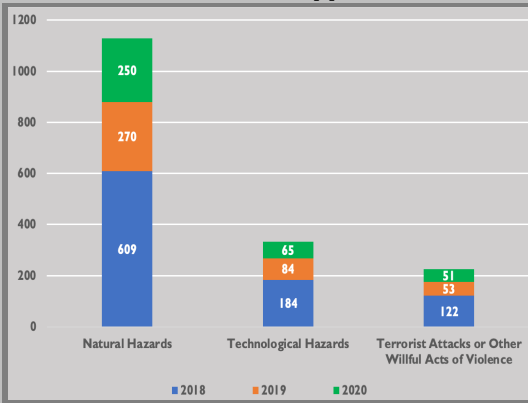
## Researcher Professional Status

	2018		2019		2020		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Academic Researcher	398	61.42	156	51.83	164	58.36	718	58.37
Student	103	15.90	60	19.93	49	17.44	212	17.24
Government Researcher	57	8.80	31	10.30	22	7.83	110	8.94
Non-Profit Researcher	26	4.01	17	5.65	17	6.05	60	4.88
Independent Researcher	27	4.17	14	4.65	10	3.56	51	4.15
Private-Sector Researcher	14	2.16	11	3.65	5	1.78	30	2.44
Other or Missing	23	3.55	12	3.99	14	4.98	49	3.98
Total	648	100.00	301	100.00	281	100.00	1,230	100.00

## SSEER Network Growth



## Hazard/Disaster Types Studied



## Acknowledgements

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## For More Information

Article

**What Methods Do Social Scientists Use to Study Disasters? An Analysis of the Social Science Extreme Events Research Network**

Lori Peek<sup>1</sup>, Heather Champeau<sup>1</sup>, Jessica Austin<sup>1</sup>, Mason Mathews<sup>1</sup>, and Haorui Wu<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract**  
Methods matter. They influence what we know and who we come to know about in the context of hazards and disasters. Research methods are of profound importance to the scholarly advancement of the field and, accordingly, a growing number of publications focus on research methods and ethical practices associated with the study of extreme events. Still, notable gaps exist. The National Science Foundation-funded Social Science Extreme Events Research (SSEER) network was formed, in part, in response to the need for more specific information about the status and expertise of the social science hazards and disaster research workforce. Drawing on data from 1,230 SSEER members located across five United Nations (UN) regions, this article reports on the demographic characteristics of SSEER researchers, provides a novel inventory of methods used by social science hazards and disaster researchers, and explores how methodological approaches vary by specific researcher attributes including discipline, professional status, researcher type based on level of involvement in the field, hazard/disaster type studied, and disaster phase studied. The results have implications for training, mentoring, and workforce development initiatives geared toward ensuring that a diverse next generation of social science researchers is prepared to study the root causes and social consequences of disasters.

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