

Kathleen Tierney is Professor in the Department of Sociology and the Institute of Behavioral Sciences and Director of the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Funded by the National Science Foundation and by a consortium of federal agencies, the Natural Hazards Center has served since 1976 as the main U. S. clearinghouse for information on the societal dimensions of hazards, disasters, and risk. She is also co-director of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), a DHS academic Center of Excellence that was established in 2005. Tierney is responsible for coordinating the activities of the START working group on the societal dimensions of terrorism, which focus on such topics as risk perception and communication; household, organizational, and community terrorism preparedness within the U. S.; and behavioral and psychosocial consequences of extreme events. Prior to her move to the University of Colorado in 2003, she was Professor of Sociology and Director of the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware.

With decades of experience conducting research on social and behavioral responses to extreme events, she has studied the social dimensions of many major disasters, including the Loma Prieta, Northridge, and Kobe earthquakes; Hurricanes Hugo and Andrew; the 1993 Midwest floods, and the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center; and other large-scale natural and technological disaster events. Her current and recent research includes studies on risk communication, business preparedness and the business impacts of disasters, the use of information technologies in disaster response, and the structure and activities of homeland security preparedness networks in U. S. cities.

Tierney is the author of dozens of publications, including articles in The International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters, The Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management, Sociological Spectrum, Sociological Forum, Research in Social Problems and Public Policy, Prehospital and Disaster Medicine, and the Natural Hazards Review. Her publications also include Disasters, Collective Behavior, and Social Organization (1994), co-edited with Russell Dynes, and Facing the Unexpected: Disaster Preparedness and Response in the United States (2001), co-authored with Michael K. Lindell and Ronald W. Perry. She is currently collaborating with Prof. William Waugh on the second edition of the International City and County Management Association's volume on Emergency Management: Principles and Practice for Local Government. Her publications on Hurricane Katrina include a book chapter in the edited volume On Risk and Disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina (2005) and an article that appeared in the March, 2006 special Katrina issue of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. Tierney's other new publications include two chapters in the Handbook of Disaster Research, (2006) focusing on businesses and disasters and on the ways in which post-September 11th policies have affected emergency management in the U. S.

Tierney is frequently called upon to give interviews to the media on hazard- and disaster-related topics. Her advice on household hurricane preparedness was featured in *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* in summer of 2005, immediately before Hurricane Katrina. Her research on the World Trade Center disaster and her career in disaster research were profiled in the *New York Times* "Science Times" section in 2004. After Hurricane Katrina, she appeared on *DatelineNBC*, the *News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, and other news shows and was featured many print and electronic media sources, including National Public Radio, the BBC, Knight-Ridder, *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Boston Globe*, an numerous other programs and publications.

Tierney is a member of the Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction, which provides research and policy guidance for federal agencies conducting research on earthquakes. From 2004-2006, she also served on the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Committee on Disaster Research in the Social Sciences. In 2006, she received the distinguished lecturer award from the Oakland-based Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the first woman and first sociologist to be so honored.