

Special Issue

Emergency Psychology and Crisis Intervention: Psychological Support for Victims

Message from the Guest Editors

Nowadays, referring to emergencies has become a daily matter. The framework that leads to the definition of an “emergency situation” is broad and includes several situations: unexpected weather crises and exploitation, severe social phenomena, wars, and unexpected personal trauma (e.g., road accidents). According to this situation, emergency psychology, psychological first aid, and crisis intervention have also become more established. These events may affect both many (maxi-emergencies) and few people (micro-emergencies), and the areas of research are countless and affect both directly involved people (known as primary or direct victims) as well as their loved ones (known as secondary or indirect victims). Research questions in this area can be broad: How does it feel to be in danger? Which processes lead to a stay or flee response during a catastrophic event? What are the psychological consequences of potentially traumatic events? When does the experience of loss become “complicated grief”? Which strategies do rescuers use in facing death and suffering? What impact do disasters and accidents have on social practices and community life?

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