



The evolution of the culture of risk linked to an uncertain future

An important question raised by the cultural theory of risk is the idea of a fundamental continuity between our present culture of risk and earlier periods of (pre)modernity (Wilkinson, 2001). While theorists of risk society (Beck, 1986/1992), as was mentioned, emphasize the novelty of our situation related to contemporary technological hazards, the cultural theory states that humanity has always been faced with risks of uncertain future, even annihilation. Risk taking and risk aversion ("shared confidence and shared fears") are part of a narrative about organizing human social relations (Douglas & Wildavsky, 1982, p. 8). Humans choose their risks together with their social institutions, which are commonly used to order their universes. Cultural theory explains the selection of dangers among traditional and modern people within the same framework.

Note: See source document for full reference.

Applicable to:

Stakeholders: [Social networks](#)

Disaster Phases: [Prevention](#)

Types of Actors Concerned: [Non-active citizens](#), [National civil protection body](#), [Local authorities](#), [Active citizens](#), [Entrepreneurs](#), [Media](#), [Government](#), [National research bodies](#), [Red Cross](#), [NGOs](#), [Military](#), [Law enforcement agencies](#), [Healthcare and emergency services](#), [European Civil Protection Mechanism](#), [UN and other international organisations](#), [All types of actors](#)

Hazards: [Natural hazards](#), [Man-made non-intentional hazards or emergency situations](#), [Man-made intentional hazards](#)

Recommendations:

- [Develop risk assessments methodologies, which consider cultural factors, the manner in which people cognitively process information and which employ a gender perspective](#)

Source

[Deliverable D4.1 "Mapping risk perception concepts in the context of disasters" \(page 35\)](#)

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