

MELISSA L. FINUCANE
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

RAND Corporation, Pittsburgh PA
East-West Center, Honolulu HI
EMAIL: finucane@rand.org; TEL: 412-683-2300 x4279; FAX: 412-683-2800

A. AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Evaluation at multiple levels (from integrated science programs to individual decision competence)
- Environmental and health risk perception and communication
- Decision making under uncertainty
- Climate change adaptation and resilience
- Urbanization and environmental health in the Asia-Pacific and Gulf of Mexico regions

My work links individual-level psychosocial factors and community-level cultural and demographic factors with regional-level policy making about environmental and health risks such as climate change impacts, urbanization, fresh water management, oil spills, and infectious disease outbreaks. I have developed and implemented research aimed at evaluating the impact of complex, interdisciplinary science programs. The evaluations have resulted in generalizable conceptual frameworks and diverse quantitative and qualitative metrics. My work informs the development of tools to improve societal decision making about managing hazards within social-ecological systems, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region and the Gulf of Mexico.

B. EDUCATION

University of Western Australia	Psychology	B.Sc., Honors, 1991
University of Western Australia	Clinical Psychology	M.Psych., 1998
University of Western Australia	Psychology	Ph.D., 1998

C. APPOINTMENTS

2013-present	Senior Behavioral and Social Scientist, RAND Corporation, Pittsburgh PA
2013-present	Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Engineering and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA
2007-present	Senior Fellow, East-West Center, Honolulu HI
2012-2017	Affiliate Graduate Faculty, Geography Department, University of Hawai'i, Honolulu HI
2006-2007	Senior Research Investigator, Center for Health Research Hawai'i, Honolulu HI
2001-2006	Research Investigator, Center for Health Research Hawai'i, Honolulu HI
1997-2001	Research Scientist, Decision Research, Eugene, Oregon
1997-2000	Visiting Scholar, Institute for Cognitive & Decision Sciences, Univ. of Oregon

D. SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (IN REVERSE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

- Finucane, M.L.**, Blum, M.J., Ramchand, R., Parker, A.M., Nataraj, S., Clancy, N., Cecchine, G., Chandra, A., Slack, T., Hobor, G., Ferreira, R.J., Luu, K., Lesen, A., & Bond, C. (2019). Advancing community resilience research and practice: Moving from “me” to “we” to “3D”. *Journal of Risk Research*. Published online, 1-10. [doi:10.1080/13669877.2018.1517377](https://doi.org/10.1080/13669877.2018.1517377).
- Drakeford, L., Parks, V., Slack, T., Ramchand, R., **Finucane, M.L.**, Lee, M.R. (2019). Oil spill disruption and problem drinking: Assessing the impact of religious context among Gulf Coast residents. *Population Research and Policy Review*. Published online. doi:10.1007/s11113-019-09520-7.
- Petrun Sayers, E.L., Parker, A.M., Ramchand, R., **Finucane, M.L.**, Parkes, V., & Seelam, R. (2019). Reaching vulnerable populations in the disaster-prone US Gulf Coast: Communicating across the crisis lifecycle. *Journal of Emergency Management*, 17(1).

- Finucane, M.L.**, Martino, S.C., Parker, A.M., Schlesinger, M., Grob, R., Cerully, J.R., Rybowski, L., Shaller, D. (2018). A framework for conceptualizing how narratives from health-care consumers might improve or impeded the use of information about provider quality. *Patient Experience Journal*, 5(1): Article 5. Available at: <http://pxjournal.org/journal/vol5/iss1/5>
- Finucane, M.L.**, Nghiem, T., Saksena, S., Spencer, J.H., Fox, J.M., Nguyen, L., Trinh Dinh, T., Tran, D.V., & Nancy Davis Lewis (2017). Perceived Risk of Avian Influenza and Urbanization in Northern Vietnam. *EcoHealth*, 14, 144-154.
- Ferguson, D.B., **Finucane, M.L.**, Keener, V.W., & Owen, G. (2016). Evaluation to advance science policy: Lessons from Pacific RISA and CLIMAS. In Parris, A.S., Garfin, G.M., Dow, K., Meyer, R., & Close, S. (Eds.), *Climate in Context: Science and Society Partnering for Adaptation* (pp. 215-234). West Sussex, England: Wiley.
- Saksena, S., Fox, J., Epprecht, M., Tran, C.C., Nong, D.H., Spencer, J.H., Nguyen, L., **Finucane, M.L.**, Vien, T.D., & Wilcox, B.A. (2015). Evidence for the Convergence Model: The Emergence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in Viet Nam. *PLoS ONE* 10(9): e0138138. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0138138
- Finucane, M.L.** & Keener, V.W. (2015). Understanding the climate-sensitive decisions and information needs of island communities, *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region*, 11(1), 110-120.
- Schlesinger, M., R. , Grob, R., Shaller, D., Martino, S.C., Parker, A.M., **Finucane, M.L.**, Cerully, J.L., & Rybowski, L. (2015). Taking Patients' Narratives About Clinicians from Anecdote to Science. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 373, 675-9.
- Finucane, M.L.**, Fox, J., Saksena, S. & Spencer, J. (2014). A Conceptual Framework for Analyzing Social-Ecological Models of Emerging Infectious Diseases. In Manfredi, M., Rechkemmer, A., Vaske, J. (Eds.). *Understanding Society and Natural Resources: Forging New Strands of Integration Across the Social Sciences* (pp. 93-109). New York: Springer Open.
- Finucane, M.L.**, Nghiem, T., Saksena, S. Nguyen, L., Fox, J.M., Spencer, J. H., & Trinh Dinh, T. (2014). An Exploration of How Perceptions of the Risk of Avian Influenza in Poultry Relate to Urbanization in Vietnam. *EcoHealth*, 11(1), 73-82.
- Finucane, M.L.**, Clancy, N., Willis, H., H, & Knopman, D. (2014). *The Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force's Infrastructure Resilience Guidelines: An Initial Assessment of implementation by Federal Agencies*, RR-841-DHS. (RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA).
- Finucane, M.L.**, Miller, R., Corlew, L.K., Keener, V.W., Burkett, M., & Grecni, Z. (2013). Understanding the climate-sensitive decisions and information needs of fresh water resource managers in Hawai'i. *Climate, Weather, and Society*, 5, 293-308.
- Marra, J.J., Keener, V.W., **Finucane, M.L.**, Spooner, D., & Smith, M.H. [Editors] (2012). *Climate Change and Pacific Islands: Indicators and Impacts. Report for the 2012 Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA)*. Honolulu, HI: East-West Center.
- Slovic, P., **Finucane, M.L.**, Peters, E., & MacGregor, D. (2009). Risk as analysis and risk as feelings: Some thoughts about affect, reason, risk, and rationality. In L. Asveld and S. Roeser (Eds.), *The Ethics of Technological Risk*. London: Earthscan, pp. 163-181.
- Slovic, P., **Finucane, M. L.**, Peters, E. and MacGregor, D. G. (2004), Risk as Analysis and Risk as Feelings: Some Thoughts about Affect, Reason, Risk, and Rationality. *Risk Analysis*, 24, 311-322. doi:[10.1111/j.0272-4332.2004.00433.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0272-4332.2004.00433.x).
- Finucane, M.L.**, Alhakami, A., Slovic, P., & Johnson, S.M. (2000). The affect heuristic in judgments of risks and benefits. *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*, 13, 1-17. doi: 10.1002/(SICI)1099-0771(200001/03)13:0.CO;2-S.

Additional Published Work: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Melissa+Finucane>

E. SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

- i. Lead Principal Investigator and Director of the “Consortium for Resilient Gulf Communities” (www.resilientgulf.org), 2014-2020. Funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, this \$9 million, interdisciplinary collaboration aims to examine the health, social, and economic impacts of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill on Gulf Coast communities. The research team includes investigators from diverse disciplines (public health, economics, decision science, sociology, environmental science, psychiatric epidemiology, law, evaluation, and community resilience) partnering across the RAND Gulf States Policy Institute, Louisiana State University, Tulane University, University of South Alabama, and Louisiana Public Health Institute.
- ii. Co-Investigator of the NOAA-funded, interdisciplinary “Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (MARISA)” program, Phase I, 2016-2021. MARISA conducts integrated, interdisciplinary research to support decision makers in states along the Mid-Atlantic coast of the U.S. to adapt to the changing climate. Lead for evaluation activities aimed at assessing the program’s progress and inform course corrections as needed.
- iii. Co-Investigator of the NOAA-funded, interdisciplinary “Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments” (www.PacificRISA.org) program, Phase III, 2015-2020 (formerly Lead Principal Investigator for Phase II, 2008-2013). Responsible for directing state-of-the-art research, assessment, outreach, and evaluation activities to support Pacific Island communities’ understanding of and response to climate variability and change.
- iv. Lead Author for the Pacific Islands Region chapter in the 2013 report for the National Climate Assessment by the US Global Change Research Program.
- v. Senior advisor for scientists, policy makers at federal, state, and local levels, and community groups on: the roles of institutions and information systems in improving regional environmental risk management capabilities; the state of crucial natural resources (water, land, forests, biological reserves); and the risks due to natural and manmade hazards, emerging diseases, and rapid urbanization.
- vi. Member, Editorial Board of the *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*
- vii. Ad-hoc reviewer for *Risk Analysis*; *Social Science and Medicine*; *Judgment and Decision Making*; *Journal of Economic Psychology*; *Public Policy and Marketing*; *Psychological Science*; *Organizational Behavioral and Human Decision Processes*.