

Preface

City evacuations and emergency management, are complex problems which require inter-disciplinary methods of working. This book is the result of a large scale, 2 year project that brought together research expertise from both the physical and social sciences, including crisis education, econometrics, physics (agent and network modeling), policy studies and strategy. It looks not only at the dynamics of evacuation, but at issues of social media and emergency management, warning and informing the public, identifying outliers in emergency management data and the co-ordination of emergency response.

The research was informed by policy makers and practitioners at both the national and local level throughout. Representatives from three UK case study cities were consulted at the start of the project about their needs in this area and 2 years later we returned to these groups to present our findings. In addition, we interviewed and consulted experts from UK government, social media agencies, Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Aside from international academic conferences the results of the project were also presented to the Cabinet Office, Department of Homeland Security, the Home Office, the National Steering Committee for Warning and Informing the Public (NSCWIP), a range of UK local authorities (Essex, Plymouth and Exeter), to experts from the sampled cities and at two breakfast events held at the Houses of Parliament.

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City Evacuations: An Interdisciplinary Approach

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