

Interactive comment on “Invited Perspective: Building sustainable and resilient communities – Recommended actions for natural hazard scientists” by Joel C. Gill et al.

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This is a great paper and makes some excellent points around the need for natural scientists to be trained in a much wider range of methods and approaches. One thing that I think is there but needs greater emphasis is the need for interdisciplinary working - you mention it multiple times, but there does not seem to be a lot of detail on the complexity of it or the expertise that is available from other disciplines to supplement that of natural scientists. It isn't necessary for natural scientists to become social scientists - the social sciences have a wide range of experience and expertise that is not very well respected a lot of the time in the natural/physical science community. This is

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NOT just about "behavioural science" (which is a narrow field with very dubious epistemic foundations some of the time) - it also requires working with environmental social scientists (who use mixed methods), anthropologists and human geographers. A key requirement of such working is flexibility - social science typically involves different assumptions about what makes robust knowledge than the physical sciences do, and so awareness of and respect for that is of critical importance.

In summary - I'd just encourage the authors to think about this in a bit more detail in the piece (I know that they are aware of it themselves - probably just taking it for granted that others know too!). Working with social scientists and the humanities requires some flexibility and willingness to manage conflict - but it can hugely enhance physical science. Work with a range of social scientists, and make sure that their skills complement yours – you don't have to be a great communicator if you work with people who specialise in that, and you don't have to have a perfect understanding of development – work with those who do.

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