

Thomas Drabek, Ph.D.

Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Denver

Speaker Bio:

Thomas E. Drabek, Ph.D., is an Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Denver. A several decade member of IAEM, Dr. Drabek has shared his research results through numerous conference presentations and 30 books he has authored or co-authored, plus over 100 journal articles and book chapters. With the assistance of his wife, Ruth A. Drabek, his most recent book is *The Sociology of Disaster: Fictional Explorations of Human Experiences* (2020). He was elected President of both the Western Social Science Association (1971-1972) and the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Disasters (1990-1994). He received the E.L Quarantelli Award for Outstanding Contributions to Social Science Disaster Theory (2007) and the Dr. B. Wayne Blanchard Award for Academic Excellence in Emergency Management Higher Education (2008). Semi-retired since 2004, he continues to write and lecture at emergency management and academic conferences.

Presentation:

Evolving Visions of Emergency Management: The 57 Year Journey of a Disaster Researcher

Starting with the creation of the Disaster Research Center (DRC) at The Ohio State University in 1963, Dr. Drabek will describe how his visions of emergency management changed during his nearly six decades of research. As he describes his journey, he will focus on questions like these. How did the documentation of community responses best described as "organized-disorganization" lead to mapping emergent multiorganizational networks (EMONS)? How did federal level priorities on "crisis relocation planning," conflict with program goals being implemented by local emergency managers and their community stakeholders? What key strategies did effective emergency managers use to maintain organizational integrity within the highly strained intergovernmental networks? How did fears and resistance by tourist business managers challenge emergency

managers trying to enhance community resilience? How might evidence-based fiction be used as a teaching resource within emergency training? During the next decade, what will be the major threats and risks for which emergency managers must provide community leadership?