



THE BARTLETT
INSTITUTE FOR
SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE

Current perspectives on risks of climate change for cultural heritage

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NHSF – Climate Emergency

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Limitations of recent approaches

- A lack of evidence for risks of climate *change*, or hypothetical risks
- Focus on environmental risks and impacts of weather (vulnerability)
- Inconsistent terminology and limited conceptualization of risk
- Lack of emphasis on intangible aspects of heritage

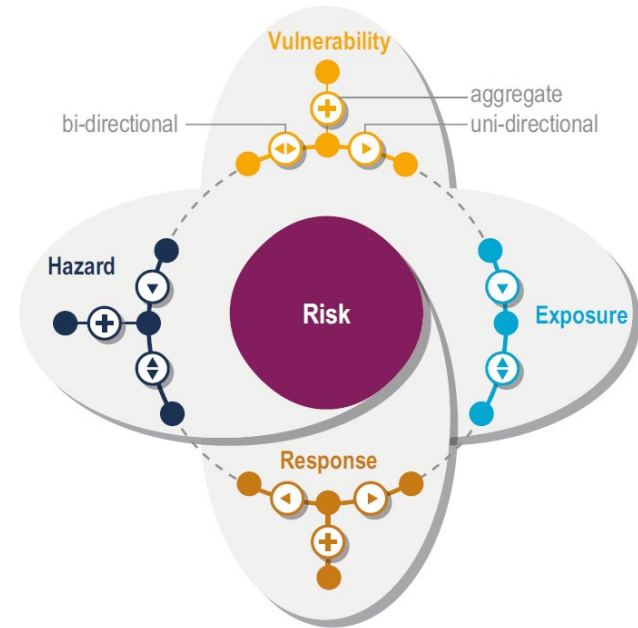
Structured approaches to risk

Hazard: The potential occurrence of a physical phenomenon that causes change

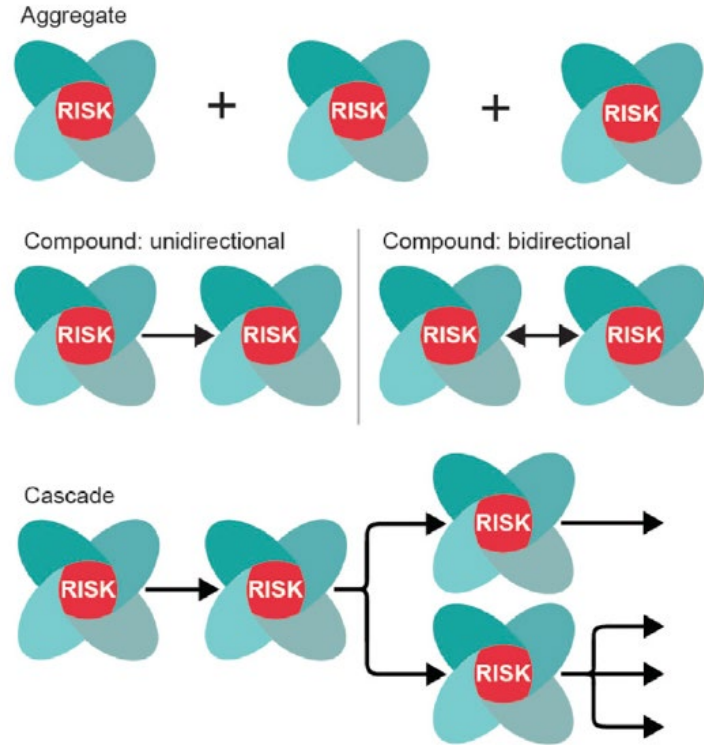
Exposure: The presence and characteristics of cultural heritage that could be affected

Vulnerability: The predisposition to be affected

Response: Actions (or lack of actions) and directly decrease or increase risk



Interactions within risk



Uncertainty

- Ambiguous
- Proportionality
- Order of magnitude
- Range of possibilities
- Likelihood or probability
- Probability distribution



Increasing
resource
requirements
and challenges

Upcoming developments in climate change risk assessment

- Improved quality of climate projections and related datasets
- Attribution science
- Integration of machine learning and AI
- Community engagement and citizen science



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