

2021 FSR Exam Assignments

0. Code of honor

By submitting this assignment, I declare that the work I submit as part of this exam is my own.

I will answer in my own words. If I use texts written by others in my response I will provide a reference in the text (author, year, URL). If I quote a source, I will provide the page number or URL and enclose the quote in 'quotation marks'. I will not communicate with others about the questions on this exam during the exam time.

Enter your name and student number.

1. Disaster management (24 points)

A (8 points). Compared to other countries, the Netherlands has not been dealing so well with the COVID-19 pandemic. Here's the perspective of an Englishman in Amsterdam:

<https://www.dutchnews.nl/features/2021/02/dutch-exceptionalism-superior-failure-in-the-year-of-coronavirus/>. Here are some statistics on excess deaths per capita:

<https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/cumulative-excess-deaths-per-million-covid?tab=chart&country=USA~GBR~AUS~NLD~DEU~ISL~NZL>

Select two perspectives on resilience that we have discussed in the course, and contrast them in the case of Dutch approach to COVID-19. What kind of research questions would be asked in the two perspectives? Which aspects emerge as important from the two perspectives? Are they complementary or mutually exclusive? Explain which perspective is most fruitful in your view.

B (8 points). Consider the way the US deals with school shootings. Search for scholarly publications on "effects of school shootings" and select two articles that you find interesting and that rely on different approaches to resilience. Provide the URLs for the articles and identify which perspectives they use.

C (8 points). Take two of the following positions: a child, parent, teacher, school board, and state legislator. Identify actions that these actors could take regarding school shootings, grounded in the research reviewed by Bonano et al. (2010) and Luthar & Cicchetti (2000).

2. Critical approaches (32 points)

A (8 points). Discuss the way the concept of resilience is used in the literature you read in the week on international development. How can resilience be used to justify the inequalities of global capitalism? Link your answer to the arguments of Joseph (2013) and Wagner/Anholt (2016) about the resemblance of resilience to neoliberalism as a governance rationality.

B (8 points). International organizations that have been active in peacebuilding, such as the United Nations, NATO, and the European Union, have been criticized for embracing resilience in a way to scale down expectations. What exactly is meant with this criticism? Do you agree with it? Explain the arguments in your own words.

C (8 points). Practitioners in peacebuilding and humanitarian aid mostly view resilience in a positive way, according to interviews by Juncos (2018) and Wagner/Anholt (2016). What makes practitioners view resilience also as an opportunity for their work? Illustrate the advantages of the concept of resilience with quotes from the websites of aid organizations. Provide the URLs for the quotes and explain why it is a relevant quote.

D (8 points). Here's a recent article in the New York Times on resilience:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/09/well/mind/emotional-resilience.html>.

Criticize the article from two perspectives on resilience of your own choice that you have learned about in this course.

3. Economic resilience (24 points)

A (8 points). The World Trade Report 2021 of the World Trade Organization https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/wtr21_e/00_wtr21_e.pdf and particularly Figure 3 provides evidence that trade diversification reduces volatility of national economies. Discuss these findings from the arguments by Adger (2000) <https://canvas.vu.nl/courses/57436/files/4268667/> about the regenerating and absorptive capacity of coastal ecosystems, and about the effects of market integration and monoculture on coping with hazards.

B (8 points). Koolen-Maas, Van Teunenbroek & Bekkers (2021) provide a summary of research on revenue diversification among nonprofit organizations and report new findings for cultural nonprofit organizations in the Netherlands. <https://osf.io/v3num/>. Explain how revenue diversification may make nonprofit organizations more resilient. Consider how cuts in government funding for cultural nonprofit organizations since 2012 created financial adversity.

C (8 points). The COVID-19 mitigation measures in the Netherlands have been accompanied by economic government assistance for businesses. <https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2021/02/almost-half-of-dutch-businesses-shored-up-by-public-purse-in-2020/>

Yet the cultural sector in the Netherlands has been suffering more heavily than other sectors. <https://opendata.cbs.nl/#/CBS/en/dataset/84166ENG/table?dl=5F278>

Discuss how the general trend of flexibilisation of the labor market, the increase in self-employment in the cultural sector and a reduction in government funding were protective or risk factors for workers in the cultural sector.

4. Migration (20 points)

A (6 points). In their article “Neighbourhood Ethnic Composition and Voting for the Radical Right in The Netherlands. The Role of Perceived Neighbourhood Threat and Interethnic Neighbourhood Contact”, Michael Savelkoul, Joran Laméris and Jochem Tolsma (2017) find “that ethnic minority density is linked to support for the radical right.” Discuss in what way this relationship can be viewed as a sign of resilience, applying the sociological perspective on resilience. Who is resilient to what, if at all?

B (8 points). Compare the ethnic minority density in the municipality in which you are currently living according to Statistics Netherlands <https://opendata.cbs.nl/#/CBS/nl/dataset/37713/table?dl=5F274> and <https://opendata.cbs.nl/#/CBS/en/dataset/37259eng/table?dl=5F275> with the area in which you grew up. Is the ethnic minority density in your current municipality higher or lower than in the area in which you grew up? Is the level of support for the radical right higher or lower than in the area in which you grew up? In your perception, is the difference in support for the radical right consistent with the findings in the article? If not, why do you think this is the case?

C (6 points). The Netherlands government has trouble finding suitable accommodation for the influx of asylum seekers. <https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2021/12/minister-chooses-five-locations-for-emergency-refugee-centres/>

Discuss what went wrong in the past years, using the background on asylum policy in the Netherlands provided in Bekkers et al. (2018) and concepts from a disaster management resilience perspective.

Bonus (10 points)

Check the Netherlands in the ranking of countries on the World Risk Index 2020, and compare it to the country in which you were born. If you were born in the Netherlands select another country that you know relatively well. <https://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WorldRiskReport-2020.pdf>

A (4 points). Suppose that your current vs former home is destroyed by an earthquake. Given their positions in the ranking, in which country would you say you are better off personally? Apply concepts and models that you have learned in this course to explain your reasoning.

B (6 points). Now take the perspective of the entire country. Which country is more resilient to the disaster? Again, use concepts and models that you have learned in this course to explain your reasoning.