

NPS ABSTRACTS

The abstract is like a classified ad for your work. An NPS thesis abstract is no more than 1,500 characters, including spaces (around 200 words). It should briefly state the background, research problem, purpose, methods, results, and recommendations.

Include these elements:



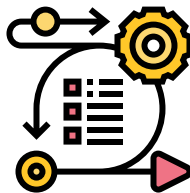
Background & Research Problem

What problem or gap in understanding exists that your research helps address?



Purpose

What does your research aim to do?



Methods

How did you collect and analyze evidence to answer your research question?



Results

What did you discover? How do your findings help solve the problem?



Recommendations

How can your readers or stakeholders use your research? What comes next?



If using citation-worthy outside information, mention the source in your sentence. Do not use citations.

Source: NPS Thesis Processing Office: [What goes in a Thesis Abstract? An Executive Summary?](#)
For more information, see the [GWC Abstracts Resource Page](#) or work with a writing coach!



Assumption and Adaptation in Emergency Response: Evaluating the Strategic Approach of the National Incident Management System

Master of Arts in Security Studies (Homeland Security and Defense)

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) guidance strategy influences local public safety organizations and jurisdictions with emergency response obligations to develop and adopt all-hazards emergency response plans to prepare for critical incidents and natural disasters. Plan developers use assumption-based planning to imagine disaster scenarios and cultivate response options, but there are inherent problems with using such an approach for emergency preparedness. This thesis reviews the literature regarding NIMS strategy for incident response, assumption-based and adaptive planning processes, complexity and decision-making, and response implementation to determine whether a shift in policy could benefit local responders. It also covers four response case after-action reports to determine whether pre-incident plans were beneficial to responders and if jurisdictions had sufficient resources to respond to their incidents. The review illustrates that assumption-based planning is not the best tool for developing new plans but is better suited to review existing procedures or as a training tool for responders. This thesis shows that pre-selected and trained incident management teams provide superior preparedness for response and, when combined with a decision-making framework, are a dynamic, efficient tool. This thesis recommends changing the national strategy to influence local authorities in the development and implementation of coordinated local incident response teams.

Charles W. Chapman, Utility Emergency Management Coordinator, Austin Water Utility, City of Austin, Texas

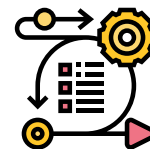
Advisor: Glen L. Woodbury, Center for Homeland Defense and Security
Second Reader: Christopher Bellavita (contractor), Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Sample Abstract #1

Background & Research Problem



Methods



Purpose



Results



Recommendations



Beyond Reform: Better Policing through Systems Thinking

Master of Arts in Security Studies (Homeland Security and Defense)

Police reform is a long-standing objective in America. In one form or another, the same fundamental problem persists: police have never consistently navigated the tension between effectively policing society and being a part of it. In part, systems theory helps explain why traditional best-practice reforms have not been consistently effective. The solution to these problems may lie not in reform but in reframing the approach to police organizations through systems thinking. This thesis seeks to answer a key question predicated on the assumption that reform is not enough: How can systems thinking improve policing? Using gap analysis, this thesis identifies ways to improve American policing and its processes through application of systems theory, specifically systems thinking. This research considers some of the problems that face policing from a systems-thinking perspective and finds that managing systems structures, building agent capacity, understanding context and goal-setting, and pursuing feedback could improve policing in ways that traditional reform strategies have not. Finally, it recommends that law enforcement agencies adopt systems-thinking strategies to improve performance.

Sample Abstract #2

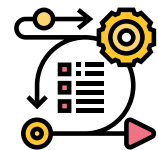
Background & Research Problem



Purpose



Methods



Results



Recommendations



Christopher R. Bagby, Sergeant, Bakersfield (Calif.) Police Department

Co-Advisor: Patrick E. Miller (contractor), Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Co-Advisor: Shannon A. Brown, Center for Homeland Defense and Security



The Barriers Latin American Countries Face with Female Integration into Combat Roles: A Comparative Study

Master of Arts in Security Studies (Western Hemisphere)

Globally, only 23 countries recognize women as indispensable support in combat positions. American and Norwegian women are effectively utilized in Female Engagement Teams, and Israeli women are known to enhance combat effectiveness in infantry units. Nevertheless, gender gaps in equality still remain, particularly in Latin American militaries. In this thesis, Norway, Israel, and the United States illustrate the differing approaches and successes of female integration into combat positions. It seeks to identify what measures could be applied to Latin American militaries desiring added diversity. Evidence indicates that distinct cultural norms have either effectively assisted or impeded the advancement of women's employment into combat specialties. In Norway and Israel, the inclusion of women in the armed forces was dependent on affirmative legislative action toward gender equality. The United States demonstrated a lack of leadership support that hindered women's integration. In all cases, cultural norms featuring hegemonic masculinities impeded female participation in primary combat positions. Women in Latin America—a region with a similar cultural misogyny—will likely face the same types of obstacles to service in combat roles. By emulating Norway's framework, Latin American states would have the ability to force cultural change that potentially closes gender gaps and empowers the region's governments to improve the conditions of women wishing to serve in combat specialties.

Molly G. Carrigan, Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy

Co-Advisor: Cristiana Matei, Center for Homeland Defense and Security

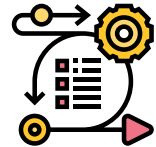
Co-Advisor: Christopher N. Darnton, Department of National Security Affairs

Sample Abstract #3

Background & Research Problem



Methods



Purpose



Results



Recommendations

