

SCHER2

MODULE IV PRACTICUM



Modeling the Heritage–Human Security Nexus

An analytic framework for policy analysis in the term-length projects



Name the Case Like an Analyst

FORMULA

Issue + Place + Timeframe

✓ STRONG

"Museum collections safeguarding in Ukraine, 2022–present"

Specific issue, bounded geography, defined temporal scope.

✗ WEAK

"Ukraine and heritage"

This is a theme, not a case. No defined threat environment.



Three Non-Negotiables

The analytical habits that define professional practice

1

Specify the Referent Object

What exactly is being secured?
A site, collection, community, or
livelihood system?

2

Specify the Mechanism

Don't just name threats. Show
how harm unfolds as a causal
chain.

3

Specify the Test of Success

Outcomes for people and
communities—not just
"restoration complete"



State Why This Is a Heritage—*Human* Security Problem

STANDARD HUMAN STAKES TAXONOMY

Dignity and identity continuity

Social cohesion and trust

Livelihoods — tourism, crafts, economies

Rights and access to cultural life

Recovery capacity — resilience

THE RULE

"Heritage matters" is not an argument.

How it matters to people is.



Specify the Referent Object

STRONG REFERENT OBJECTS

"Displaced community maintaining cultural continuity"

"Heritage custodians sustaining access to cultural property"

"Residents whose livelihood depends on a heritage district"

WHY THIS MATTERS

Your referent object determines everything downstream:

- What counts as **harm**
- What interventions are **legitimate**
- What **success** looks like



Build the Vulnerability Profile

Vulnerability is what makes harm predictable—not bad luck.

Exposure

Location in hazard zone; proximity to conflict

Sensitivity

Fragile collections; aging infrastructure; polarization

Limited Coping

Weak institutions; underfunding; mistrust

"Because **X** precipitates **Y**, this community is predictably exposed to **Z** harms."



Write Causal Risk Mechanisms

$X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z$ harm

Mechanisms must end in human-security harm, not just physical damage

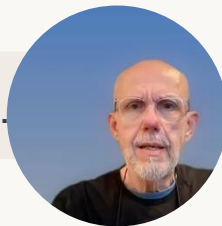
EXAMPLE CHAIN

Displacement → loss of custodianship → theft/neglect → *cultural discontinuity + mistrust*

EXAMPLE CHAIN

Disinformation about sacred site → intergroup fear → vandalism → *loss of shared civic space*

Rule: If it is not a chain, it is not a mechanism. "There is flooding" is not a mechanism.



Identify Second-Order Risks

REALITY CHECKPOINT

Many interventions that look "protective" can produce harm.

The point is not to reject security tools. The point is to govern them wisely.

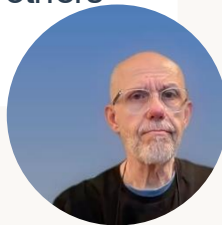
COMMON BACKFIRE RISKS

Exclusion or marginalization — Who gets "recognized"?

Displacement-by-policy — Reconstruction benefits outsiders

Securitization drift — Security crowds out rights

Politicized hierarchies — Some heritage "worthy," others erased



Match Instruments to Risk Mechanisms

Instruments are not "good ideas"—they are mechanism-disruptors.

Documentation & Stabilization

Inventories, emergency storage, training

Civil Protection & Preparedness

Rapid assessment, warning, recovery rules

Law Enforcement & Due Diligence

Customs, judicial cooperation, provenance

Participatory & Conflict-Sensitive

Governance dialogue, interpretation

Justify and explain: "This tool disrupts the chain at the Y stage by..."



Define the Test of Success

Outputs

Deliverables — what was done

- Inventories completed
- Sites documented
- Protections installed

Outcomes

Lived changes — what improved

- Continuity of practice
- Improved access
- Reduced fear; stabilized livelihoods

Restoration of a monument alone is not proof of success. You can restore historic built fabric and still lose the community relationship that makes cultural heritage meaningful.



Implementation Realism

"ACTORNESS" REALITY CHECK

"The EU" is never the only actor in practice.

EU instruments operate through Member States, local authorities, IOs, and civil society.

BINDING CONSTRAINTS

Mandate/competence limits — legal authority gaps

Access and security conditions — physical constraints

Legitimacy and trust deficits — political constraints

Staffing, funding, capacity — resource constraints

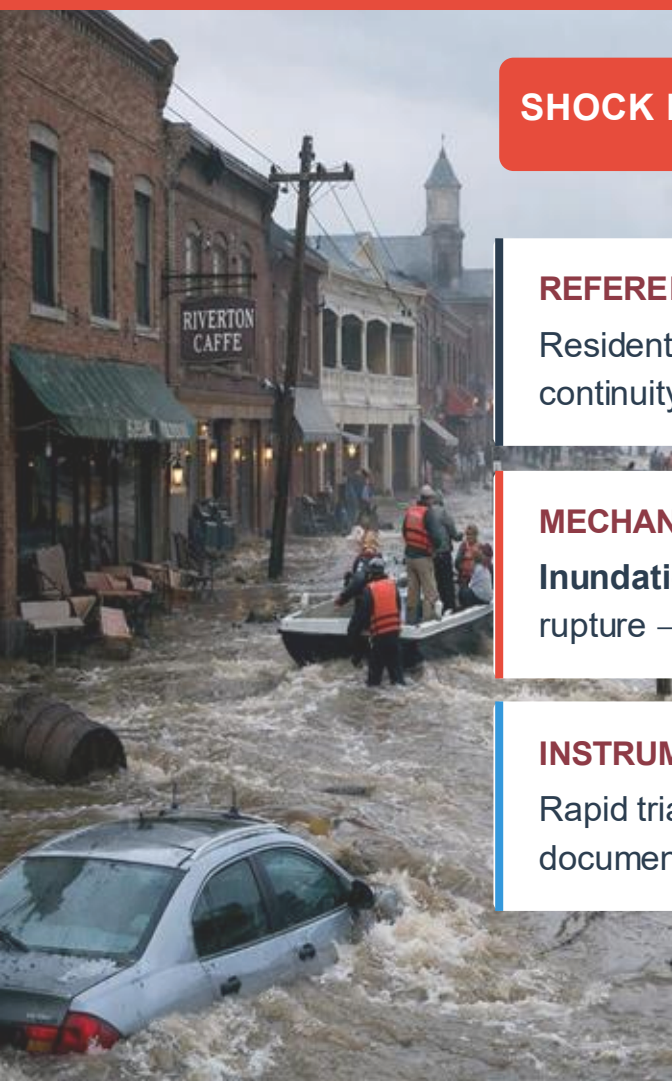


APPLYING THE MODEL

Worked Examples

Two cases demonstrating how
the same model produces different policy logics





SHOCK RISK

“Riverton”: Surprise Flood

REFERENT OBJECT

Residents and custodians whose cultural continuity depends on the historic district

MECHANISM

Inundation → displacement → custodianship rupture → *discontinuity + fragmentation*

INSTRUMENTS

Rapid triage + emergency storage + documentation; Recovery governance rules

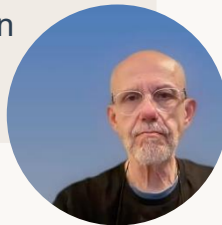
HUMAN SECURITY STAKES

- Housing stability
- Safe mobility
- Institutional continuity
- Legitimacy of recovery

TEST OF SUCCESS

Output: Collections stabilized + documented

Outcome: Residents return without exclusionary rebuilding



CHRONIC RISK

Venice: Recurrent Floods

REFERENT OBJECT

Venetians' ability to sustain habitable everyday life and custodianship of their cultural heritage(s)

MECHANISM (SLOW BURN)

Repeated disruption → rising costs → viability erosion → *weakened community over time*

INSTRUMENTS / PRACTICES

Forecasting/warning; Temporary mobility; Engineered defenses (MOSE)

THE HUMAN SECURITY QUESTION

Can Venice remain livable and socially and culturally continuous—not merely preserved as a “museumized” object or consumed as a tourist destination?

TEST OF SUCCESS

Output: Effective warning + protections triggered

Outcome: Reduced disruption AND sustained



Shock vs Chronic: Why the Comparison Matters

Riverton (Shock)

RISK TYPE

One surprise event creates a cascade

RISK MECHANISM

Event → displacement → rupture

INSTRUMENTS/POLICY PRIORITY

Triage + recovery legitimacy

SUCCESS

Return, reopening, equitable recovery

Venice (Chronic)

RISK TYPE

Repeated events create attritional (slow-burn) insecurity

RISK MECHANISM

Repetition → burden → viability decline

INSTRUMENTS/POLICY PRIORITY

Governance routines + long-term habitability

SUCCESS

Reduced disruption + sustained resident life



Four Questions to Carry Forward

1

What is your **referent object**, and why is it the right one?

2

What is your strongest **mechanism** — does it end in human-security harm?

3

What is the most plausible **backfire risk**, and what safeguard reduces it?

4

What would convince you that **success occurred** in lived conditions?

Answer these clearly and you are negotiating and managing complex “heritage-security” value conflicts without losing sight of the people whose lives give heritage its meaning.

