

The Value of Information on Resilience Decision Making in Repeated Disaster Environments

June 10, 2020

Author Affiliations and Contact Information:

Noah Dormady, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
John Glenn College of Public Affairs
The Ohio State University
1810 College Rd.,
Columbus OH 43210
Dormady.1@osu.edu

Robert Greenbaum, Ph.D.
Professor and Associate Dean
John Glenn College of Public Affairs
The Ohio State University
1810 College Rd.,
Columbus OH 43210
Greenbaum.3@osu.edu

Kim Young, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer
John Glenn College of Public Affairs
The Ohio State University
1810 College Rd.,
Columbus OH 43210
Young.1807@osu.edu

Abstract: This paper reports on a series of controlled human-subjects experiments on the decision of firms to invest in resilience to mitigate supply-chain disruptions and their willingness to pay for advisory information to improve resilience planning investments. Here we focus specifically on strategic inventories, which have been identified in the supply chain and economic resilience literatures to be a core resilience-building tactic. Of critical importance to organizations like the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and state and county offices of emergency management, we find that firms are willing to pay for external resilience information when they operate in information-poor environments. We also find that when firms purchase resilience information, they are less susceptible to the decision-making bias known as the gambler's fallacy, which has been shown to adversely affect firms operating in repeated disaster environments. This paper is one of the first of its kind to conduct experimental analysis on a national subject population of CEOs and COOs in the context of resilience. The results inform resilience planning efforts for public- and private-sector firms and organizations, with broad implications for the use of informational policy instruments to build economic resilience.

Keywords: *Economic Resilience; Supply Chain Resilience; Experimental Economics; Strategic Inventories; Decision Analysis*

JEL Classifications: C92; D25; E22; G31; H54; Q54

51 **Introduction**

52 A key element of local communities' and economies' ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters
53 is the preparation and response of the local business community. A resilient enterprise is considered one
54 that can recover quickly in the face of disruption (Sheffi and Rice, 2005). This comports with the more
55 general definition of resilience provided by the National Research Council that we adopt—"the ability to
56 prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, or more successfully adapt to actual or potential adverse events"
57 (2012, p.16). Understanding the micro foundations of community resilience is more important now than
58 ever, as economic losses from natural hazards have been increasing throughout the world for many years,
59 and this pace is projected to increase exponentially. Historically, the physical mechanisms of these events,
60 such as rainfall or wind, have not changed over the long-term (Wong et al., 2014), but economic
61 development and population growth have created greater exposure to them, and vulnerability has increased
62 because mitigation has not kept pace (Hallegatte, Vogt-Schilb, Bangalore, & Rozenberg, 2017; Whitehead
63 & Rose, 2009).

64 The global COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the crucial role that individual businesses play in
65 terms of sustaining the economic resilience of individuals and their communities. The pandemic has also
66 reminded everyone of the need for advance planning and the related challenges of making decisions in the
67 face of uncertainty. It is thus imperative that we understand how public policy can effectively induce
68 business leaders to improve their firms' resilience. This includes appropriate levels of investment in
69 building resilience capacity. Unfortunately, given the practical implications to the business and broader
70 community of increasingly costly disasters, academic theory across the many relevant disciplines has not
71 paid sufficient attention to the realities faced by private enterprise. Existing hazards research examining
72 business decision making has focused almost exclusively on the behavior of firms in the context of a single
73 shock/event (see, for example, the comparative assessment provided in Hosseini, Barker, & Ramirez-
74 Marquez, 2016)—as if firms operating in these environments experience only "one off" disasters rather
75 than with greater regularity.

76 Resilience investment decisions, such as investments in inventories, stockpiles or system
77 redundancy, are fundamentally different when the realities of repeated events are taken into consideration.
78 Resilience decisions of private (and public) enterprises bear a very real cost to the firm in the here and now.
79 These often take the form of inventories or system redundancy involving capital or infrastructure
80 expenditures. These investments involve the active decision to incur a current opportunity cost by foregoing
81 expenditures in currently-profitable labor, plant and equipment to avoid probabilistic business interruption
82 at a future, uncertain date (Pettit, Fiksel, & Croxton, 2010). In this context of repeated disasters, these
83 decisions extend well beyond the classic questions of optimal inventory and should also be informed by
84 considerations brought to bear on these issues from the decision sciences. For example, does a recent
85 disaster provide firms with a rationale for not investing in resilience going forward? In other words, if a
86 major disruption has recently occurred, it must be unlikely to strike again—right? This decision-making
87 bias, known as gambler’s fallacy, has been identified in recent resilience research (Dormady, Greenbaum,
88 & Young, 2017). As scholars are learning more about resilience, they are learning that resilience is a process
89 (Rose & Dormady, 2018) that is informed by past events. It is important therefore, that we understand how
90 past events influence resilience decisions.

91 Importantly, private enterprise is heterogeneous. Resilience investment considerations are
92 fundamentally different for larger firms than for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Middle
93 market firms (the focus of this empirical analysis)—defined by annual revenues between \$10 million and
94 \$1 billion—in particular, cannot afford the same degree of process duplication, redundancy, or inventory
95 buffers. Over/under investment in resilience bears a much higher relative opportunity cost for these firms—
96 particularly when the competitive nature of the business climate that they face is taken into consideration.
97 For this reason, these firms will often hire consultants to make up for their own hazard mitigation and
98 resilience decision-making limitations, while the largest firms, with the largest resources, may hire
99 consultants as a matter of course (Orr & Orr, 2012). The decision to engage outside resources can be
100 considered a characteristic of a resilient organization (Lee, Vargo, Seville, 2013). However, decisions that
101 are informed by third parties are also subject to heuristic biases informed by the decision sciences. How

102 decision makers perceive the credibility of information providers is an important component of the decision
103 on whether to act on the advice (Wu, Greer, and Murphy, 2020). Further, the literature on advice indicates
104 that paying for information leads to greater likelihood of being persuaded by that information—a decision
105 making bias known as sunk cost bias. To date, both the burgeoning economic and supply chain resilience
106 literatures have yet to be informed by these important areas of study that so obviously come to bear on these
107 critical decisions faced by private (and public) enterprise.

108 Thus, this paper examines the resilience investment decisions of middle market firms in the context
109 of repeated catastrophic events using a controlled experiment. We use an expert subject population of
110 managers (predominantly CEOs and COOs) from mid-sized firms alongside a more standard subject
111 population from a university experimental economics student subject pool. Subjects in the experiment make
112 decisions to strategically invest in inventory buffers to avoid supply chain disruption associated with a
113 probabilistic, repeated catastrophic event. Subjects are randomly assigned into one of two treatment
114 groups—one in which they can hire consultants to provide them with the probability of a disaster and one
115 in which that information is provided free of charge. Econometric analyses of the data provide insights into
116 the learning behavior of firms making strategic resilience investments in the context of both repeated events
117 and consultancy information. In this way, the experiment allows us to control for two of the most vexing
118 and potentially countervailing decision biases—gamblers fallacy and sunk cost bias. The use of an
119 experimental design provides an unrivaled statistical control that is not possible with observational data.

120 The results inform resilience planning efforts for public- and private-sector firms and organizations,
121 with broad implications for the use of informational policy instruments to build resilience. We find evidence
122 that status quo bias influences resilience decisions, as businesses that purchased consulting information in
123 a previous period were much more likely to do so going forward. This indicates that efforts to encourage
124 the acquisition of information may be more efficiently targeted at businesses that have not previously sought
125 external advice. There is some nuance in this finding, however, as we also find that businesses with less
126 overall information regarding the probability of an impending disaster were more likely to purchase
127 information.

128 We find that providing businesses information about the probability of a disruptive disaster does
129 indeed lead to more informed decisions and greater likelihood of managers to switch from their initial
130 investment decisions. Interestingly, however, we find a difference in the likelihood to act depending on
131 whether the information was free or purchased. When firms purchase information, the data indicate that
132 they are less susceptible to the gambler’s fallacy. We postulate that this is a function of the value they place
133 on purchased information. This challenges current practice among public agencies operating under the
134 assumption that the government should provide more free information.

135 Next, the paper reviews the relevant literature on the role of information in decision making and
136 related decision-making biases, followed by details on the experimental design.

137

138 **Background Literature**

139 Building resilience capacity in the face of hazards has been the subject of numerous scholarly endeavors in
140 a broad array of disciplines including supply chain and logistics management (Bode, et al., 2011; Graves
141 & Tomlin, 2003; Pettit, Croxton, & Fiksel, 2013; Tang, 2006; Tomlin, 2006), production economics (Tang
142 & Tomlin, 2008; Dormady, Roa-Henriquez, & Rose, 2019), sociology (Tierney, 2006; Tierney 2014;
143 Tierney 2019), geography (Cutter et al., 2008; Cutter, 2016), and public policy (Dormady & Ellis, 2018;
144 Flynn, 2007; Ganguly, Bhatia, & Flynn, 2018). From Holling’s (1973) seminal paper on the resilience of
145 ecosystems, resilience theories (and their pragmatic applications) have informed numerous disciplines in
146 the social and behavioral sciences (Hosseini, Barker, & Ramirez-Marquez, 2016), the natural and
147 environmental sciences (Berkes, Folde, & Colding, 2000), civil and industrial engineering (Hosseini,
148 Barker, & Ramirez-Marquez, 2016; Shafieezadeh & Burden, 2014), and economics and business
149 management (Rose, 2007).

150 A key aspect in building such resilience is the use of economic information to reduce uncertainty
151 and as a tool for making optimal decisions (Pindyck & Rubinfeld, 2013; Repo, 1989). Information deficits
152 can hamper post-disaster recovery (Arneson, Deniz, Javernick-Will, Liel, & Dashti, 2017). Information has

153 value when inclusion or exclusion would influence a particular decision (Williamson, 1982). Because the
154 acquisition costs of some decision-influencing information may be greater than the expected value added,
155 investments in information should be subject to cost benefit analysis, as are other commodity investment
156 decisions (Leviakangas, 2009; Williamson, 1982). This cost-benefit analysis is particularly relevant under
157 conditions of uncertainty, such as decisions involving disaster preparedness and response. For example, in
158 their study of the decision to purchase flood insurance, Arnal et al (2016) find that probabilistic
159 meteorological forecasts provide increased economic value compared to deterministic forecasts because the
160 quantification of uncertainty is useful to decision-makers with varying risk attitudes. Individuals
161 subsequently use a probabilistic forecast to calculate the potential for flood risk, which is a function of both
162 probability and consequence (potential gain or loss). It suggests that better disaster information may lead
163 to improved private and public sector resilience decisions related to flood protection or hydroelectric power
164 management, among other applications, because decision makers actually incorporate the information.

165 Willingness to pay for information may be assessed through a variety of approaches. The contingent
166 valuation method (CV or CVM) uses a hypothetical scenario to survey consumers' willingness to pay for
167 products or services (Lee & Hatcher, 2001). An experimental auction (EA) simulates market decision
168 making by assessing exchanges involving real goods and real money. True valuation is revealed through
169 repeated participation in these "markets." The hedonic approach estimates the relationship between the
170 price of a good or service and the characteristics as predictor variables (Lee & Hatcher, 2001). Each of
171 these methods has advantages and disadvantages, which are discussed at length in the literature. Most
172 attempt to elicit individuals' reservation prices.

173 Some information products and services exemplify characteristics of public goods and
174 governments are vital to both the production and distribution of this information, such as information
175 transmitted from the National Weather Service (Repo, 1989). Other hazard-related information is transacted
176 through market exchange. In either case, the value of information in disaster management and other contexts
177 may be approached from two different angles: measured as the worth to an individual making a decision
178 (perceived value) or as the measured difference in outcomes associated with a behavior change prompted

179 by information use, realistic value (Leviakangas, 2009). Worth to the decision-maker is a speculative
180 assessment and falls under the category of research examining decision making under uncertainty. The
181 second angle, realistic value, is empirical but may only be measured post-hoc (Leviakangas, 2009).

182 Investment decisions related to resilience may bridge both information value angles. Information
183 procurement may be prompted by speculation of improved outcomes resulting from information use
184 (realistic value) as assessed by decision-maker before an event occurs (perceived value). Specifically, the
185 decision to hire a consultant or purchase information about the likelihood of a disaster event will be based
186 on the perceived value that new or additional information may provide while informing actions that shield
187 the organization from loss associated with a potential catastrophe.

188 The role of information in disaster-preparedness decision-making has been documented in a variety
189 of contexts. New Zealand's emergency management and community resilience reform initiative identified
190 technical information and expertise as a core principle of the hazard risk reduction effort (Britton & Clark,
191 2000). The national legislation crafted to formalize the hazard and risk mitigation efforts included not only
192 the establishment of information systems but the ongoing staff and resources to maintain the systems
193 (Britton & Clark, 2000). In Japan, with roughly half of the population living in close proximity to
194 floodplains, frequent floods have caused devastating life and property loss (Zhai, Sato, Fukuzono, Ikeda,
195 & Yoshida, 2006). At the same time, the persistent severe recession led to reduced investment in "hard"
196 flood countermeasures such as dikes and dams. Contingent valuation analysis has revealed a positive
197 relationship between willingness to pay (WTP) for flood risk reduction and level of risk reduction, but
198 information about environmental impact reduces willingness to pay (Zhai et al., 2006).

199 Other research has identified the need for improved access to climate information to improve the
200 resilience management of water resources in Brazil and the United States (Kirchhoff, Lemos, & Engle,
201 2013). In Brazil, the risk attitude of water resource managers is an influential factor in the uptake (use) of
202 information for decisions related to the resilience of water systems threatened by climate change, population
203 growth and competing demands (Kirchhoff, Lemos, & Engle, 2013). When managers lack information
204 about water availability, they tend to rely on a highly conservative water allocation strategy. Yet,

205 government agencies that serve as boundary organizations to help validate information such as that
206 provided in seasonal climate forecasts can help mitigate managers' risk aversion to act on that advice
207 (Kirchhoff, Lemos, & Engle, 2013). Finally, recent research on flood mitigation in Florida shows that an
208 information-related issue, perceiving a resilience investment as unnecessary, is one of the top three reasons
209 given for deciding against measures that would reduce the risk of damages from natural disasters. The other
210 two reasons were perceiving the protective measures as too costly, and moral hazard, expecting insurance
211 to cover damages caused by natural disasters (Chatterjee, Flugman, Jiang, Mozumder, & Chowdhury,
212 2018).

213 While the role of information is undoubtedly crucial, prior research has uncovered a number of
214 decision-making biases related to both the decision to invest in disaster preparedness and the use of
215 information in resilience investments. The gambler's fallacy, status quo bias, and optimism bias may each
216 prompt underinvestment in economic resilience. Sunk cost bias may influence how information provided
217 by consultants or experts may influence resilience investment decisions. Next, we briefly review some of
218 the relevant research in the context of these biases.

219 First, the "gambler's fallacy" occurs when experience with an event leads a decision-maker to
220 underestimate the probability of the event occurring (Tversky & Kahneman, 1971). In this case, an
221 individual bases a perception of risk on a small, unrepresentative sample and believes, incorrectly, that the
222 "rare" event is unlikely to occur in the immediate future. Subsequently, this mistaken belief may lead to
223 increased risk when making a decision in the near-term after a catastrophic event.

224 Recent history has provided evidence supporting this theory about the law of small numbers bias.
225 Immediately after Hurricane Katrina, evacuees were more willing to take risks closer to the time of the
226 event (Eckel, El-Gamal, & Wilson, 2009). An Australian experiment found that victims directly impacted
227 by floods took more risks in lottery gambles compared to neighbors who did not experience property
228 damage from flooding (Page, Savage, & Torgler, 2014). When individuals underestimate probabilities or
229 losses resulting from low-probability/high-consequence events they may allocate fewer resources toward

230 protective measures. This may explain a general lack of preparation for disaster events (Botzen, Kunreuther,
231 & Michel-Kerjan, 2015) or underinvestment in economic resilience.

232 A second decision making heuristic that may also work to produce underinvestment in resilience
233 is status quo bias. Associated with loss aversion, this bias occurs when perceived costs of moving away
234 from a current position outweigh perceived gains and often results in no action by the decision maker
235 (Kahneman & Tversky, 1979). A number of studies of financial investments reveal a remarkable tendency
236 to avoid changing investment allocations following the initial decision (Bazerman & Moore, 2013;
237 Samuelson & Zeckhauser, 1988). A severe event may be the only situation that can lead an organization to
238 deviate from the status quo (Ballesteros & Kunreuther, 2018, Samuelson & Zeckhauser, 1988). According
239 to Ballesteros & Kunreuther (2018), the decision-making processes associated with discontinuous or
240 dynamic shocks is much more complex than other types of risk decisions faced by organizations and
241 requires an organizational perspective. Dealing with rare or catastrophic events necessitates coordination
242 among decision makers from different levels or divisions of an organization. In these situations, the intuitive
243 thinking of individuals may be compounded while focusing on the short run may restrict the organization's
244 capacity for implementing strategies to prepare for future catastrophic events (Ballestreros & Kunreuther,
245 2018).

246 Third, when individuals are susceptible to an illusion of invulnerability they tend to be biased
247 towards optimism (Cherry, 2018). This bias contributes to an individual's underestimation of the likelihood
248 of experiencing an adverse event by mistakenly believing the chances of the event are lower for the
249 individual than those of others (Cherry, 2018). This type of optimism has been observed across a variety of
250 contexts (Bazerman & Moore, 2013; Cherry, 2018). Education about risk factors may actually worsen the
251 bias (Cherry, 2018). With respect to potential disaster events, people who do not prepare may not have full
252 information about the threat or may not perceive that the threat applies to them (Shrikant, 2018).

253 Finally, sunk cost bias is a decision-making heuristic applicable to disaster planning and decision
254 making. A fascinating finding across a number of disciplinary contexts is that when information is
255 purchased, individuals are significantly more receptive to the recommendations, while free information is

256 consistently discounted or rejected (Gino, 2008; Hung & Yoong, 2010). Pre-paid expert advice is weighed
257 significantly higher compared to advice that is paid for after it is given (Snizek, Schrah, & Dalal, 2004).
258 In Judge-Advisor System (JAS) studies a subject (a judge) is presented with advice from one or more
259 reliable consultants before making a final decision (Gino, 2008). A number of JAS experiments have also
260 observed a significant increase in receptivity to information that came at a cost as compared to information
261 provided free of charge (Gino, 2008). This stands in opposition to a multitude of studies concluding that
262 anchoring, differential information, and egocentric bias prompt individuals to regularly discount or
263 disregard advice received from others (Gino, 2008). The exception is that individuals who invest money in
264 procuring expertise are more likely to use the advice regardless of the quality of the information (Gino,
265 2008; Patt, Bowles, & Cash, 2006; Snizek, Schrah, & Dalal, 2004). This phenomenon may be attributable
266 to an increased perception of information credibility (Patt, Bowles, & Cash, 2006) or to the tendency to
267 allow prior, irreversible investments to influence ensuing economic behavior, sunk cost bias. Perhaps in an
268 effort to avoid regret about the information or consulting expenditure, an individual is more likely to use
269 the purchased information (Gino, 2008).

270 In the context of resilient supply chains, risk or vulnerability to disruption is a function of both
271 event likelihood and the severity of the disruption (Pettit, Fiksel, & Croxton, 2010). In the controlled
272 experiment we present below, we provide the experimental subjects with information about the severity of
273 a disruption but include information about the likelihood selectively by treatment. Aversion to ambiguity
274 is another cognitive bias (Ellsberg, 1961; Montibeller and von Winterfeldt, 2015), and the decision to
275 purchase information regarding the probability of the event helps reveal this aversion to ambiguity. We
276 allow the subjects the opportunity to purchase information to reduce this portion of the uncertainty.
277 Comparing between treatments in which information is free versus purchased informs optimism bias, sunk
278 cost bias, and gambler's fallacy related to the decision to invest in resilience.

279

280 **Experimental Design**

281 In an effort to examine whether the decision-making biases described above influence resilience decision
282 making in a repeated disaster environment, we draw on a controlled experiment to test these effects in the
283 context of a firm facing potential repeated catastrophic events. Use of controlled experiments has grown
284 rapidly in economics because of their strengths in testing social phenomena in a structured manner (Kagel
285 & Roth, 1995; Plott & Smith, 2008) and in setting up scenarios in large samples that would not be possible
286 with observational data. The literature on regional and community resilience is quite large, and the use of
287 controlled decision-making experiments evaluating the effects of dynamic decision making in repeated
288 games has been vast. However, we are aware of no similar studies evaluating individual-level resilience
289 decision-making in the context of hazards management. Below we provide the operational details for our
290 experiment and explain how it was designed.

291

292 **Experiment Operation & Sample Selection**

293 The experiment was designed as an online experimental survey administered by RTi Research, a
294 professional business survey firm. Subjects were sampled from two pools. Professional subject
295 experimental sessions made use of an existing subject pool of managers from a representative sample of
296 mid-sized businesses and included mainly CEOs, COOs, owners, or executives tasked with making
297 strategic corporate investment decisions. Because the National Center for the Middle Market funded this
298 research and had existing collaborations with RTi Research, we have a high degree of assurance that the
299 respondents took the experiment very seriously. More specifically, these subjects were drawn from the pool
300 of managers who complete the Middle Market Indicator Report. (For more information on the sampling
301 pool, see the FAQ at [http://www.middlemarketcenter.org/performance-data-on-the-middle-market.](http://www.middlemarketcenter.org/performance-data-on-the-middle-market))
302 Undergraduate subjects were selected from The Ohio State University Experimental Economics Subject
303 Pool, which consists of approximately 12,000 undergraduate and graduate students, one of the largest

304 university economics subject pools in the United States. Subjects in both pools were randomly assigned to
305 the treatment conditions that are described below.

306 The experiment was conducted in two stages in late 2015 and early 2016 and includes 259 subjects
307 in total, 143 student subjects and 116 managers, who were broken into separate treatment groups of 87 and
308 172 subjects. Table 3 provides the breakdown of student and manager counts by treatment group.

309 In addition to the random selection of subjects via the randomized invitations and sign-up process,
310 subjects were randomly assigned into treatment groups through the survey software. The random
311 assignment uses a conditional least-count uniform distribution algorithm to assign subjects to each
312 treatment group. Although this algorithm assigns subjects randomly using a uniform distribution, it also
313 weights the distribution more heavily toward those treatment and selection parameters that have the lowest
314 count of completed surveys at that point in time. We also modified the uniform distribution to provide for
315 approximately twice as many subjects in the second treatment group, where sample size is important
316 because subjects could select into treatment conditions therein (i.e., purchasing information). We also
317 oversample from female subjects in both subject pools to ensure an equal sex balance in all treatments.

318

319 **Decision-Making Scenario**

320 Subjects were provided a resilience decision-making context, or vignette, in which they were asked to
321 advise a firm’s Chief Operations Officer (COO) on an important operational decision in the face of a critical
322 supply chain vulnerability. In the possible event of an unnamed disaster/catastrophe, the firm’s ability to
323 acquire the needed production input would be substantially limited. Subjects were asked to advise the COO
324 on an investment decision that could reduce the potential negative consequences of the production input
325 curtailment that would occur if the catastrophic event were to ensue. The exact type of catastrophic event
326 is not specified, as a contextualized decision could introduce exogeneity bias if subjects’ individual heuristic
327 biases (e.g., fear of hurricanes) influenced their resilience decisions.

328 In the face of catastrophic events, whether human-made or natural, firms have several micro-level
329 operational strategies at their disposal. One of the most common strategies is building *redundancy* (e.g.,

330 use of inventories, back-up generators, mirrored servers). Dormady, Roa-Henriquez, and Rose (2019)
331 provide a detailed description and the formal microeconomic theory for a more comprehensive list of firm-
332 level resilience tactics, and Graveline and Gremont (2017) provide a survey-based assessment of a thorough
333 list of resilience tactics. We focus on investment in *inventories*, a well-known and common enterprise-level
334 resilience tactic (Bode et al., 2011; Kleindorfer & Saad, 2005; Lee, 2004; Sheffi & Rice, 2005; Tang, 2006).
335 In this experiment, if a catastrophic event were to occur, the inventory investment provides a stock of the
336 critical input that would result in a minor reduction in the firm's production output. Subjects are thus faced
337 with the decision of continuing to operate normally and face the risk of a catastrophic event that would
338 nearly wipe out the firm's production capability or make an investment in inventories that would shield the
339 firm from much of the adverse operational consequence of the input curtailment.

340 While inventories can reduce or eliminate business interruption given supply chain vulnerabilities
341 in which the delivery or availability of critical production inputs is inhibited, they come with non-trivial
342 costs to mid-sized firms. The payout/utility function was designed with the business environment faced by
343 this population of firms in mind. Because the operational focus of our study is middle market businesses,
344 resilience strategies of middle market firms tend to be limited compared to larger companies. This is
345 critically important because middle market businesses that make investments in redundancy or inventories,
346 for example, do so at a tradeoff to core production inputs in the present, notably investments in labor or
347 capital. Larger firms can afford redundancy without the same degree of tradeoff. Moreover, in the globally
348 competitive marketplace in which most middle market businesses compete, costly investments in
349 inventories or other resilience investments can put them at a disadvantage to other firms that do not bear
350 such costs or catastrophic risk. In more competitive industries that tend to be dominated by middle market
351 firms or smaller firms, this can lead to a decision context akin to a prisoners' dilemma, in which less than
352 societally optimal investments in resilience are made.

353

354 **Decision Structure**

355 Subjects received the decision-making payoff matrix in Table 1. The left column represents payoffs under
356 the catastrophic shock scenarios. The cost of strategic inventories is set at \$20 million per period. If a firm
357 invests in resilience and a catastrophic shock occurs, the firm is only slightly negatively affected by the
358 shock, and profits of \$70 million per period are obtained, accounting for the inventory investment (top-left
359 cell). If a shock were to occur and no inventories are in place, the firm generates only \$10 million in profit
360 (bottom left cell), reflecting the inability to produce without the requisite production input in the face of
361 limited input substitution. The right column represents the payoffs under the scenarios in which no
362 catastrophe occurs. Under these business-as-usual conditions, the firm would have profits of \$100 million
363 per period if inventories were not purchased (bottom-right cell). Finally, if the firm made the investment
364 and no catastrophic shock occurs, profits would be \$80 million per period, or \$100 million minus the \$20
365 million cost of inventories (top-right cell). This matrix also internalizes, within the framework of the
366 experiment, the reality of positive spillovers from some resilience investments (i.e., some resilience
367 strategies are cost-effective even in the absence of a shock).

368 Subject remuneration was aligned with standard experimental practices of incentivizing
369 performance based on induced value theory. This is also consistent with corporate performance pay
370 strategies that reward executives for management performance that is tied to market-based outcomes
371 (Jensen & Murphy, 1990). Subjects in the experiment received payment at the ratio of one dollar for every
372 \$100 million the firm received in profits. The running calculation of remuneration earned was visible during
373 the experiment; however, every other aspect of the vignette indicates the independence of decision-making
374 periods. Specifically, to be consistent with the context of repeated natural disasters and the holding duration
375 of inventories, inventories are not carried over from period to period. As such, at the introduction of a new
376 period, subjects are provided the following instruction: “Some time has passed. The company is again faced
377 with the option to invest in inventories that would limit the negative impacts of the catastrophic event.”
378 This scenario signals a new, independent period without suggesting a type of inventory or type of disaster
379 that could have activated individual heuristic biases, as discussed below.

380

381 **Treatment Conditions**

382 Subjects made resilience decisions across ten two-round periods. Regardless of treatment assignment, every
383 subject made an initial investment decision in the first round of each period, before any information could
384 be obtained. The second-round decision at the end of each period is the point at which a subject finalized
385 the investment decision. Following the second and final resilience investment decision, subjects were then
386 informed of the disaster outcome—either a disaster occurred or it did not.

387 Subjects were randomly assigned to two information treatment groups. In one group, information
388 about the catastrophic event likelihood is provided at no cost at the end of the first round (free information).
389 In this group, before making their final investment decision in the second round of every period, subjects
390 were always (accurately) informed that the probability of a disaster was 25 percent.

391 The second treatment did not provide costless probability information. Subjects had the opportunity
392 to hire a consultant who provided the information. Between the first and second rounds of every period,
393 these subjects were given the opportunity to hire an external consultant who could provide them with this
394 information for a fee of \$10 million. Subjects who purchased external consulting were informed by the
395 consultant of the same 25 percent event likelihood. In all treatments and in all periods, event likelihood was
396 drawn from a uniform distribution, whereby the mean subject observed 2.5 catastrophic events across ten
397 periods.

398 Figure 1 presents a depiction of the decisions made within each round across the 10 periods for the
399 treatment that had the option to hire a consultant. In the majority of the cases (1,256 compared to 464), the
400 first decision was to invest in inventories. Subsequent to the 1,256 decisions to invest, 310 hired information
401 and 946 did not. Subsequent to the decision not to invest, 92 hired consulting information and 372 did not.
402 The final column of the figure shows the distribution of the final investment decision in round two across
403 all 10 periods.

404 In the free information treatment, immediately after making their initial investment decisions,
405 subjects were informed that they “have the opportunity to finalize this investment decision to invest in

406 inventories based upon the following information: The likelihood that the catastrophic event will occur is
407 25 out of 100.” The subjects were invited to consider this information and then make their final investment
408 decision before learning if a catastrophic event occurred. All subjects in this treatment received the same
409 information, and the information remained consistent across all ten periods varying only by the subject’s
410 selected exposure to that information.

411 In the treatment without free information, the consultant was described as having
412 “significant expertise in the field of catastrophic events and can provide you with a highly reliable estimate
413 of the likelihood that a catastrophic event will occur.” The subjects were presented with separate payoff
414 matrices showing the possible profit outcomes if the subject does not or does hire the consultant.

415

416 **Catastrophic Event Likelihood**

417 Subjects’ decision calculus inherently depends on their risk tolerance and their willingness to take
418 preventative action (Englander, 2015). However, this experimental design differs from classic risk
419 experiments in three important ways. First, unlike many risk experiments, the subjects in this experiment
420 are not all informed of the likelihood of the event (the catastrophic shock). Second, the actual decision
421 environment is strategy neutral (it was designed for a mixed strategy equilibrium to explicitly observe
422 changeover behavior responsive to the treatment conditions). That is, there is no dominant strategy in
423 equilibrium. The expected value of profit, or expected monetary value (EMV) at the shock probability we
424 utilized (Pr.=0.25) is equivalent for both resilience investment strategies (\$77.5 million). The
425 EMV for the Invest strategy is $0.25 (\$70) + 0.75 (\$80) = \$77.5$. The EMV for the Do Not Invest strategy is
426 $0.25 (\$10) + 0.75 (\$100) = \$77.5$. For subjects who purchase consulting, the EMVs are still equivalent for
427 both investment decisions, though the values are each \$10M lower due to the hiring cost. Table 2 presents
428 the EMVs for the probability of 0.25 as well as the probabilities of 0.5 and 0.1, two potentially likely guesses
429 as to the event likelihood. If risk-neutral subjects know the probability, they would be forced to play a
430 mixed strategy. As such, our experimental design attempts to mirror the pre-disaster planning decision
431 environment that many firms face in an environment without a clearly dominant resilience strategy.

432 Third, this experiment informs the relationship between risk and investment—specifically
433 investment in *inherent resilience*. It is important to note that the economic resilience literature makes a
434 critical distinction between *inherent* and *adaptive* resilience (Cutter et al, 2008; Rose, 2004; Rose, 2007;
435 Martin & Sunley, 2014). The former consists of “built-in” resilience, including the availability of
436 inventories or substitution among inputs. The latter consists of improvisation that occurs under duress, such
437 as strict conservation measures or changes in production processes to continuing operating when faced with
438 an event. While we are not aware of any research investigating the behavioral determinants of either
439 strategy, this experiment provides the first behavioral analysis of the relationship between uncertainty and
440 inherent resilience.

441 Given the 25% likelihood utilized in this experiment as the exogenous shock probability, the
442 subjects’ inherent priors about the likelihood of a catastrophic event and their risk preferences ultimately
443 informs their resilience investment decisions. Subjects who believe that the likelihood of a catastrophic
444 event is high are likely to choose the profit maximizing dominant strategy of investing in inventories if they
445 are risk-averse profit-maximizing decision makers. Alternatively, if subjects believe that the likelihood of
446 a catastrophic event is low, they will choose the profit-maximizing dominant strategy of not investing in
447 inventories.

448

449 **Experiment Data**

450 **Summary Statistics**

451 We next provide summative experimental results/data for both treatment groups, focusing on the exposure
452 of subjects to disasters and the hiring of external consulting. Given the exogenous event-likelihood
453 probability utilized in all treatments, all subjects are exposed to the same mean count of shocks in total—
454 an average of 2.5 out of ten periods. However, because the probability was drawn randomly from a uniform
455 distribution, not all subjects receive the same number of shocks. We report the mean exposure to disasters
456 in Table 3 (around 25 percent) along with the breakdown of subjects by subject type for both treatment

457 groups. No subject experiences more than seven disasters, though that was rare, occurring in fewer than
458 five cases. We also report the mean total resilience investments by treatment. Upon first glance, we find no
459 statistical difference between the mean resilience investment in either treatment, as subjects in both
460 treatments invested in resilience around 70 percent of the time.

461 We also want to examine whether we observe differences in consultancy hiring by subject type,
462 across time, or by exposure to disasters. We present these results for the consultancy hiring treatment in
463 Tables 4 and 5. We generally observe declining rates of consultancy hiring across time, falling from 34
464 percent in the first period to 19 percent in the 10th. This is intuitive, as consultants provided the same event
465 probability every time, and after at least two periods of hiring the consultants, subjects would—we
466 assume—generally learn that this information was consistent each time, and select out of paying the extra
467 \$10 million for consultancy information. However, the across-time tapering off that we observe is less
468 robust for managers, who settle to 25 percent in period 10 compared to only 15 percent of students who
469 hire. This is consistent with the experimental economics literature that generally finds that professionals in
470 experiments tend to operate more by rules of thumb than by strict EMV calculations (Kagel, 1995).

471 Another likely interpretation is that managers in middle market firms (i.e., our professional
472 subjects) are familiar with liability-incentivized “CYA” decision-making to reduce their own personal
473 liability. Though not incorporated into the design of the experiment, this can be a powerful incentive in
474 business decision-making. It may be the case that some professional subjects more regularly hire
475 consultants because in their own decision environments they pursue avenues to offset decision-making
476 liability. We see some evidence of this in Table 4, namely that managers hire consultants at only a slightly
477 lower rate by the end of the experiment. In total, 59 percent of managers never deviate from their preferred
478 consultancy hiring decision (either hiring or not hiring) compared to only 36 percent of students. However,
479 when broken down by disaster exposure, as provided in Table 5, we observe that there are generally no
480 consistent differences in hiring across subject type or disaster exposure. Most subjects hire consultants at
481 essentially the same rates by count of disaster exposure, with the notable exception being the small quantity
482 of subjects who observed six disasters and who hire at a mean of half of the periods across the board.

483 Appropriately, we observe that resilience investment is positively associated with exposure to
484 disasters in both treatments. We break these down by type of subject in Table 6. Because all subjects receive
485 the disaster likelihood information in the control treatment and receive it if they hire a consultant in the
486 consultancy treatment, we separate those out by disaster exposure. However, because consultant hiring is
487 optional in the consultancy treatment, 42 percent of subjects in that treatment never hire a consultant. These
488 subjects are an important group because they never actually observe an external information source
489 informing them of the event likelihood. Their only source of disaster likelihood information was their own
490 experience with disasters on a period-by-period basis. We include their mean resilience hiring information
491 in the last column of the table as well. These three categories become important explanatory regression
492 categories later in the paper.

493 However, reviewing the results in Table 6 does not provide any consistent patterns without further
494 examination using regression analysis, which we provide in the next section. In general, subjects in the
495 consultancy treatment who never hire a consultant invest in strategic inventories at a higher rate than
496 subjects who hire a consultant at least once or who always observe the disaster likelihood information. This
497 effect, however, is moderated by higher rates of disaster exposure.

498

499 **Econometric Regression Variables**

500 We provide three separate sets of econometric models to investigate consultancy hiring in the dynamic
501 context of resilience investment. The explanatory variables provide controls beyond that provided in
502 previous tables of summary statistics. These controls allow us to investigate these subject decisions
503 dynamically across time. In this way, we can introduce dynamic models with lag terms, allowing us to
504 observe whether subjects hire or invest in response to recent disasters. We also include cumulative running
505 totals to observe whether subjects respond to build ups of recent disasters, and we introduce variables that
506 account for periods in which subjects are, or are not yet, aware of the event-likelihood information.

507 All of the explanatory variables that we utilize in regression analyses are described in Table 7. They
508 are a function of either exposure to disasters or information. The notable exception is the variable

509 *anticipation*. It provides a way to discriminate between the subjects' actual observed disaster exposure over
 510 time and their initial disaster likelihood prior. In other words, it provides a time-variant continuous measure
 511 of the degree to which a subject is anticipating, or expecting, "the big one" by accounting for what they
 512 initially thought the likelihood of a disaster was and their actual experience with disasters at the time. It is
 513 given by equation 1.

$$514 \quad A_t = P_{(a,b)/2} - R_t \quad (1)$$

515 A_t provides this anticipation measure in period t . It is comprised of two separate measures. The first is the
 516 subject's disaster event likelihood prior, given by $P_{(a,b)/2}$. In our post-experiment survey, we asked subjects
 517 to think back to when they made their investment decision in the first period and tell us what they thought
 518 the probability of the disaster/shock was at that time (i.e., in period 1). Subjects provided a 1-5 Likert-type
 519 response, where probability bins were given in the following categories: 0-20%; 21-40; 41-60%; 61-80%
 520 and 81-100%. For purposes of estimating the prior, we utilize the midpoint value in the bin, denoted simply
 521 by the subscript $(a,b)/2$. For example, the prior midpoint for the second bin would be given by 0.3. This
 522 indicates that a given subject states that they believed at the start of the experiment that the likelihood of a
 523 disaster occurring was 30 out of 100.

524 R_t provides the subject's realized disaster odds based on the disasters they have experienced in
 525 periods leading up to the current period and under the assumption that no disaster would occur in the current
 526 period. It is given by equation 2.

$$527 \quad R_t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{t-1} D_i}{t} \quad (2)$$

528 The numerator of equation 2 provides the lagged cumulative total of disasters experienced by the
 529 subject. The denominator simply provides the current period. For example, in the fifth decision-making
 530 period ($t=5$), subjects could have had a maximum of four possible disasters, one in each of the four prior

531 periods. A subject observing a disaster in the 2nd and 4th periods, would have an R_5 of 0.4. Put another way,
532 2 disasters by the end of the fifth period if no disaster were to occur in the current period.

533 The variable *anticipation* thus provides a proxy measure of the subject's anticipation of a disaster
534 under even a more positive scenario. If subjects were to ask themselves, even if a disaster did not occur
535 today, would I have already beaten the odds, or should I be expecting one to hit soon. Thus, *anticipation*
536 has a range given by (-1, 1), whereby negative (positive) values indicate that the subject has experienced
537 disasters at a frequency exceeding (exceeded by) their prior.

538

539 **Econometric Results**

540 We present results of econometric analyses of the experimental subjects' willingness to pay for disaster
541 information (represented by the decision to hire a consultant) as well as the influence of the information
542 received. The first series of models use Random Effects Logistic Regression to assess the differences
543 between students and managers in how prior perception of disaster event likelihood, disaster anticipation,
544 informs hiring decisions. Following that, we present the results from Multinomial Generalized Structural
545 Equation models assessing the impact of purchased information in prompting switching (changing) the
546 inventory investment decision based on the information received from the hired consultant.

547

548 **Willingness to Pay for Disaster Information**

549 We present the results of three Random Effects Logistic Regression models in Tables 8A (all subjects in
550 total) and 8B (for professional subjects only) that predict the decision to hire event likelihood information
551 from a consultant as a function the lagged decision to hire information and the lagged exposure to a disaster.

552 Models 2 and 3 also include the anticipation variable capturing subjects' expectations of an
553 impending disaster. Models 1 and 2 include all 172 subjects in the treatment that provided an opportunity
554 to hire information across the final nine periods (because variables are lagged, outcomes in the first period
555 are lost). Model 3 excludes the 81 subjects who either invested in information every period (8 subjects) or

556 did not invest in information in any period (73 subjects) for a total of 91 subjects who changed their decision
557 to invest in information at least once across periods.

558 Coefficients represent odds ratios. As can be seen in Table 8A, across all three models, there is
559 high level of path dependence, as the decision to hire information in the previous period increases the odds
560 of investing in information in the current period from three and a half times (Model 3) to five times (Model
561 2), all else constant. While experiencing a disaster in the previous period does not statistically significantly
562 affect the decision to hire information about the likelihood of a disaster in the current period, the cumulative
563 sum of previous disasters does reduce the odds of investing in information by 17 percent in Model 1, all
564 else constant ($p < 0.05$). Notably, among the 91 subjects who did change their information investment
565 decision at least once (Model 3), the coefficient of 2.465 on the anticipation variable indicates that a one
566 unit increase in anticipation of a disaster increased their odds of hiring information by almost two and a
567 half times, all else constant ($p < 0.05$). The coefficient on the anticipation variable was of similar magnitude
568 (2.683) but not statistically significant in Model 2. This positive coefficient on the anticipation measure is
569 an indication that, controlling for previous decisions to hire information and experiencing a disaster in the
570 previous period, anticipating a disaster (expecting the “big one”) leads to a greater likelihood of purchasing
571 information regarding the likelihood of a disaster in the current period.

572 Among the managers (Table 8B), many of the patterns are similar. Across all models, managers
573 were more likely to invest in information if they did in the previous period, although the effect size,
574 approximately twice as likely across the three models, was smaller than for all subjects. Among the
575 managers, neither having experienced a disaster in the previous period nor the cumulative sum of previous
576 disasters statistically significantly affected the decision to purchase information. The variable capturing
577 anticipation of a disaster was very large (20.55 in Model 2 and 5.394 in Model 3) and statistically significant
578 ($p < 0.05$). To a large degree, controlling for other factors, managers anticipating a disaster were much more
579 likely to hire consultants to provide information on disaster likelihood. This effect size is much larger than
580 was seen for all subjects in Table 8A.

581

582 **Resilience Investment Switching Behavior**

583 Next, we turn to the results of Multinomial Generalized Structural Equation models that examined the role
584 that purchasing information had on these same subjects' decisions to maintain or switch their initial
585 inventory investment decision within a round. In the model presented in Table 9, the decision to maintain
586 their initial inventory investment decision is the reference category. We model the effect previous disasters
587 have on investment decisions as a function of an indicator of whether a disaster was experienced in the
588 previous period. The first set of results represent the odds of investing for all 172 subjects and for just the
589 77 managers.

590 For both managers and all subjects, controlling for the effect of previous disasters, the decision to
591 hire information had a significant ($p < 0.01$), robust, and very large positive relationships with the subjects'
592 switching from a decision to invest to not invest (with odds ratios ranging from 3.91 for managers to 6.20
593 for all subjects) and with the subjects switching from a decision not to invest to invest (with odds ratios
594 ranging from 5.92 for all subjects to 9.0 for managers). This is an indication that the purchased information
595 likely plays a role in influencing subjects' decisions to invest in resilience.

596 The effects of previous disasters have no significant relationships with influencing the decision to
597 switch from investing to not investing in inventories, although previous disasters did reduce the odds of
598 switching from not investing to investing in inventories for all subjects by almost 85 percent all else
599 constant, with an odds ratio of 0.146 ($p < 0.1$). As is discussed below, lagged disasters lead to a lower
600 probability of investing in inventories, consistent with gambler's fallacy, and the results here indicate that
601 subjects tended to stick with that decision within the round. However, the odds ratio of the interaction of
602 the lagged disaster and hiring information (13.67, $p < 0.05$) is a strong indication that hiring information can
603 help overcome this gambler's fallacy and leads decision makers to update their mistaken beliefs that
604 because a disaster occurred in the previous period it would be unlikely to occur in the current period.

605

606 **Final Resilience Investment Decisions**

607 Finally, in Table 10, we estimate random effects logistic regression models of the decision to invest in
608 inventories as a function of information, lagged exposure to disasters, and the initial decision to invest in
609 inventories in the first period for all subjects (columns 1 and 2) and just managers (columns 3 and 4). Model
610 2 also includes a lagged dependent variable to control for the decision to invest in inventories in the previous
611 period. These regressions include both the 172 subjects in the treatment that examines the decision to hire
612 information as well as 87 subjects in the “free information” treatment who are provided information about
613 the event likelihood after making their initial investment decision.

614 For this model, we code “information” as being one if the subject is exposed to the event likelihood
615 two or more times. Thus, for the information provided treatment, all of those subjects are coded as
616 “information” in the second through tenth periods, or all of the periods, as the first period is excluded from
617 the analysis due to the inclusion of lagged variables. For the “purchase information” treatment, subjects are
618 coded as “information” only after the second time they purchase information.

619 As can be seen in the second row of Table 10, there is a great deal of status quo bias, as the initial
620 decision to invest in inventories in the first period greatly increased the odds that a subject would
621 subsequently invest in inventories, all else equal, with the odds ratio ranging from 19.64 to 29.59 ($p < 0.01$)
622 for all subjects. Status quo bias was even more pronounced for the managers, with the odds ratio ranging
623 from 43.57 to 105.5 ($p < 0.01$). The lagged decision to invest in inventories was also a strong predictor of
624 the decision to invest for all subjects, as can be seen in model 2, with an odds ratio of 1.85 ($p < 0.01$).
625 However, this affect was not statistically significant for managers. The remaining odds ratios in the table
626 report various combinations of interactions between lagged disasters and information for both treatment
627 groups. To ease the interpretation of these coefficients, we calculate predicted probabilities of inventory
628 investments from Model 1 and report those in Table 11 for all subjects, managers only, and students only.

629 For the subjects in the treatment that allowed them the opportunity to purchase information, the
630 first row reports that those who did not have a lagged disaster and were not provided the information about
631 the likelihood of a disaster more than once had the highest predicted probability of investing in inventories
632 (77.08 percent). This held true for both managers (73.35 percent) and especially students (82.63 percent).

633 Thus, both receiving information and experiencing a disaster in the previous period lowered the probability
634 of investing. Among all subjects, those who had some combination of either information or a lagged disaster
635 had similar predicted probabilities, ranging from 64.86 to 68.93 percent. Those who had both lagged
636 disasters and information had the lowest probabilities of investing, 58.13 percent for those who hired
637 information and 49.38 percent for those for whom the information was provided for free. Notably, the
638 change in probabilities of investing in inventories of 6.89 percent (a drop of 65.02 to 58.13 percent) for
639 those who experienced a disaster and had to purchase information is much smaller compared to the drop of
640 19.55 percent (68.93 to 49.38 percent) among those who were provided the information for free. The finding
641 that the probability of investing drops subsequent to experiencing a disaster is evidence of gambler's
642 fallacy, the thought that because a disaster happened last period it will not happen this period. The finding
643 that purchasing information helps to counteract the gambler's fallacy is consistent with sunk cost bias, that
644 is because subjects paid for the information, they are more likely to act on it. The effect of purchasing
645 information counteracting the gambler's fallacy is almost entirely driven by the student subjects, as the
646 lagged disasters reduced their probability of investing by an average of almost 24 percent when information
647 was provided for free, while lagged disasters only reduced the probability of investing by 5.08 percent
648 among those who purchased information.

649

650 **Discussion**

651 When we analyzed hiring and investment decisions made within and between groups during the ten-period
652 experiment, we made three important discoveries related to common decision-making biases. First, the
653 decision to hire information is path dependent, reflective of status quo bias. The initial set of Random
654 Effects Logistic Regression models predict the decision to purchase consulting information regarding the
655 likelihood of a severe supply chain disruption. Specifically, businesses that purchased information in the
656 previous period had odds three and a half to five times as likely to again purchase information in the
657 subsequent period, with managers having around twice the odds. The results also indicate that businesses

658 with less information about the probability of a disaster were more likely to purchase information. Having
659 more previous disruptions reduced the odds of purchasing information by four to 13 percent, and the
660 anticipation of an impending disaster, partially a function of not experiencing a recent disaster, increased
661 the odds of purchasing information by around two and a half times. Among the managers, however, the
662 anticipation of an impending disaster increased those odds by five to 20.55 times.

663 Second, the provision of information clearly helped people to update their own priors and to make
664 more informed decisions. That is, the information was influential in prompting individuals to change their
665 position, or switch. Based upon Multinomial Generalized Structural Equation models, we found that the
666 decision to hire information had a large impact in terms of increasing the odds that a business would switch
667 from a decision to invest to not invest within a period after being presented with the event likelihood. The
668 results range from an increase in the odds switching to not investing of almost three times for managers to
669 over six times for all subjects. Likewise, the hiring information also helped increase the odds of switching
670 from not investing to investing of six (all subjects) to nine times (managers).

671 Third, the results also demonstrated that purchasing information helped overcome the gambler's
672 fallacy outcome, visible when subjects seemingly reduced their expectations of a disruption occurring in
673 the period subsequent to experiencing a disaster. Interestingly, while business decision-makers are much
674 less likely to switch from not investing to investing in inventories subsequent to a disaster, purchasing
675 information helps to overcome this bias. Those who both had a previous disaster and who purchased
676 information had odds of switching to investing over 13 times as high. We found a similar result in the model
677 that estimated the probability of investing in inventories, as businesses that experienced a lagged disaster
678 and had information provided to them for free had only a 49 percent probability of investing in inventories.
679 However, those who purchased information had a 58 percent probability of investing, and the drop in
680 probabilities due to experiencing a disaster was much lower (7 percent compared to almost 20 percent).
681 The vast majority of that drop is attributable to student subjects. We argue that having purchased
682 information, the businesses were able to counteract some of the gambler's fallacy with sunk cost bias, which
683 is a decision maker's tendency to act on the information because they paid for it. We found evidence that

684 the students were more subject to gambler’s fallacy, perhaps because of their lack of experience and
685 tendency to treat the experiment more as a game, and the managers were more likely influenced by sunk
686 cost bias.

687 These three findings have practical relevance to economic resilience. Every year, individuals and
688 firms expend large sums of money for professional, expert advice (Gino, 2008). The complexity of social
689 structures has meant that information has become increasingly disconnected from personal relationships
690 and as Patt, Bowles, and Cash suggest, “The challenge of enhancing the credibility of expert advice
691 becomes even more acute in situations in which legitimizing social institutions are weak and decision-
692 makers lack access to the educational resource to judge the quality of the advice they are receiving” (2006,
693 p 348). These credibility issues present impediments to the uptake or use of information. Policymakers and
694 public organizations may continue to provide access to free information, but it remains an open question as
695 to whether participants will find and act on the information (Hung & Yoong, 2010). In a disaster
696 preparedness context, specifically, the findings in our study in conjunction with what is known about
697 information biases suggests that government informational disaster resources may not be most impactful
698 when distributed for free.

699 While there are challenges associated with vetting and adopting information, policies that
700 successfully mitigate risk or enhance resilience capacity must include information regarding vulnerability
701 and options (Chatterjee et al., 2018). Social complexity and ease of information sharing may be used to
702 enhance the distribution and uptake of resilience information. Recent research on the access and use of
703 climate information found that sustained interaction with effective boundary-spanning organizations
704 improved uptake (Kirchhoff, Lemos, & Engle, 2013). Rather than producing and distributing information,
705 the resources of public sector institutions may be more effective in building resilience capacity by helping
706 connect individuals and organizations to facilitate more impactful information exchange and by helping to
707 validate the accuracy of the information. There are many examples of how this can work. For example, at
708 just the federal level, the Cyber Information Sharing and Collaboration Program (CISCP) in the U.S.
709 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shares and disseminates cyber threat information; the

710 Cybersecurity Risk Information Sharing Program (CRISP) plays a similar role in the U.S. Department of
711 Energy (DOE); and the National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) in the Office of the
712 Director of National Intelligence (DNI) serves to monitor foreign threats to industry supply chains and
713 disseminates that risk information to firms.

714

715 **Limitations and Future Work**

716 Future research may build on the findings of this research by directly comparing policy alternatives and the
717 potential for one known behavioral bias to serve as a correction for another. As described above, our
718 findings suggest a potential hazard management policy pivot toward governments serving as an information
719 facilitator and validator rather than supplier. Additional research should explore the effectiveness, potential
720 tradeoffs, and suitable applications of public sector organizations serving an information exchange network
721 creator and manager role, compared to a more traditional role of direct allocation of information as a free
722 public service. Future studies should also examine whether the gambler’s fallacy-correcting effects of sunk
723 cost bias hold for other forms of information acquisition.

724

725 **Conclusion**

726 Economic development and population growth have created greater exposure to natural hazards, and
727 vulnerability has increased because mitigation has not kept pace (Hallegatte, Vogt-Schilb, Bangalore, &
728 Rozenberg, 2017; Whitehead & Rose, 2009). At the same time, a key element of local communities’ and
729 economies’ preparation and response to natural disasters is the ability of the local business community to
730 withstand and recover. Although resilience investment decisions, such as investments in inventories,
731 stockpiles or system redundancy, are fundamentally different when the realities of repeated events are taken
732 into consideration, this issue had been largely ignored. Most studies have examined firm behavior when
733 facing a single disaster event or shock (Hosseini, Barker, & Ramirez-Marquez, 2016).

734 Thus, this study examined the economic resilience investment decisions of mid-sized firms in the
735 context of repeated catastrophic events using a randomized controlled human-subjects experiment. Both
736 professional manager and the more standard student subject pool subjects were utilized. Subjects faced
737 severe supply chain disruptions and a decision to invest or not invest in business-reinforcing inventories.
738 Depending on treatment group, subjects were either provided with free information about the probability
739 of a destructive catastrophic event or had the option to purchase the information by hiring a consultant.

740 Several key findings about the role of heuristic biases in resilience investment decisions have
741 important implications for hazard management research and practice. First, businesses that purchased
742 information in the previous period were three and a half to five times as likely to purchase information
743 again in the subsequent period. This path dependence reveals the influence of status quo bias in the decision
744 to purchase information. Practitioners seeking to improve hazard management by expanding the acquisition
745 of, and action based on, disaster information may enhance efficiency by targeting businesses that have not
746 previously sought external advice.

747 Businesses with less information about the probability of a disaster were more likely to purchase
748 information and the information was influential in prompting individuals to change their position, or switch.
749 Subjects also seemingly reduced their expectations of a disruption occurring in the period subsequent to
750 experiencing a disaster but, interestingly, purchasing information helped overcome this gambler's fallacy
751 outcome and prompted a decision to switch. The value that private enterprise appears to place on purchased
752 information suggests that the current practical strategy, among government agencies operating under the
753 assumption that they play an important information sharing and disseminating role, should be revisited. The
754 efficiency and effectiveness of public sector hazard management efforts may be enhanced by taking on a
755 network management and information facilitation role, rather than producing and providing free
756 information. Future research can play an important role in examining and focusing the potential forms that
757 this policy pivot could meaningfully take, and under which hazard contexts it is most appropriate for
758 information-poor private enterprises to have greater "skin" in the proverbial game. Several policy tools are
759 likely candidates. These include public-private partnerships such as Washington State's Floodplains by

760 Design collaborative. These collaboratives not only serve an information provision and validation role but
761 also engage private enterprise in community-level disaster risk management and support funding
762 mechanisms. These also include policy tools that increase private-sector engagement with universities,
763 national laboratories, and other agencies that generate disaster-risk information. One model of this is DHS's
764 Centers of Excellence (COE) model which focuses heavily on meeting community and private-sector
765 resilience needs including identifying multi-sector hazard-related interdependencies. COEs approach the
766 information dissemination process differently than most university centers, in that they follow a technology
767 commercialization model that requires basic research to identify customers for transition products (e.g.,
768 decision support software). In this way, actionable university-sourced resilience information is
769 disseminated to customers. Ultimately, policy tools can take many shapes and forms. The findings of this
770 research support the overall conclusion that there is an important role for government in not only improving
771 the accuracy of disaster risk information but also supporting infrastructure that builds commitment to that
772 information among private enterprise.

773

774 **Data Availability**

775 Data Availability Statement: All data, models, or code that support the findings of this study are
776 available for purposes of replicating and/or validating its findings from the corresponding author upon
777 reasonable request. However, while the results of this suite of experiments are being published in this, and
778 other publication outlets, the data will not be posted to publicly-available repositories. Upon completion of
779 the authors' use of the data, the finalized data will be posted online and publicly available, and requester's
780 use of the data for subsequent publication and broader dissemination will be permitted.

781

782 **Acknowledgements**

783 The authors thank the National Center for the Middle Market and the Battelle Center for Science
784 & Technology Policy for their generous financial support for this research. The authors also thank Sally
785 Sadoff, Doug Farren, Matt Booth, John Houghton, John Conlon, and helpful discussants at the 2018
786 meetings of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management.
787

References

- 788
789
790 Arneson, E., Deniz, D., Javernick-Will, A., Liel, A., & Dashti, S. (2017). Information deficits and
791 community disaster resilience. *Natural Hazards Review*, 18(4), 04017010.
792
793 Arnal, L., Ramos, M.H., Coughlan de Perez, E., Cloke, H.L., Stephens, E., Wetterhall, F., van Andel, S.J.,
794 & Pappenberger, F. (2016). Willingness-to-pay for a probabilistic flood forecast: A risk-based
795 decision-making game. *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 2, 3109-3128.
796
797 Ballesteros, L., & Kunreuther, H. (2018). Organizational decision making under uncertainty shocks.
798 National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 24924. Accessed from
799 <https://www.nber.org/papers/w24924>
800
801 Bazerman, M.H., & Moore, D.A. (2013). *Judgment in managerial decision making*. Hoboken, New
802 Jersey: John Wiley & Sons.
803
804 Berkes, F., Folke, C., & Colding, J. (Eds.). (2000). *Linking social and ecological systems: Management*
805 *practices and social mechanisms for building resilience*. Cambridge University Press.
806
807 Bode, C., Wagner, S., Petersen, K., & Ellram, L., (2011). Understanding responses to supply chain
808 disruptions: insights from information processing and resource dependence perspectives. *The*
809 *Academy of Management Journal*, 54(4), 833–856.
810
811 Botzen, W.W., Kunreuther, H., & Michel-Kerjan, E. (2015). Divergence between individual perceptions
812 and objective indicators of tail risks: Evidence from floodplain residents in New York City.
813 *Judgment and Decision Making*, 10(4), 365-385.
814
815 Britton, N.R., & Clark, G.J. (2000). From response to resilience: Emergency management reform in New
816 Zealand. *Natural Hazards Review*, 1(3), 145-150.
817
818 Chatterjee, C., Flugman, E., Jiang, F., Mozumder, P., & Chowdhury, A.G. (2018). Insights from a stated
819 preference experiment of Florida residents: Role of information and incentives in Hurricane Risk
820 Mitigation. *Natural Hazards Review*.
821
822 Cherry, K. (2018). Understanding the optimism bias. Accessed from
823 <https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-the-optimism-bias-2795031>
824
825 Cutter, S., Barnes, L., Berry, M., Burton, C., Evans, E., Tate, E., & Webb, J. (2008). A place-based model
826 for understanding community resilience to natural disasters. *Global Environmental Change*,
827 18(4), 598-606.
828
829 Cutter, S.L. (2016). Resilience to what? Resilience for whom? *The Geographical Journal*, 182(2), 110-
830 113.
831
832 Dormady, N., & Ellis, R. (2018). Energy-transport sector interdependence in extreme events: The case of
833 a hurricane event in Boston. *Current Sustainable/Renewable Energy Reports*, 5(1), 1-13.
834
835 Dormady, N., Greenbaum, R.T., & Young, K.A. (2017). Resilience decisions of the firm: An
836 experimental analysis of dynamic decision making in repeated disasters. Presented at the

837 Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference, Chicago,
838 Illinois.
839

840 Dormady, N., Roa-Henriquez, A., & Rose, A. (2019). Economic resilience of the firm: A production
841 theory approach. *International Journal of Production Economics*,
842

843 Eckel, C.C., El-Gamal, M.A., & Wilson, R.K. (2009). Risk loving after the storm: A Bayesian-Network
844 study of Hurricane Katrina evacuees. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 69(2), 110-
845 124.
846

847 Ellsberg, D. (1961). Risk, ambiguity, and the Savage axioms. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 75(4),
848 643-669.
849

850 Englander, A. (2015). Multidimensional ambiguity and individual willingness to take preventative action.
851 Senior Thesis. Department of Economics, The Ohio State University.
852

853 Flynn, S. (2007). *The Edge of Disaster: Rebuilding a Resilient Nation*. New York, New York: Random
854 House.
855

856 Ganguly, A. R., Bhatia, U., & Flynn, S. E. (2018). *Critical infrastructures resilience: Policy and
857 engineering principles*. New York, New York: Routledge.
858

859 Gino, F. (2008). Do we listen to advice just because we paid for it? The impact of advice cost on its use.
860 *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 107, 234-245.
861

862 Graveline, N., & Gremont, M. (2017). Measuring and understanding the microeconomic resilience of
863 businesses to lifeline service interruptions due to natural disasters. *International Journal of
864 Disaster Risk Reduction*, 24, 526-538.
865

866 Graves, S.C., & Tomlin, B.T. (2003). Process flexibility in supply chains. *Management Science*, 49(7),
867 907-919.
868

869 Hallegatte, S., Vogt-Schilb, A., Bangalore, M., & Rozenberg, J. (2017). *Unbreakable: Building the
870 resilience of the poor in the face of natural disasters*. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.
871

872 Holling, C.S. (1973). Resilience and stability of ecological systems. *Annual Review of Ecology and
873 Systematics*, 4(1), 1-23.
874

875 Hosseini, S., Barker, K., & Ramirez-Marquez, J. (2016). A review of definitions and measures of system
876 resilience. *Reliability Engineering & System Safety*, 145, 47-61.
877

878 Hung, A.A., & Yoong, J.K. (2010). Asking for Help: Survey and Experimental Evidence on Financial
879 Advice and Behavior Change. RAND Working Paper. Accessed from
880 https://www.rand.org/pubs/working_papers/WR714-1.html
881

882 Jensen, M. C., & Murphy, K. J. (1990). Performance pay and top management incentives. *Journal of
883 Political Economy*, 98(2), 225-264.
884

885 Kagel, J., & Roth, A. (1995). *The Handbook of Experimental Economics*. Princeton, New Jersey:
886 Princeton University Press.
887

888 Kahneman, D., & Tversky, A. (1979). Prospect theory: An analysis of decision under risk. *Econometrica*,
889 47(2), 263-292.
890

891 Kirchhoff, C.J., Lemos, M.C., & Engle, N.L. (2013). What influences climate information use in water
892 management? The role of boundary organizations and governance regimes in Brazil and the U.S.
893 *Environmental Science & Policy*, 26, 6-18.
894

895 Kleindorfer, P.R., & Saad, G.H. (2005). Managing disruption risks in supply chains. *Production and
896 Operations Management*, 14(1), 53-68.
897

898 Lee, H. 2004. The triple-A supply chain. *Harv. Bus. Rev.*, 102-112.
899

900 Lee, K.H., & Hatcher, C.B. (2001). Willingness to pay for information: An analyst's guide. *The Journal
901 of Consumer Affairs*, 35(1), 120-140.
902

903 Lee, A. V., Vargo, J., & Seville, E. (2013). Developing a tool to measure and compare organizations'
904 resilience. *Natural Hazards Review*, 14(1), 29-41.
905

906 Leviakangas, P. (2009). Valuing meteorological information. *Meteorological Applications*, 16, 315-323.
907

908 Martin, R., & Sunley, P. (2014). On the notion of regional economic resilience: Conceptualization and
909 explanation. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 15, 1-42.
910

911 Montibeller, G., & Von Winterfeldt, D. (2015). Cognitive and motivational biases in decision and risk
912 analysis. *Risk analysis*, 35(7), 1230-1251.
913

914 National Research Council. (2012). Disaster resilience: a national imperative. The National Academies
915 Press.
916

917 Orr, L. M., & Orr, D. J. (2012). *When to Hire—or Not Hire—a Consultant: Getting Your Money's Worth
918 from Consulting Relationships*. New York, New York: Apress.
919

920 Page, L., Savage, D. A., & Torgler, B. (2014). Variation in risk seeking behaviour following large losses:
921 A natural experiment. *European Economic Review*, 71, 121-131.
922

923 Patt, A.G., Bowles, H.R., & Cash, D.W. (2006). Mechanisms for enhancing the credibility of an adviser:
924 Prepayment and aligned incentives. *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*, 19, 347-359.
925

926 Pettit, T.J., Croxton, K.L., & Fiksel, J. (2013). Ensuring supply chain resilience: development and
927 implementation of an assessment tool. *Journal of Business Logistics*, 34(1), 46-76.
928

929 Pettit, T. J., Fiksel, J., & Croxton, K. L. (2010). Ensuring supply chain resilience: development of a
930 conceptual framework. *Journal of Business Logistics*, 31(1), 1-21.
931

932 Pindyck, R.S., & Rubinfeld, D.L. (2013). *Microeconomics* (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey:
933 Pearson Education.
934

935 Plott, C., & Smith, V. E. (2008). *Handbook of experimental economics results Volume 1*. Amsterdam:
936 North-Holland Press.
937

- 938 Repo, A. (1989). The value of information: Approaches in economics, accounting, and management
939 science. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, 402(2), 68-85.
940
- 941 Rose, A. Z. (2004). Defining and measuring economic resilience to disasters. *Prevention and*
942 *Management: An International Journal*, 13(4), 307-314.
- 943 Rose, A. Z. (2007). Economic resilience to natural and man-made disasters: Multidisciplinary origins and
944 contextual dimensions. *Environmental Hazards*, 7(4), 383-398.
945
- 946 Rose, A., & Dormady, N. (2018). Advances in analyzing and measuring dynamic economic resilience. In,
947 Trump, B. D., Florin, M.V., & Linkov, I. (Eds.), *IRGC resource Guide on resilience: Domains of*
948 *resilience for complex interconnected systems Volume 2*. Lausanne, Switzerland: EPFL
949 International Risk Governance Center.
950
- 951 Samuelson, W., & Zeckhauser, R. (1988). Status quo bias in decision-making. *Journal of Risk and*
952 *Uncertainty*, 1, 7-59.
953
- 954 Shafieezadeh, A., & Burden, L.I. (2014). Scenario-based resilience assessment framework for critical
955 infrastructure systems: Case study for seismic resilience of seaports. *Reliability Engineering &*
956 *System Safety*, 132, 207-219.
957
- 958 Sheffi, Y., & Rice, J.B. (2005). A supply chain view of the resilient enterprise. *MIT Sloan Management*
959 *Review*, 47(1), 41-48.
960
- 961 Shrikant, A. (2018). The psychology behind the pre-hurricane run to the grocery store. Accessed from
962 [https://www.msn.com/en-ie/news/world/the-psychology-behind-the-pre-hurricane-run-to-the-](https://www.msn.com/en-ie/news/world/the-psychology-behind-the-pre-hurricane-run-to-the-grocery-store/ar-BBOe5mR)
963 [grocery-store/ar-BBOe5mR](https://www.msn.com/en-ie/news/world/the-psychology-behind-the-pre-hurricane-run-to-the-grocery-store/ar-BBOe5mR)
964
- 965 Sniezek, J.A., Schrah, G.E., & Dalal, R.S. (2004). Improving judgement with prepaid expert advice.
966 *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*, 17, 173-190.
967
- 968 Tang, C.S. (2006). Robust strategies for mitigating supply chain disruptions. *International Journal of*
969 *Logistics: Research and Applications*, 9(1), 33-45.
970
- 971 Tang, C., & Tomlin, B. (2008). The power of flexibility for mitigating supply chain risks. *International*
972 *Journal of Production Economics*, 116(1), 12-27.
973
- 974 Tierney, K. (2006). Businesses and disasters: vulnerability, impacts, and recovery. In: Rodriguez, H.,
975 Quarantelli, E.L., Dynes, R.R. (Eds.), *Handbook of Disaster Research*. New York, New York:
976 Springer.
977
- 978 Tierney, K. (2014). *The social root of risk*. Palo Alto, California: Stanford University Press.
979
- 980 Tierney, K. (2019). *Disasters: A sociological approach*. Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons.
981
- 982 Tomlin, B. (2006). On the value of mitigation and contingency strategies for managing supply chain
983 disruption risks. *Management Science*, 52(5), 639-657.
984
- 985 Tversky, A., & Kahneman, D. (1971). Belief in the law of small numbers. *Psychological Bulletin*, 76(2),
986 105-110.
987

988 Whitehead, J., & Rose, A. (2009). Estimating environmental benefits of natural hazard mitigation: Results
989 from a benefit-cost analysis of FEMA mitigation grants. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for*
990 *Global Change*, 14(7), 655-76.
991

992 Williamson, R.W. (1982). Presenting information economics to students. *The Accounting Review*, 57(2),
993 414-419.
994

995 Wong, P.P., Losada, I.J., Gattuso, J., Hinkel, J., Khattabi, A., McInnes, K.L., Saito, Y., & Sallenger, A.
996 (2014). Coastal systems and low-lying areas p. 361-409. In C.B. Field, V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken,
997 K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B.
998 Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, & L.L. White (Eds.) *Climate*
999 *Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects.*
1000 *Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel*
1001 *on Climate Change*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.
1002

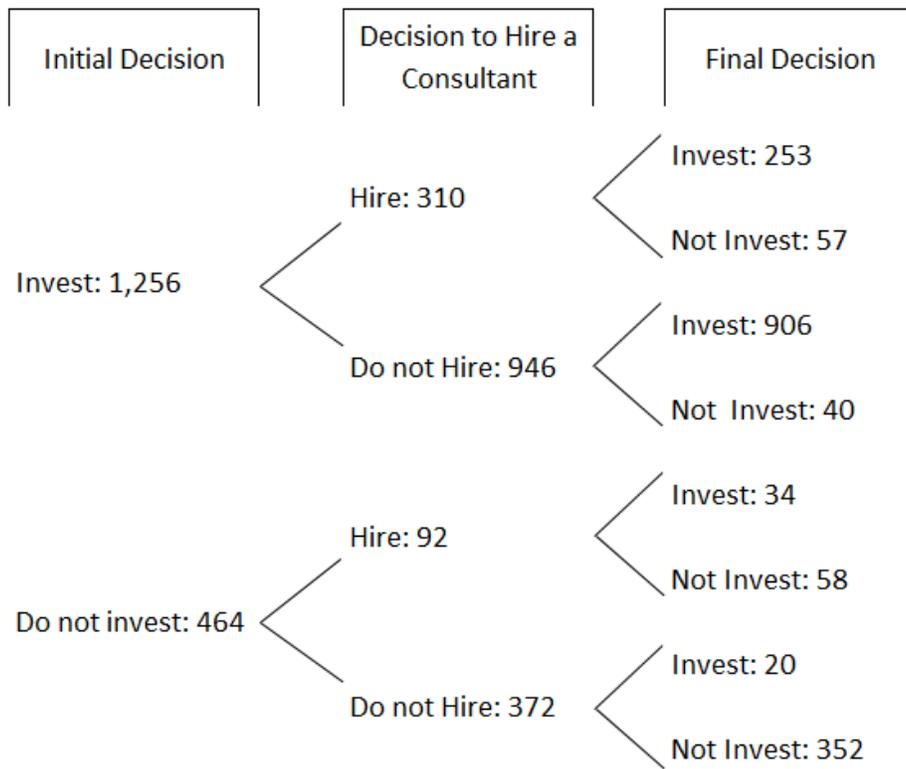
1003 Wu, H. C., Greer, A., & Murphy, H. (2020). Perceived Stakeholder Information Credibility and Hazard
1004 Adjustments: A Case of Induced Seismic Activities in Oklahoma. *Natural Hazards Review*,
1005 21(3), 04020017.
1006

1007 Zhai, G., Sato, T., Fukuzono, T., Ikeda, S., & Yoshida, K. (2006). Willingness to pay for flood risk
1008 reduction and its determinants in Japan. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*,
1009 42(4), 927-940.
1010
1011

1012
1013
1014
1015

Figure and Tables

Figure 1. Outcome Tree of Decisions to Invest in Inventories and Hire a Consultant



1016
1017
1018

Table 1. Resilience Decision Payoff Matrix

<u>Resilience Decision</u>	<u>Event Determination (Exogenous)</u>	
	<u>Catastrophic Event Occurs</u>	<u>Catastrophic Event Does Not Occur</u>
<i>Invest in Resilience</i>	\$70 Million	\$80 Million
<i>Do Not Invest in Resilience</i>	\$10 Million	\$100 Million

1019

1020 **Table 2. Expected Monetary Value Conditional on Common Likelihood Priors**

<u>Resilience Decision</u>	<u>Expected Monetary Value</u>		
	<u>Pr.=0.5</u>	<u>Pr.=0.25[†]</u>	<u>Pr.=0.10</u>
<i>Invest in Resilience</i>	\$75 Million*	\$77.5 Million	\$79 Million
<i>Do Not Invest in Resilience</i>	\$55 Million	\$77.5 Million	\$91 Million*

1021 Notes: Table provides EMVs for possible likelihood priors subjects may have considered. The actual event likelihood utilized in
 1022 the experiment was 0.25. *Indicates dominant strategy. † Indicates mixed-strategy catastrophic event probability utilized in this
 1023 experiment.
 1024

1025

1026

1027

Table 3. Treatment Summary Statistics

Treatment	N (subjects)	Mean Exposure to Disasters	Mean Investment in Resilience
Control <i>(Disaster Likelihood Info Given Freely)</i>	87 (48 students; 39 managers)	2.59 (26%) (out of 10 periods)	6.95 (70%) (out of 10 periods)
Treatment <i>(Disaster Likelihood Info Sold)</i>	172 (95 students; 77 managers)	2.50 (25%) (out of 10 periods)	7.05 (70%) (out of 10 periods)

1028

1029

1030

1031

1032

Table 4. Consultancy Hiring Frequency Statistics

Period	All Subjects	Students	Managers
	Mean [St. Dev.]	Mean [St. Dev.]	Mean [St. Dev.]
1	.34 [.47]	.39 [.49]	.29 [.45]
2	.31 [.46]	.33 [.47]	.29 [.45]
3	.29 [.46]	.32 [.47]	.26 [.44]
4	.22 [.42]	.20 [.40]	.25 [.43]
5	.22 [.42]	.20 [.40]	.26 [.44]
6	.21 [.41]	.15 [.36]	.29 [.45]
7	.17 [.38]	.16 [.37]	.19 [.40]
8	.19 [.39]	.16 [.37]	.22 [.42]
9	.19 [.39]	.15 [.36]	.23 [.43]
10	.19 [.39]	.15 [.36]	.25 [.43]

1033 Note: Table reports the period-by-period mean and standard deviation of consultancy hiring in
 1034 the *Consultancy* treatment for all subjects, then separately by manager and student sample.
 1035
 1036
 1037

1038

Table 5. Consultancy Hiring by Disaster Exposure

Disaster Exposure (total 10 period count)	All Subjects Mean [St. Dev.]	Students Mean [St. Dev.]	Managers Mean [St. Dev.]
0	.11 [.32]	.16 [.38]	0 [0]
1	.26 [.44]	.22 [.41]	.33 [.47]
2	.26 [.44]	.24 [.43]	.29 [.45]
3	.23 [.42]	.22 [.41]	.23 [.42]
4	.17 [.39]	.18 [.39]	.17 [.37]
5	.23 [.42]	.23 [.43]	.23 [.42]
6	.50 [.51]	.50 [.53]	.50 [.51]

1039

Note: Table reports the mean and standard deviation of consultancy hiring in the *Consultancy* treatment by total ten period exposure to disasters (max=7).

1040

1041

1042

1043

1044

Table 6. Mean Resilience Investment by Risk Information Exposure (Tenth Period)

Disaster Exposure (total 10 period count)	Subjects who Always Received Info Mean [St. Dev.]	Subjects who Hired Consultant At Least Once Mean [St. Dev.]	Subjects who Never Received Info Mean [St. Dev.]
0	.50 [.58]	.50 [.58]	~
1	.53 [.52]	.32 [.48]	.69 [.48]
2	.62 [.49]	.69 [.47]	.76 [.44]
3	.83 [.38]	.58 [.50]	.64 [.49]
4	.91 [.30]	.90 [.32]	.67 [.49]
5	.71 [.48]	.60 [.55]	~
6	~	.60 [.55]	~
7	~	~	~

1045

Notes: “~” Indicates fewer than 5 subjects, not enough to report meaningful values. This is a cross-sectional table.

1046

1047

1048

Table 7. Main Regression Variables Utilized

Variable Name	Description	Mean	Min	Max
<i>Investment</i>	The subject made a final decision to invest in strategic inventories in the second/final round of a given period.	.70	0	1
<i>Hiring</i>	In the consultancy treatment, the subject hired external consultants to provide disaster information.	.23	0	1
<i>Information</i>	The subject observed the disaster information in at least two periods either by hiring a consultant or by receiving it freely.	.57	0	1
<i>Disaster_{t-1}</i>	A disaster occurred in the prior period.	.23	0	1
<i>Cumulative Disasters_{t-1}</i>	The cumulative running total of disasters a subject has observed prior to the current decision-making period.	1.26	0	7
<i>Anticipation</i>	A continuous estimate of the expectation a given subject may be observing given their exposure to disasters prior to the current period, and their probability prior.	.16	-.56	.9

1049

Note: Summary statistics provide mean values across all subjects, treatments and periods (N=2,590).

1050

1051

Table 8A. Decision to Hire Information Regarding Event Likelihood (All Subjects)

Model Variables	1 All¹	2 All¹	3 Changers²
<i>Hired information in previous period</i> (=1 if hired)	4.923*** (1.107)	5.030*** (1.134)	3.479*** (0.627)
<i>Experienced disaster in previous period</i> (=1 if previous disaster)	1.136 (0.226)	1.273 (0.269)	1.301 (0.265)
<i>Cumulative sum of previous disasters</i>	0.829** (0.0767)	0.896 (0.0923)	0.960 (0.0818)
<i>Anticipation of disaster</i>		2.683 (1.660)	2.465** (1.098)
<i>Constant</i>	0.117*** (0.0228)	0.0896*** (0.0231)	0.247*** (0.0480)
Log likelihood	-608.78	-607.54	-480.23
Observations	1,548	1,548	819
Number of subjects	172	172	91

1052 Notes: Models estimated with Random Effects Logistic Regression. Odds ratios presented with standard errors in
 1053 parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

1054 ¹ Models 1 and 2 estimated on all 172 subjects in the “opportunity to hire” treatment across the final nine periods
 1055 (period one dropped due to the lagged variables)

1056 ² Model 3 estimated for the 91 subjects in the “opportunity to hire” treatment who did not make the same hiring
 1057 decision across all 10 periods.

1058

1059

1060

1061

Table 8B. Decision to Hire Information Regarding Event Likelihood (Managers)

Model Variables	1 All¹	2 All¹	3 Changers²
<i>Hired information in previous period</i> (=1 if hired)	2.221** (0.783)	2.289** (0.823)	1.999** (0.621)
<i>Experienced disaster in previous period</i> (=1 if previous disaster)	0.697 (0.225)	0.981 (0.346)	0.898 (0.291)
<i>Cumulative sum of previous disasters</i>	0.998 (0.140)	1.217 (0.199)	1.149 (0.141)
<i>Anticipation of disaster</i>		20.55** (26.940)	5.394** (3.945)
<i>Constant</i>	0.0752*** (0.0353)	0.0427*** (0.0226)	0.301*** (0.0945)
Log likelihood	-249.10	-246.74	-179.72
Observations	693	693	279
Number of subjects	77	77	31

1062 Notes: Models estimated with Random Effects Logistic Regression. Odds ratios presented with standard errors in
 1063 parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

1064 ¹ Models 1 and 2 estimated on all 77 managers in the “opportunity to hire” treatment across the final nine periods
 1065 (period one dropped due to the lagged variables)

1066 ² Model 3 estimated for the 31 managers in the “opportunity to hire” treatment who did not make the same hiring
 1067 decision across all 10 periods.

1068

1069 **Table 9. Decision to Switch Investment Decision within Period (All Subjects & Managers)**

Model	1 All Subjects ¹		2 Managers Only ²	
Variables	Invest to not invest	Not invest to invest	Invest to not invest	Not invest to invest
<i>Hired information</i> (=1 if hired)	6.197*** (1.840)	5.919*** (2.281)	3.911*** (1.920)	9.001*** (5.867)
<i>Experienced disaster in previous period</i> (=1 if previous disaster)	1.229 (0.467)	0.146* (0.153)	1.285 (0.754)	0.000 (0.000)
<i>Hired info*Lagged disaster</i>	1.102 (0.606)	13.670** (15.730)	1.911 (1.650)	0.000 (0.000)
<i>Constant</i>	0.015*** (0.004)	0.006*** (0.003)	0.011*** (0.006)	0.006*** (0.003)
Log Likelihood	-518.84		-217.38	
Observations	1,720		770	
Number of subjects	172		77	

1070 Notes: Models estimated with Multinomial Generalized Structural Equation Models. Odds ratios presented with standard errors
 1071 in parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

1072 ¹ Models estimated on all 172 subjects in the “opportunity to hire” treatment across the ten periods.

1073 ² Models estimated on all 77 managers in the “opportunity to hire” treatment across the ten periods.

1074

1075

1076 **Table 10. Decision to Invest in Inventories (All Subjects & Managers)**

Model	1 All Subjects ¹		2 Managers Only ²	
Variables				
<i>Invested in inventories in previous period</i> (=1 if invested)		1.849*** (0.301)		0.894 (0.225)
<i>Invested in inventories in first period</i> (=1 if invested)	29.590*** (9.825)	19.640*** (7.683)	43.570*** (20.360)	105.500*** (69.780)
Opportunity to hire information treatments				
(= 1 if no lagged disaster & _no information)	0.527** (0.167)	0.414** (0.143)	0.343** (0.146)	0.215*** (0.108)
(=1 if no lagged disaster & information)	0.291*** (0.098)	0.257*** (0.093)	0.360** (0.171)	0.255** (0.141)
(= 1 if lagged disaster & no information)	0.324*** (0.120)	0.264*** (0.102)	0.316** (0.156)	0.189*** (0.105)
(= 1 if lagged disaster_& information)	0.248*** (0.094)	0.219*** (0.088)	0.269** (0.148)	0.172*** (0.107)
Information provided treatments				
(=1 if no lagged disaster & information)	0.339*** (0.107)	0.270*** (0.108)	0.201*** (0.091)	0.059*** (0.038)
(= 1 if lagged disaster & information)	0.165*** (0.060)	0.135*** (0.060)	0.170*** (0.094)	0.051*** (0.036)
Log Likelihood	-1090.80		-468.66	
Observations	2,590		1,160	
Number of subjects	259		116	

1077 Notes: Models estimated with Random Effects Logistic Regression. Odds ratios presented with standard errors in
 1078 parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

1079 ¹ Models estimated for the 259 subjects in the “opportunity to hire” and “information provided” treatments.

1080 ² Models estimated for the 116 managers in the “opportunity to hire” and “information provided” treatments.

1081

1082 **Table 11. Predicted Probabilities from Final Investment Models**

Treatment	All Subjects		Managers Only		Students Only	
	Pr(I)	Δ	Pr(I)	Δ	Pr(I)	Δ
Opportunity to hire information treatment						
No lagged disaster & no information	77.08		73.35	7.12	82.63	13.17
Lagged disaster & no information	64.86	12.22	66.23		69.46	
No lagged disaster & information	65.02		70.64	8.66	66.36	5.08
Lagged disaster & information	58.13	6.89	61.98		61.28	
Information provided treatments						
No lagged disaster & information	68.93		61.64	9.43	77.82	23.97
Lagged disaster & information	49.38	19.55	52.21		53.85	

1083

1084

1085

1086