KARIN HUGELIUS (1977) graduated as a registered nurse (RN) from Linköping University in 1999 and as a registered nurse anaesthetist (RNA) from Linköping University in 2001. She received a master’s degree in medicine from Linköping University in 2003 and graduated as an ambulance nurse from Karolinska University in 2010. Karin currently works as an ambulance nurse at Karlskoga Hospital. She has also taught nursing, disaster medicine, and disaster management at Örebro University and for several Swedish authorities. Since 2005, she has been deployed by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) to several disaster areas around the world. These experiences sparked her interest in research about disasters and disaster response.

The context of this thesis is the supertyphoon Haiyan, that hit parts of the Philippines in November 2013. The thesis gives a background to natural disasters and their health impacts, disaster response and mental health response in particular, and how disaster radio was used after the Haiyan typhoon. Four studies are presented to describe survivors’ and health professionals’ experiences and needs in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster, the use and impact of disaster radio in a health perspective, and the long-term health effects of such an event. Methods used to conduct disaster health studies are also discussed. The results have practical implications in both a response and a preparedness perspective.