MOBILE CULTURES OF DISASTER CONFERENCE

22-24 March 2017
University of South Australia
Adelaide, Australia

Presented by the Hawke EU Centre for Mobilities, Migrations and Cultural Transformations at the University of South Australia and the Japan Foundation Sydney, in association with the Hawke Research Institute, the Center for Research and Development of Higher Education at University of Tokyo, the School of Sociology at Kwansei Gakuin University, and the College of Sociology at Rikkyo University, Japan.
On behalf of the University of South Australia, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our City West campus for the Mobile Cultures of Disaster Conference.

We are particularly delighted to host this conference. The University of South Australia prides itself on being an institution committed to finding and disseminating solutions to the major challenges of global society, through both teaching and research. Disasters - natural and, sadly, man-made - and their impact are amongst the most serious challenges faced across the world, especially in the Asia Pacific and the Mobile Cultures of Disaster Conference reflects very well this University’s commitment to real world problems.

The University of South Australia also seeks to engage globally as it addresses challenges such as disasters, developing significant global reach through international research collaborations with some 500 universities and research institutes across 45 countries, more than 2,500 industry partners and through our 197,000 alumni worldwide.

Although delegates to the Mobile Cultures of Disaster Conference come from a number of different countries, the conference reflects our strong links with Japan. The University of South Australia has a long history of research and teaching interaction with Japan, including partnerships with Keio University, Tokyo University, Rikkyo University and Kwansei Gakuin University. I would especially like to acknowledge the financial support from the Japan Foundation, which has made this conference possible.

I trust you will enjoy your time at the University of South Australia and wish you all the best for a productive conference.

Mr Nigel Relph
Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President
External Relations and Strategic Projects
University of South Australia
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

According to a growing body of literature, the dangers and hazards that people around the world face in the 21st century are in many ways unparalleled. In order to confront these problems, there is a growing recognition that disasters and other social disruptions are cultural matters. This has stimulated research across the Asia-Pacific and Europe on the cultural determinants and consequences of disasters. However, the extent to which these concepts differ or intersect between various social contexts has remained less well-explored. Additionally, there is a need to further investigate how disaster cultures are mobile, in that culture is a phenomenon that circulates, as acutely evident in the rise of social media.

The aim of the conference is to bring together prominent academics, specialists and policy analysts across the world to investigate the cultural and mobile aspects of disasters. The conference principally seeks to stimulate research on how disasters are mobile and cultural phenomena. It asks participants to consider how disasters circulate around various parts of the world. This refers to the ways in which disasters involve movement and cultural exchange in terms of how they are managed, experienced, and socially constructed.

THE JAPAN FOUNDATION SYDNEY

Funding for this conference has been generously provided in part by the Japan Foundation, Sydney. The Japan Foundation was established by the Japanese government to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations. It runs a diverse range of programs and events, including exhibitions, talk events, grant programs and Japanese language courses for all levels from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was formed in 1972 in Tokyo and has expanded to a global network of 24 offices in 23 countries. The Australian office was established in 1978 and is located in Sydney.

www.jpf.org.au
As Convenors of the ‘Mobile Cultures of Disaster’ Conference, we welcome you to this exciting event at the University of South Australia (UniSA).

From devastating storms and bushfires to power outages and floods, Australia in recent decades has experienced major disasters with increasing regularity. But what does this have to do with disasters in other countries and regions both near and far? In what sense are disasters now global? And what of the mobility of disasters, both the movement of disasters and the fast-paced response of disaster management?

These are some of the urgent questions which inform this Conference. The Conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to better understand how disasters circulate and prompt movements (human, capital, communication, digital) across the world. As a growing body of research suggests, the makeup of disasters is changing. We can no longer simply think of disasters as contained national or social breakdowns. What is required is a new approach, one more global in scope. This requires disaster researchers, practitioners, and agencies to think anew about the global and regional aspects of disaster mitigation and recovery, for which the ‘Mobile Cultures of Disasters’ conference provides an international forum.

Organised by UniSA and the Hawke EU Centre, with support from Kwansei Gakuin University, Rikkyo University, and the University of Tokyo in Japan, the conference is being principally funded by the Japan Foundation Sydney and the Hawke Research Institute.

It has been a pleasure to convene this Conference, because it will be the first time that so many researchers and practitioners from the around the globe have assembled in Adelaide to discuss the latest research findings on the global rise of disasters and the enormous societal stakes of disaster management. As noted above, we have seen this clearly with devastating bush fires as well as floods in Australia, and it is important that we engage with our colleagues and friends in Japan in order to understand better their state-of-the-art disaster relief management systems, especially since the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami.

We are excited to welcome researchers, practitioners, and key-note speakers from around the world – principally Japan, but also Singapore, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

We hope you enjoy this Conference, and look forward to several days of intellectually stimulating papers and vibrant discussion on what has emerged as one of the most politically important issues of our times, and our lives in these times.

Professor Anthony Elliott  
Dean of External Engagement  
University of South Australia

Dr Eric L. Hsu  
Lecturer: Sociology  
University of South Australia
CONFERENCE CONVENERS

**Professor Anthony Elliott** is Dean of External Engagement at the University of South Australia, where he is Research Professor of Sociology and Executive Director of the Hawke EU Centre. He is Global Professor (Visiting) of Sociology at Keio University, Japan and Visiting Professor of Sociology at University College Dublin, Ireland. Internationally acclaimed for his research on identity studies, he has developed an original account of how globalisation and the mobility revolution are transforming the contemporary world. He is author and editor of some 40 books – which have been translated in 17 languages.

**Dr Eric L. Hsu** is Lecturer in Sociology at the School of Communications, International Studies, and Languages at the University of South Australia. At the University’s Hawke EU Centre, he is Leader of the ‘community reactions to disasters’ (1.6) research platform. His primary research interests are located in the sociology of sleep, disasters research, and in the sociological study of time, especially on the issue of social acceleration. In addition to co-editing *The Consequences of Global Disasters* (Routledge, 2016) with Anthony Elliott, he is editor most recently of *Sleep: Critical Concepts in Sociology* (Routledge, 2017). More information about his work can be found on his website – www.ericlhsu.com.
**Professor Seongbin Hwang** is a professor of Media Sociology, Rikkyo University, Japan. His research and publications have dealt extensively with media representation, focusing on the representation of ‘otherness’ and national identity. He earned his B.A. in politics from Yonsei University in Korea and came to Japan as an exchange student in 1990. He holds a doctorate in applied sociology and a master’s degree in sociology from Rikkyo University. He is currently affiliated with Monash Asia Institute in Melbourne, Australia and also with Fujen Catholic University in Taiwan as a visiting professor.

**Professor Masahiro Ogino** is a professor in the School of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan. He is a foreign expert for State High-end Project at Chinese National Academy of Arts. His primary research interests lie in the field of the sociology of culture, disasters, and social theory. He published Fissures, Kobé, 17 janvier 1995, le séisme (Ed. De la Villette, Paris, 1998) and his recent work on catastrophe and time has appeared in Communications (Seuil, Paris, 2015).

**Mikako Suzuki** is a double PhD degree candidate at the University of South Australia and Keio University. She specializes in the social theory of cosmopolitanism and globalization. Her research interests include cosmopolitanism as a theory to deepen our understandings of this highly globalized world. A recent publication of hers is in *The Journal of Studies in Contemporary Social Theory* (vol. 8): Cosmopolitanism as a New Alternative in the Globalisation Era: Examining Its Actuality and Difficulty.

**Louis Everuss** lectures in sociology at the School of Communication, International Studies and Languages at the University of South Australia. His primary research interests are located in the sociological study of migration, globalization and climate change. His work has recently been accepted for publication or published in the *Journal of Sociology* and the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, and featured in *Nature Climate Change*. 
SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2017

18:00 – 19:30  WELCOME RECEPTION
Kerry Packer Civic Gallery
Level 3, Hawke Building
55 North Terrace, Adelaide
University of South Australia
City West Campus

THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2017

8.30 – 9.00  REGISTRATION
Bradley Forum
Level 5, Hawke Building
55 North Terrace, Adelaide
University of South Australia
City West Campus

9.00 – 9.30  WELCOME ADDRESS
Mobilities and Globalization in the Mapping of Disasters
Anthony Elliott
Dean of External Engagement and Executive Director, Hawke EU Centre
University of South Australia
Bradley Forum

9.30 – 10.45  KEYNOTE LECTURE 1
‘Right now you can’t get relational’: A Mobile Utopia of Radically Reflexive Resilience
Monika Buscher (Lancaster University)
Bradley Forum

10.45 – 11.10  MORNING TEA BREAK
Bradley Forum

11.15 – 12.45  SESSION 1
Panel 1: Disaster Mobilities
Bradley Forum
Chair: Eric L. Hsu (University of South Australia)

Panel 2: The REFUGE project: the Arts and Urban Resilience
Council Room (Level 5, Hawke Building)
Chair: John Cash (University of Melbourne)
12:45 – 13.40  **LUNCH BREAK**
Bradley Forum

13:45 – 15:15  **SESSION 2**
**Panel 3: Disaster Immobilities**
Bradley Forum
Chair: Thomas Birtchnell (University of Wollongong)

**Panel 4: Mediated Disasters**
Council Room (Level 5, Hawke Building)
Chair: Mikako Suzuki (University of South Australia)

15.15 – 15:45  **AFTERNOON TEA**
Bradley Forum

15:45 – 17:15  **SESSION 3**
**Panel 5: Disasters in Time and Space**
Bradley Forum
Chair: Sam Han (Nanyang Technological University)

**Panel 6: Disaster Migrations**
Council Room (Level 5, Hawke Building)
Chair: Louis Everuss (University of South Australia)

**FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2017**

9.15 – 9.30  **REGISTRATION**
Bradley Forum
Level 5, Hawke Building
University of South Australia
City West Campus

9.30 – 10.45  **KEYNOTE LECTURE 2**
**Locating the Lost Decades: Disasters, Recessions and Political Crises in Japan and Global Society**
Shunya Yoshimi (Tokyo University)
Bradley Forum
10.45 – 11.15  **MORNING TEA BREAK**  
Bradley Forum

11.20 – 12.50  **SESSION 4**  
**Panel 7: Knowledge Movement and Disasters**  
Bradley Forum  
Chair: Martha Bell (Independent Sociologist)

**Panel 8: Cosmopolitan and (Trans)National Disaster Cultures**  
Council Room (Level 5, Hawke Building)  
Chair: John Cash (University of Melbourne)

**Panel 9: Disaster Research Methodologies**  
H6-10 (Level 6, Hawke Building)  
Chair: Louis Everuss (University of South Australia)

12.55 – 13.55  **LUNCH BREAK**  
Bradley Forum

14.00 – 15.30  **SESSION 5**  
**Panel 10: Disaster Affected Cultures**  
Bradley Forum  
Chair: Sam Han (Nanyang Technological University)

**Panel 11: Responding to Disasters**  
HH3-08 (Level 3, Sir Hans Heysen Building)  
Chair: Mikako Suzuki (University of South Australia)

15.35 – 15.50  **CLOSING REMARKS**  
Bradley Forum
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Panel 5: Disasters in Time and Space

John Cash (University of Melbourne)*

Sarah Khasalamwa-Mwandha (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)*

Masahiro Ogino (Kwansei Gakuin University)*

Lai Ming Lam (Osaka University)*; Junko Otani (Osaka University)*

Trumped Again: on the accelerating anticipation of disaster that attaches to the Trump Presidency

Contextualizing Humanitarian responses to disasters

Disaster and Time

Social Dynamics of Disaster Suffering, Recovery and Reconstruction: Reflection from Gorkha Earthquake 2015 Nepal

Panel 6: Disaster Migrations

Gretel Evans (The University of Melbourne)*

Martina Baumer (University of Queensland)*

Jay Marlowe (University of Auckland)*

Takashi Okumura (Rikkyo University)*

'I feel like a migrant but [...] someone who belongs here': Migrant experiences of bushfires in Victoria

People on the Move: Immigrants’ Settlement Trajectories and the Impact of the Brisbane Flood Disaster, 2011

Forced Migration and Transnational Disaster Risk Reduction

Disasters and the Travelling Emperor: Considering the Emperor’s Visits to Stricken Areas after 3.11

24 MARCH 2017

9:15-9:30 Registration

9:30-10:45 Keynote Lecture 2

Shunya Yoshimi (Tokyo University)*

Locating the Lost Decades: Disasters, Recessions and Political Crises in Japan and Global Society

10:45-11:15 Morning Tea
### 11:20-12:50 Panel 7: Knowledge Movement and Disasters

**Room: Bradley Forum | Chair: Martha Bell** (Independent)

**Panel Participants:**
- Akhilesh Surjan (Charles Darwin University)*, Jonatan Lassa (Charles Darwin University)
- Thomas Birtchnell (University of Wollongong)*, Razia Sultana (University of Wollongong)
- Emily Moskwa (University of South Australia)*, Delene Weber (University of South Australia), Guy M. Robinson (University of Adelaide), Douglas K. Bardsley (University of Adelaide)

**Topics:**
- Urbanization and cultural (mis)understandings of disasters?
- Harvesting Latent Knowledge on Green Infrastructure for Disaster Resilience in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Preparedness for Wildfire: An exploration of socio-cultural and mobile transformations

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### 11:20-12:50 Panel 8: Cosmopolitan and (Trans) National Disaster Cultures

**Room: Council Room | Chair: John Cash** (University of Melbourne)

**Panel Participants:**
- Mikako Suzuki (Keio University & University of South Australia)*
- Constance Lever-Tracy (University of South Australia)*
- Brad West (University of South Australia)*
- Sam Han (Nanyang Technological University)*

**Topics:**
- On cosmopolitan solidarity
- After Paris – Confronting Global Disasters in the Anthropocene
- Disaster, Risk and Cosmopolitan Nationalism
- Image-ing Tragedy: An Iconological Approach to Mobilizing Morality in Human Disaster
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<td>11:20-12:50</td>
<td><strong>Panel 9: Disaster Research Methodologies</strong></td>
<td>**Room: H6-10</td>
<td>Chair: Louis Everuss** (University of South Australia)</td>
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<td>Tyler Barton (University of Canterbury)*; Tom Wilson (University of Canterbury); Sarah Beaven (University of Canterbury); Nicholas Cradock-Henry (Landcare Research)</td>
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<td>Sarah Beaven (University of Canterbury)*</td>
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<td>Shinya Uekusa (University of Auckland, New Zealand)*</td>
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<td>Pre-disaster analysis of New Zealand’s Rural Organizations</td>
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<td>Managing researcher Convergence after Disasters – the use of a research moratorium directive following the 22 February 2011 Mw 6 Christchurch Earthquake in New Zealand.</td>
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<td>Methodological consideration on video devices used in disaster risk mitigation</td>
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<td>Methodological Challenges in Disaster Research: Reflections on Studies in Canterbury and Tohoku</td>
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<td>Chair: Sam Han** (Nanyang Technological University)</td>
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<td>Kristoffer B. Berse (University of the Philippines)*</td>
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<td>Hideki Inazu (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)*</td>
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<td>Chandani KC (University of South Australia)*</td>
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<td>Recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake; the Sufferers are divided into various dimensions</td>
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<td>Extending Care across Space: Cities as aid providers in times of disasters</td>
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<td>Wandering through the Landscape of Debris: Perspectives from the disaster movies based on Kobe Earthquake in 1995</td>
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<td>Exploring the role of culture after a disaster: A case of Kathmandu, Nepal</td>
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<td>14:00-15:30</td>
<td><strong>Panel 11: Responding to Disasters</strong></td>
<td>Room: HH3-O8</td>
<td>Chair: Mikako Suzuki (University of South Australia)</td>
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<td>Yu Fukuda (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science &amp; Tohoku University)*</td>
<td>The Cultural Meaning of Tsunami: A Case Study of the Commemorations in Aceh, Indonesia</td>
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<td>Akira Kurashima (Kwansei Gakuin University)*</td>
<td>Tai Chi as a Body Technique for Coping with Internal and External Disasters: a Case Study of a Tai Chi Class in Manchester, UK</td>
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<td>Yukari Ishii (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)*</td>
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<td>15:35-15:50</td>
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* indicates presenting participant
KEYNOTE LECTURE 1

Professor Monika Büscher

Centre for Mobilities Research, Lancaster University, UK

“A Mobile Utopia of Radically Reflexive Resilience”

Since the 1992 Earth Summit, 4.4 billion people or 64% of the world’s population have been affected by disasters, and the number of ‘loss events’ has more than doubled (UNISDR 2012, Munich RE 2015). Resilience concepts respond to these pressures, but the meanings, policies, and practices of resilience are ambiguous, on the one hand enacting a neoliberal individualisation of responsibility, on the other new forms of cosmopolitan resilience with ambitions for ‘respectful reciprocity, self-governance, improvisation and mutual aid’ (Shani 2016, Crawford et al 2013:6, Meier 2015). In this talk I mobilise utopia as method for a speculative sociology of radically reflexive resilience, following Levitas (2013), to critically unearth dynamics of inequality, to reflect on what it means to be resiliently human, and to describe examples of making resilient socio-technical futures with diverse collectives. I explore what it might mean to ‘get relational’ and how forms of ‘reflexive doubt’ (Beck 1997, Cash 2016) and radical reflexivity (Pollner 1991) might support ‘good’ resilience.

Monika Büscher is Professor of Sociology at Lancaster University, UK. She is Director of the Centre for Mobilities Research and Associate Director at the Institute for Social Futures. Her research explores the digital dimension of contemporary ‘mobile lives’ with a focus on IT ethics and risk governance. Her interdisciplinary, experimental, engaged public sociology explores and shapes socio-technical futures. She currently leads research on the informationalization of risk governance, exploring opportunities and challenges in national and international projects (BRIDGE, SecInCoRe). Her theoretical orientation builds on mobilities research, phenomenology, ethnomethodology, science and technology studies, feminist and non-representational theory, and design research. She has published many articles and books, including Ethnographies of Diagnostic Work, Mobile Methods and Design Research. Synergies from Interdisciplinary Perspectives. In 2011 she received an honorary doctorate for her work in participatory design from Roskilde University, Denmark. She edits the book series Changing Mobilities (Routledge) with Peter Adey.
Since 1995, the landscape of Japanese society has completely changed due to two earthquake disasters, terrorism, and nuclear accident. Japan in the bubble economy no longer exists in the 2010s. Although it is clear that this decline was triggered by the two disasters, Japan had experienced the economic recession, declining young population due to the low birthrate and increase of aging population and political instability. So it is said the 20 years from the mid-1990s is the “Lost Decades” in Japan. In this report I will position this contemporary “Lost Decades” in modern Japanese history over 150 years, and even more than 500 years of global history since the end of the 15th century. The point is that the history has been changing every 25 years, we are the third phase of the world after the WWII: the first period from 1945 to 1970, the second period from 1970 to 1995, and the third period from 1995 to 2020. And also I will explain that the history of this 25 year cycle has operated through the modern era. I will explain why it is 25 years and how such viewpoint can change the grasp of global history.

Professor Shunya Yoshimi is a professor at the University of Tokyo’s Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies (III). He graduated from the university’s College of Arts and Sciences, and subsequently completed the doctoral coursework of the Graduate School of Sociology. His research spans sociology, cultural studies, and media studies. His past teaching positions include associate professor at the University of Tokyo Institute of Journalism and Communication Studies, associate professor and currently full professor at the university’s Institute of Socio-Information and Communication Studies. He has also served in multiple positions at The University of Tokyo, including Dean of he Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies from 2006 to 2008, Director of the University of Tokyo Newspaper, Vice President of the University of Tokyo, Director of the Educational Planning Office, and Director of the Center for the Development of Global Leadership Education; and Vice Director of the University Archive and Director of the III’s Center for Contemporary Korean Studies. He studies contemporary Japanese pop culture, everyday life, and cultural politics from the perspective of dramaturgy. His major works include Dramaturgy of the Urban (Kawade Bunko), The Politics of Exposition (Kodansha Gakujutsu Bunko), Cultural Sociology in the Media Age (Shinyosha), Voice of Capitalism (Kawade Bunko), Cultural Studies (Iwanami Shoten), Invitation to Media Cultural Studies (Yuhikaku), Expo and Postwar Japan (Kodansha Gakujutsu Bunko), Pro-America, Anti-America (Iwanami Shinsho), Post-postwar Society (Iwanami Shinsho), What Are Universities? (Iwanami Shinsho), Atoms for Dream (Chikuma Shinsho), and Out of America (Kobundo), Abolition of Humanities? (Shueisha), Geopolitics of Visual City (Iwanami Shoten), etc.
**ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTER INFORMATION**

**Marnie Badham** (RMIT University)*

*“Making Sense of Disaster: socially-engaged arts as strategy to hold space”*

The arts are proven to be a useful tool to not only communicate climate change data and political messages, but are now increasingly employed to help us collectively make sense of our changing times. Providing space to negotiate values, develop shared meaning and reflection on contemporary times, socially-engaged artists employ a range of aesthetic and social strategies when working with and in communities. In June 2016, the City of Melbourne presented the REFUGE project ‘to open an ongoing conversation’ as to how North Melbourne residents could collectively respond to disaster. Drawing on contemporary art theory in socially-engaged arts, this paper looks closely at the diverse approaches from participating artists including Latai Taumoepeau’s participatory performative work Human Generator 57 and Kate Sulan’s Nest that inspired a sense of safety, hope and refuge with children, to theorise new forms of creative arts collaboration.

**Bio(s):**

Dr Marnie Badham has a long history of art and social justice practice in both Canada and Australia. Her interests include socially-engaged art, participatory advocacy methodologies, and cultural value. Her co-edited book, Making Culture Count: the politics of cultural measurement (2015, Palgrave Macmillan) extended her PhD research into democratised forms of cultural indicators and her work as Research Fellow on a three-year Australian Research Council project with Australia Council for the Arts exploring community arts and evaluation. Marnie has recently been appointed as the Vice Chancellor’s Post Doctoral Research Fellow at the School of Art, RMIT University and was previously Convenor of the Master of Arts and Community Practice at University of Melbourne. Marnie has received awards from the Melbourne Social Equity Institute (2015) and an Early Career Researcher Award (2016) at VCA to undertake her new work on ‘the social turn in artist residencies’. She maintains an active art-research practice through participating in residencies, curating exhibitions and other community-based collaborations.

**Tyler Barton** (University of Canterbury)*; **Tom Wilson** (University of Canterbury); **Sarah Beaven** (University of Canterbury); **Nicholas Cradock-Henry** (Landcare Research)

*“Pre-disaster analysis of New Zealand’s Rural Organizations”*

Applying social science methodologies to international disaster risk reduction research has had proven benefits by increasing knowledge of risk perception, and clarifying decision making processes. However, researchers operating on the international stage face continued challenges, including: language barriers and poor understanding of local knowledge; potential ethical dilemmas and cultural insensitivities; how hazards are measured, and, the mindset of communities towards disaster preparation. Pre-disaster analysis in hazardous regions plays a key role in providing a platform for post-disaster research, at once preparing rural populations for research engagement as well as increasing their overall ownership of the process. This work examines the value of participatory problem identification and of a co-creation methodological approach to field work undertaken by a North American researcher conducting interviews in a high hazard rural New Zealand setting.
Tyler Barton is a geologist by training, but has seen firsthand the usefulness of applying social science methodologies to the field of disaster risk reduction practices during his years living and working in El Salvador. His ongoing PhD at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, is focused on bridging the gap between scientific research and field practitioners, emphasizing the importance of end-user input and co-creation approaches to building society’s resilience to nature’s challenges.

Martina Baumer (The University of Queensland)*

“People on the Move: Immigrants’ Settlement Trajectories and the Impact of the Brisbane Flood Disaster, 2011”

Though most Australians were aware about the challenges and hardship people faced living in Brisbane, 2011 during and after the floods; less has been reported about immigrants’ experiences on impact of disaster, and how they continued their settlement trajectories, specifically, how habitual knowledge and cultural, social and economic resources aided recovery and continuation of their settlement trajectory.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted in flood impacted suburb across Brisbane with immigrants who came to Australia via humanitarian/refugee entrants, skilled workers, students, or as partners of Australian citizens.

The finding revealed that immigrants’ settlement trajectories are complex and the impact of a disaster increased the complexity. Immigrants with high levels of cultural capital and who had moved with ease between linguistic, cultural and political borders managed well during settlement pre-floods. Cultural capital was useful and placed immigrants in control on flood impact. Social relations and financial resources were beneficial during settlement and most valuable to continue immigrants’ settlement trajectories post-floods.

In a disaster challenged nation such as Australia, immigrants may settle in a highly vulnerable area which is important to consider for legislation, policy and program development.

Martina Baumer holds qualification in health, education, human services and is currently completing her PhD in Sociology (The University of Queensland). Her research interest includes multiculturalism and diversity, immigrants’ experiences in diverse contexts such as disaster preparedness and education, settlement, and transitional learning. Her extensive work reflects diverse and interrelated interest that supports people from diverse backgrounds. Her community based research approach results in measurable outcomes with significant social value. She aims to facilitate and stimulate creativity and growth at the intersection of research, industry and government.
Sarah Beaven (University of Canterbury)∗

“Managing researcher Convergence after Disasters – the use of a research moratorium directive following the 22 February 2011 Mw 6 Christchurch Earthquake in New Zealand”

Disasters stimulate research activity by creating comparatively rare post-disaster data, while also increasing the urgency of agency demand for scientific evidence. In recent decades this increase in research opportunities appears to have fuelled the convergence of researchers into disaster-impacted areas, putting impacted populations and response operations at increased risk. After the 2011 Christchurch Earthquake disaster post-disaster research activity was coordinated by a national Natural Hazards Research Platform, in collaboration with response agencies. The goal was to generate credible scientific outcomes that were also relevant to response needs. Risks posed by a steep escalation in research pressure in the weeks after the event led to the declaration of a moratorium on research not deemed relevant to agency need. Communication issues made it difficult to disseminate the moratorium decision effectively to national and international disaster researchers, to other national research communities, and to impacted organisations and communities. Collaborative approaches to post-disaster research coordination offer to reduce risks posed by the escalation of research activity and convergence of researchers into disaster zones. Research coordination measures are more likely to empower those impacted by disaster, and to enlist support among research communities, however, if disseminated through a transparent and accessible communication platform.

Bio(s):

Sarah Beaven is an associate researcher at the University of Canterbury. Since early 2010 Sarah’s research has been focused on the active management of collaborations between organisations and sectors to achieve disaster response, recovery and risk reduction outcomes. A recent University of Canterbury doctoral project (2012-2015) analyzed the use of a boundary organization to coordinate science/policy collaboration after the 2010-2011 Canterbury earthquakes. Current work is focused on collaborative governance initiatives, and cross-sector collaborations to build rural resilience in New Zealand.

Martha Bell (Independent Sociologist)∗

“Predictable Mobilities in a Local Disaster”

Risk events are “systematically caused, statistically describable and in that sense ‘predictable’ types of events,” according to Beck (1992/1989:99). Urban societies are preoccupied as a result with risk management systems that respond to prediction, while relying on individualised, advanced preparation for any event. Both civil and lifestyle disaster response requires mobilisation of persons, households and other dwelling-care arrangements and local authorities are responsible for quick action in the face of ‘predictable’ mobilities. In order to examine the context of lived disaster management, this paper takes as a case study the civil defence response to the June 2015 floods of Dunedin, New Zealand, focusing on the temporalities of transportation, communications and information underpinning the expected distribution of mobilities. Systemic disruption was caused by an extreme weather event that evaded prediction and distress was experienced by those stuck inside their homes facing rising water levels. Over one year later,
the civil defence management of the flooding event has not been critically assessed and instead asset values and infrastructure maintenance are still the source of heated debates in local government. The paper asks if this event reveals a predictably immobilised culture of disaster.

Bio(s):

Martha Bell, PhD, is an independent sociologist and conducts contract research for Media Associates, Dunedin New Zealand. Her work is in the area of physicality, dis/ability and mobilities. She is currently writing on the sociology of fast risk in adventure racing. She serves as the Network Leader of the Mobilities Network for Aotearoa New Zealand. http://www.esocsci.org.nz/networks-pages/mobilities/.

Kristoffer B. Berse (University of the Philippines)*

“Extending Care across Space: Cities as aid providers in times of disasters”

Cities are no strangers to ‘extending care across space’ (Clarke 2011) especially in times of need. This study looks at the experience of selected cities in Metro Manila as they extend help to disaster-stricken communities outside their territorial boundaries. It investigates how and why they mobilize resources in response to a faraway crisis, then discusses the challenges that they have encountered in the process. It argues that in the act of helping, they do not only provide immediate aid, they also leave behind some imprints, if not intentionally, of their good practices that may eventually get adopted by recipient localities, thereby facilitating policy mobilities through the circulation of local knowledge in disaster risk management. The study lends insights on the potential of cities in fostering a highly mobile culture of interlocal cooperation in an era of intensifying disasters. Data for the study will be collected through document review and key informant interviews.

Bio(s):

Kristoffer B. Berse has over 15 years of professional experience encompassing teaching, research, technical assistance, and knowledge management in areas broadly crisscrossing disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, urban sustainability, and inter-local cooperation. He has a multi-disciplinary academic background, having earned his PhD (Urban Engineering) and master degrees (Environmental Studies) from the University of Tokyo and his BA (Public Administration) from the University of the Philippines’ National College of Public Administration and Governance, where he is currently affiliated as Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Program Coordinator. Outside of the academe, he has served as a consultant for various development organizations including the UNISDR, ASEAN, World Bank, Save the Children, and The Asia Foundation. He has published and presented papers in various forms and fora in and outside the Philippines.
The aim of the research is to examine urban green infrastructure as a strategy for action in disaster contexts. Householders in urban slums of the Global South are often wells of knowledge about sustainable practices through their prior backgrounds in rural areas. The challenge is to harness this knowledge in light of their changed circumstances and the limitations of space, incomes, crime, itinerancy, regulation and so on. The research assesses how green infrastructure drawing on latent knowledge can be developed in urban areas to make households more resilient to climate change. The research is guided by both top-down policy making and bottom-up action in a multi-level framework that aims for inclusivity of households in decision making and urban planning. The research not only considers the diverse actions of slum households, but also includes a range of stakeholders’ approaches to operationalizing green infrastructure. The research project will explore the opportunities and constraints of mobilizing latent knowledge in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Bio(s):
Dr Thomas Birtchnell is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography and Sustainable Communities at the University of Wollongong (UOW), Australia. Before UOW, he was a Research Associate at Lancaster University in the UK in a project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The research project (ES/J007455/1) examined the past and future impacts of 3D printing on transport and society. Currently he is a chief investigator in the Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project ‘Enhanced Humans, Robotics and the Future of Work’ (DP160100979). His most recent book is A New Industrial Future? 3D Printing and the Reconfiguring of Production, Distribution, and Consumption (Routledge, 2016) co-authored with John Urry (Lancaster).

Mrs Razia Sultana is currently doing her PhD on ‘Urban Green Infrastructure in the Global South: Adapting Slums to Climate Change in Dhaka, Bangladesh’ under the Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong, Australia. She received graduate degrees from the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka and Masters from Development Practice, University of Queensland, Australia. With her multi-disciplinary academic training, Razia has specialized in the socio-economic issues of rural and urban people in the developing societies. She has quite a good number of publications to her credit in academic journals both home and abroad. Razia has also relevant working experience. She is now working with Bangladesh Institute of International & Strategic Studies (BIISS) as a core Research Fellow. In her capacity as a Research Fellow at BIISS, Razia looks into the non-traditional security issues in world affairs especially in South Asia.

John Cash (Melbourne University)*
“Trumped Again: on the accelerating anticipation of disaster that attaches to the Trump Presidency”
Mostly we think of disasters as having leading physical components – either entirely natural ones, as with earthquakes or tsunamis, or ones due to a technology failure, sometimes triggered by natural events, as with a nuclear energy disaster. These events are inevitably made sense of and assessed through discourses that accumulate and multiply, due to the differing experiences, the cultural norms and the
competing interests that flow into the construction of a disaster discourse. That discourse typically remains contested. In order to isolate the constructed character of disaster discourses, in this paper I will explore a “disaster” that has no natural nor technology-failure induced leading edge and that is unfolding at the speed of midnight tweets; namely the growing recognition, both internationally and within the United States, of the “unsuitability” of the Trump presidency. Recognition of the disaster that the Trump presidency may become anticipates the full extent of any of the actual disasters that it may generate over the coming weeks and years. The very same social acceleration that Trump successfully exploited throughout his political campaign may prove his downfall, one with global consequences as the mobility of communication accelerates the construction of a culture of disaster around the Presidency itself.

Bio(s):

John Cash is a social theorist with a particular interest in the incorporation of psychoanalytic theory into social and political analysis. He is a Fellow at the University of Melbourne, where, formerly, he was Deputy Director of the Ashworth Program in Social Theory. His publications include Identity, Ideology and Conflict (Cambridge 1996 & 2010), Footy Passions, co-authored with Joy Damousi, (UNSW Press, 2009) and a series of articles and chapters that draw critically on social and psychoanalytic theory in order to develop novel approaches to the analysis of social relations, subjectivity and entrenched political and ethnic conflict. He has also written, recently, on conflict and change in Northern Ireland, Freud, Newton and sublimation, “Waiting for Godot”, Freud’s Ratman case and issues of sovereignty in a postcolonial world, Negotiating insecurity, International relations theory and psychoanalysis, a psychoanalytic reading of Milgram’s obedience to authority study, and theories of ideology. In 2013 he was a Visiting Professor at Sorbonne Paris II, Pantheon-Assas. He is an editor of the Journal of Postcolonial Studies and a co-editor of Political Psychology and is affiliated with the Graduate Program in Political Psychology at the University of California-Irvine.

Chandani KC (University of South Australia)*

“Exploring the role of culture after a disaster: A case of Kathmandu, Nepal”

Disaster is very context specific and people from different communities and cultural backgrounds are often affected differently when hit by a disaster. Disasters also have the power to destabilize the meanings of a place and result in the breakdown of practices enacted by people in their daily lives (Bhandari, Okada, Knottnerus 2011). The earthquake of April 25th and May 12th 2015 in Nepal caused staggering loss of lives and destruction of houses in 39 districts of central and western region of Nepal. Many of the Kathmandu’s landmark buildings and temples, some in world heritage sites were badly damaged in the earthquake.

Culture can be defined simply as the way of life that expresses certain meanings and values of people (Williams 1961). It can determine the way people experience and respond to the disturbances of their everyday practices. It is this culture of Kathmandu especially the rituals, beliefs and knowledge that helped community to adapt and recover from the earthquake. This paper explores the role of culture in determining the way people respond and adapt to the disruptions caused by the earthquake with Kathmandu as a case study. This is done to understand the importance of culture for disaster risk reduction activities and strategies.
Bio(s):

Chandani KC is currently doing her PhD in Urban Planning from the University of South Australia. Her research is based on the planning of urban living heritage in the historic cities of developing countries with Kathmandu Valley as a case study. The research focuses on urban living heritage, culture and disaster. He did my Masters in City and Regional Planning from United States of America and his Bachelor in Architecture from India. He has gained work experiences through his work in government agencies both in USA and Nepal.

Subas P. Dhakal (Curtin University)*

“Tourists Immobility and the 2015 Nepal Earthquake: Implications for Disaster Management”

Many popular tourism destinations around the world are also located in highly disaster prone areas. The earthquake that struck Nepal on April 25, 2015 claimed nearly 9,000 lives and injured over 22,000 people. Natural disasters such as earthquakes can be characterised as mobility disasters mainly because they often constrain tourist’s capacity for movement. Since the capacity of a tourist to be mobile and visit places is a form of resource (see Kaufmann et al., 2004) that can be deployed to foster individual’s privilege, tourism can threaten and even undermine local culture, especially during disasters. It is in this context, secondary sources of data such as the news media coverage of stranded tourists and their experiences have the potential to generate useful insights for various stages of disaster management. However, news media coverage of disaster response in South Asia from the tourism perspective remains virtually unexplored. This paper responds to this gap and utilises thematic content analysis of selected news media coverage on the 2015 Nepal Earthquake rescue and relief in order to: a) capture the characteristics of tourist immobility, b) explore the cultural differences in disaster experiences, and c) discuss the implications for tourism disaster management in developing nations.

Bio(s):

Subas Dhakal is a management academic with expertise in the theory and practice of sustainable development. Prior to this appointment, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow under the federally funded Collaborative Research Networks programme implemented in partnership between Southern Cross University and University of Queensland. His research experiences/areas of interests include: community based sustainability initiatives; disasters & international development; green employment & employability; and social capital & stakeholder engagement in Asia and the Pacific/South Asia.

Gretel Evans (The University of Melbourne)*

“I feel like a migrant but […] someone who belongs here’: Migrant experiences of bushfires in Victoria”

Australian immigrants are often unfamiliar with this country’s continuing history of bushfire and floods. While climate induced migration offers a window into examining issues of mobility and disaster, little scholarship has considered how migrants’ past experiences and memories of migration influence their later experiences of natural disasters in Australia.
Oral histories of migrants who have lived through the devastation of Victoria’s bushfires meaningfully illuminate how and in what ways past experiences of migration impact on one’s responses to natural catastrophes. By considering how migrants came to live in fire prone locations, and the different challenges they faced when confronted by fire, this paper will provide another angle on the issue of mobility and disasters by asking why previously mobile people decide to stay and continue to live and create a sense of home and belonging within communities and landscapes scorched by bushfires.

Bio(s):

Gretel Evans is a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne researching migrants’ memories of Australian natural disasters and how experiences of migration and disaster influence migrants’ sense of belonging within the community and environment. Gretel has been a 2014 ANU Summer Scholar and a 2016 NLA Summer Scholar researching Australian natural disasters through analysing oral history interviews. She works for the YCW (Young Christian Workers) Oral History project as an interviewer and research assistant.

Yu Fukuda (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)*

“The Cultural Meaning of Tsunami: A Case Study of the Commemorations in Aceh, Indonesia”

Max Weber argued that religious thoughts play a major part in making human suffering simply bearable. Continuing this reflection, this examines religious discourses recorded during the commemorative practices of the 2004 Tsunami in Aceh, Indonesia to consider the cultural meaning of the suffering. It draws from the data gathered during participatory observations at the public memorial ceremony of the tsunami in Aceh and regular fieldtrips and interviews carried outside these particular events. The first section shows how Islamic culture imbues itself in the commemoration of the tsunami. In particular, attention is given to the centrality of Islam within the historical identity of Aceh and the current application of the Shari’a law. The second section examines the particular narratives embedded within the ceremony implying that “the hands of God” behind the disaster. It is by this premise of divine purpose that some speakers refer to the victims of the tsunami as martyr and regards tsunami as the trial for Acehnese. We argue that the public tsunami commemoration in Aceh can be seen within a framework of Islamic theodicy that gives significance to the disaster. In conclusion, we discuss how the commemoration of the tsunami in Aceh can be understood as one of the cultural ways of “coping with contingency” (Riesebrodt 2010).

Bio(s):

Yu Fukuda is a post-doctoral research fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and Tohoku University, Japan. His research interest is on post-disaster ritual in contemporary society. He has been conducting research on memorial ceremonies after disasters in Japan (Nagasaki and Tohoku) and Indonesia (Aceh). His recent publication includes Fukuda Y, 2015, “Transition of Rituals in the Nagasaki City Atomic Bomb Memorial Ceremony.” International Journal of Japanese Sociology (24):78-91.
Sam Han (Nanyang Technological University)*

“Image-ing Tragedy: An Iconological Approach to Mobilizing Morality in Human Disaster”

This paper understands “the culture of disaster” as not only the cultural aspects of disaster but also cultural formations in the immediate wake of, or during, what I call “circumstances of the disastrous normal.” With this in view, it aims to explore the dynamics of mobilizing moral feelings amid increasingly normalized human tragedy around the globe. In particular, this paper aims to conceptualize “tragedy” as not simply in terms of genre but also a means of mobilizing and representing collective moral feelings through the circulation of emotionally charged images and video on social media. Drawing on recent developments in affect theory, new cultural approaches to tragedy and debates in social movement theory, I aim to provide a theory of tragedy in our digital age that takes seriously mediatization and the significance of images in providing social categories of understanding “the tragic.” Using the iconological method pioneered by WJT Mitchell, I analyze four, highly circulated images from two different contemporary disasters—the spate of police shooting of unarmed black men in the United States that has spawned the movement known as Black Lives Matter and the violent unrest in Syria currently.

Bio(s):

Sam Han is an interdisciplinary social scientist, working in the areas of social/cultural/critical theory, new media, religion, and East Asia. He is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore and Affiliate Research Fellow at the Hawke Research Institute of the University of South Australia. His recent books include Technologies of Religion: Spheres of the Sacred in a Post-Secular Modernity (Routledge, 2016), Digital Culture and Religion in Asia (Routledge, 2015)(with Kamaludeen Mohamed Nasir) and Web 2.0 (Routledge, 2011).

Valerie Ingham (Charles Sturt University); Mir Rabiul Islam (Charles Sturt University); John Hicks (Charles Sturt University)*

“Adaptive flood mobilities in Bangladesh”

Traditional mobilities that once underpinned the survival of village communities in Bangladesh are being challenged as a consequence of climate change. Traditional mobilities were premised on the expectation (held for decades) that flood waters would eventually recede. This expectation is no longer tenable as previously productive land now remains submerged for periods that extend well beyond the time that makes past mobility practices viable. Over a series of field expeditions, in-depth interviews with flood-affected people from rural villages in Bangladesh were conducted to ascertain how climate change was impacting on the social and cultural mobilities of displaced people. We found that the mobility of men is changing as they travel into large cities for extensive periods to find work unassociated with primary agriculture. Further, we found that both the physical and cultural mobility of women changed substantially as they were forced to adopt unfamiliar roles, outside of the home, in the absence of their men. The response to the change in flooding events has been largely confined to a social capital response by those impacted. Government institutions need to respond in a manner that acknowledges the new mobilities.
Professor John Hicks joined Charles Sturt University in 1993 and currently teaches economic principles and labour economics. John holds a PhD from Massey University and has published on a range of regional, national and international issues in labour economics, industrial relations and macroeconomics. In addition he has published on China and its economic relationship with Australia. As a member of CSU’s Institute for Land Water and Society, John is now engaged in a number of projects with a regional and sustainability orientation (including issues of flooding in Australia and Bangladesh, regional growth in Australia and regional labour market issues).

Eric L. Hsu (University of South Australia)*

“Does improving sleep prevent disasters? A critical analysis”

As numerous scientific texts in the contemporary Western world have asserted, poor sleep has the potential to cause acute and devastating disasters, such as in the case of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. Accordingly, improving sleep behaviours has been framed as a way to prevent certain types of disasters from occurring. In this paper, I investigate some of the strengths and shortcomings of this approach. I argue that a narrow emphasis on improving sleep runs the risk of overlooking the broader social dimensions of the occurrence of disasters. Because some disasters may be socially patterned and ‘integral’ to certain social systems, it may not be a wholly effective strategy to target sleep as a site for intervention. To articulate this need for a more holistic and multifaceted approach, I engage with recent discussions in the sociology of sleep, which explore the complex links between sleep and society.

Bio(s):

Dr. Eric L. Hsu is a Lecturer in the School of Communications, International Studies, and Languages at the University of South Australia. His primary research interests are located in the sociology of sleep, disasters research, and in the sociological study of time, especially on the issue of social acceleration. He is co-editor of *The Consequences of Global Disasters* (Routledge, 2016) and his work has recently appeared in *Sociology*, *Time & Society*, and *the Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*.

Seongbin Hwang (Rikkyo University)*

“Media Framing of Anti-Nuclear Protests: An International Comparative Study of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan”

After the Fukushima’s disaster, which triggered the German Government’s decision to shift their nuclear energy policy, anti-nuclear demonstrations had become ‘viral’ and spread to other major nuclear power countries, to name a few, the USA, French, South Korea and Taiwan and so on. In Japan, also, thousands of protesters in Tokyo and other major cities rallied against the use of nuclear power on June 11, 2011, three months after a devastating tsunami set off a nuclear crisis and bigger demonstrations have been followed up. However, despite huge discontent about the government handlings of the nuclear crisis and great
sympathy to the cause of anti-nuclear movements, there hasn’t been a drastic change of nuclear energy policy in Japan. In that sense, the paradigm shift in energy policy haven’t been ‘mobile’ yet, at least in Japan.

I have examined how the Japanese media have reported the anti-nuclear demonstrations occurred in and outside the country, with a keen interest in the way they constitute the civil society’s voices of, again home and abroad. Along with Japanese media’s coverage, I have analysed the media coverage in the following countries: the US, France, South Korea and Taiwan. Through comparison of media coverage, I explore the relations that these countries have had with nuclear energy and antinuclear movements. In this presentation, I will introduce and compare the cases of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

**Bio(s):**

Dr. Seongbin Hwang is a professor of Media Sociology, Rikkyo University, Japan. His research and publications have dealt extensively with media representation, focusing on the representation of ‘otherness’ and national identity. He earned his B.A. in politics from Yonsei University in Korea and migrated to Japan as an exchange student in 1990. He holds a doctorate in applied sociology and a master's degree in sociology from Rikkyo University. He is currently affiliated with Monash Asia Institute in Melbourne, Australia and also with Fujen Catholic University in Taiwan as a visiting professor.

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**Hideki Inazu** (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)*

"Wandering through the Landscape of Debris: Perspectives from the disaster movies based on Kobe Earthquake in 1995"

This paper aims to explore the sociological implications of some disaster movies, and to think through the methodology related to studying disasters on the move. To consider this subject, I will focus in particular on how the 1995 Kobe Earthquake has been culturally represented through the medium of film. Firstly, I report on the historical-spatial changes of Kobe city, which has become an urbanized modernized port following on from floods and air raid attacks it has experienced since WWII. Moreover, I report on how Kobe has turned into a disaster stricken area which has undergone redevelopment since 1995. Secondly in my presentation, I aim to uncover the significance of some movies which have conveyed the importance of wandering through the landscape of debris as a method through which to understand remembrance of the earthquake. Finally, I seek to reach some critical implications represented in the movies that I analyze, such as the awareness of multiculturalization, the way of overcoming traumatic syndrome, and of encountering/dialoguing with dead souls.

**Bio(s):**

Dr. Hideki Inazu has conducted in the field work research around Kobe city where had been urbanized as a modernized-port city in Japan, and reconstructed since 1995, the time the Great Earthquake occurred. His main fields of interest are to describe the people’s daily practices to reimagine their belonging to multicultural-local society with considering the difficulties caused by the gentrified urban environmental space after the catastrophes such as the natural disaster.
Yukari Ishii (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)*

“Invisible Sufferers; Gendered and Sexual Vulnerabilities to Disasters in Japan”

In recent years, the topic of gender and sexuality has increasingly factored into sociological analyses of disasters. There is a growing recognition that gender influences how vulnerabilities to disasters are socially structured and experienced. The aim of this paper is to contribute to this body of literature by investigating some of the gendered and sexual vulnerabilities to disasters that currently exist in Japan. The paper analyzes documents recently produced by various Japanese governmental agencies, which highlight in some way the role that gender plays in disaster prevention and recovery. This analysis yields insights about how men and women in Japan are differently positioned to disasters. However, this analysis also offers a critical perspective. It finds that there may be a tendency in Japanese governmental documents to overlook the unique situation that LGBT people are in.

Bio(s):
Dr. Yukari Ishii has been a Research Fellow at the Japan Society for the Promotion Science (JSPS) since 2014 at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Osaka Prefecture University. She currently also is a part-time Lecturer at the School of Life and Environmental Science, Azabu University, and Faculty of Urban Liberal Arts, Tokyo Metropolitan University. She holds an Adjunct Research Fellowship position at the Hawke Research Institute, at the University of South Australia, where she previously was a Visiting Research Fellow from 2015 to 2016. She holds a doctor of Philosophy (Sociology) from Behavioural Social Sciences, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo, Japan, conferred February 2015.

Masayuki Karasudani (Keio University)*

“Fukushima 50’ in Media Representations: A Case Study of Mobile Culture and Journalism”

This presentation focuses on how the media representation of “Fukushima 50” has been constructed. “Fukushima 50” is those who tried to stop expanding the extent of the damage caused by the accident by stepping on to the crisis scene at Fukushima nuclear power plant in March 2011. By addressing this subject, we would like to deepen the discussion on the following two points. (1) What kind of influence does social media have on disaster coverage by mass media? (2) It is useful to pay attention to the theme of reproducing process of “common sense” in order to incorporate an interesting viewpoint of “mobile culture” into the journalism studies.

Bio(s):
Masayuki Karasudani is currently Associate Professor of Political Sociology and Journalism Studies at Keio University. His research interests include media discourse on nuclear issues, social problem and journalism, and media communication and the social construction of reality. His major publications include “Genshiryoku Seisaku Ni Okeru Seitousei No Kyokai” (Constructing Policy Legitimacy On Nuclear Power: The Symbolic Politics Of “Peaceful Uses Of The Atom” in Japan. Sustainability Research, vol.5, 2015), “Media Fureimu To Media No Kenryoku” (Media Frame and Media Power: Rethinking of The Whole World is Watching. Media Communication No.64 2014).
Sarah Khasalamwa-Mwandha (Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU))

“Contextualizing Humanitarian responses to disasters”

The humanitarian industry is now a global phenomenon characterized by high levels of mobility in terms of resources and people. There are known global humanitarian actors involved in the response whenever disaster strikes in any part of the world. In this paper, I focus on how disasters are experienced and managed. I seek to highlight the cultural interchange involved in the responses and how it facilitates or constrains recovery. The paper highlights the prospects and dilemmas emerging from the globalization of humanitarian practices and how the cultural encounters between humanitarian workers and local communities affect recovery processes. This draws from empirical research conducted in conflict and disaster affected areas. The study underscores the need to understand the social context of humanitarian interventions. It also demonstrates the need to grasp cultural perceptions of disaster and interventions as a way of improving recovery outcomes.

Bio(s):

Sarah Khasalamwa-Mwandha completed her doctorate at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), titled; Spaces of Recovery: An exploration of the Complexities of Post-war/disaster Recovery in Uganda and Sri Lanka which explores dilemmas of recovery practice and how they are influenced by the disaster/conflict context. She highlights the struggles of dealing with pre-existing challenges versus the needs created by the disaster/conflict. She is currently working as an Associate Professor at the NTNU.

Akira Kurashima (Kwansei Gakuin University)*

“Tai Chi as a Body Technique for Coping with Internal and External Disasters: a Case Study of a Tai Chi Class in Manchester, UK”

Since the human body is the most basic and essential of all human means, body techniques consist an important element of any society’s means for coping with disasters. Tai chi (Taijiquan), a martial art developed to cope with disasters such as war and civil unrest, is one such technique. On the other hand, tai chi is also an exercise for health and longevity. It is generally understood that in modern societies, tai chi has diminished its importance as a means to counter disasters, and that it is mainly a health exercise. However, is the pursuit of health a purely personal matter? Based on fieldwork in Manchester, UK, I shall demonstrate how tai chi is being used as a ‘culturally appropriate’ exercise for elderly Chinese immigrants who speak little English. They suffer from social isolation in the neighborhood due to language and cultural barriers, partly because municipally organized conventional health activities for the elderly are often inaccessible for them. This renders the symptoms of ageing such as reduced mobility a collective problem, an internal ‘disaster’. This paper examines how the Chinese Health Information Centre (CHIC), a Manchester-based charity, is using tai chi as a means to effectively cope with this situation.
Bio(s):

Professor Akira Kurashima joined Kwansei Gakuin University in 2009 and teaches sport sociology and body technique studies. He holds a PhD from Kyoto University and specializes in the sociological research of skill acquisition. Having done extensive participant observation of tai chi classes in Japan, China and the UK, he has published on various intersections between culturally specific modes of embodiment and the embodied pursuit of universal values such as physical and mental well-being.

Lai Ming Lam (Osaka University)*; Junko Otani (Osaka University)*

“Social Dynamics of Disaster Suffering, Recovery and Reconstruction: Reflection from Gorkha Earthquake 2015 Nepal”

Disaster is both natural and man-made problem. The suffering of disaster-affected communities has often differentiated and unequally reshaped by local histories, cultures and the existing social structures. Who suffers the most? Who can better be resilient to natural disaster? Who can better recover from disaster trauma? In this paper, we will use our experience of 2015 4.25 Gokha Earthquake in Nepal to demonstrate social dynamics of disaster suffering, recovery and reconstruction, with cross-cultural references to other experiences internationally such as 2008 5.12 and 2013 4.20 Sichuan, China.

The ‘equity’ is the top reconstruction principle for the Nepalese government’s post earthquake response. With the anxiety unjust reconstruction policy will further escalating the tense ethnic division in the post-earthquake time, the Nepalese government has implemented the housing grant ceiling policy and retained all decision-making power for reconstruction projects to avoid the duplication in relief and reconstruction efforts. Such ignorance for the fact that the unequal impact of earthquake among communities, as well as corruption and dysfunction are rife throughout all levels of government, as a consequence, the majority of rural poor has remained living in uninhabitable temporary shelters and the hope for rebuilding their houses are gloomy. Based on interviews with various reconstruction actors and a year-long field observation, we argue that the current ‘inclusive’, ‘one-door’ reconstruction policy has indeed left the poorest to be more vulnerable to the future disasters, another man-made disaster.

Bio(s):

Christie Lam is an associate professor in Osaka University and has obtained her PhD in Anthropology from the University Of Adelaide, Australia. She has been carrying out research work on the welfare impact of conservation-led displacement on local communities particularly in Nepal since 2002. When 2015 earthquake serious hit the rural Nepal, her NGO (Future Village Nepal) not only provides emergency relief but also implements long-term disaster recovery and reconstruction projects.

Junko Otani, DDS, MPH, MS, PhD, is Professor in the Graduate School of Human Sciences at Osaka University. She has looked at disaster-affected areas of Kobe in Japan, Sichuan in China and New Zealand. She was awarded Royal Society of New Zealand fellowship to conduct research in Christchurch at University of Canterbury in 2013 and Australian Academy of Science fellowship for School of Population and Global Health at University of Melbourne in 2015.
It is understood that scientific facts often travel from their production to their place of use reflecting the complexity of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) knowledge production and usage. There are countless scientific facts and evidence that can be used to build community resilience. Unfortunately, scientific facts and evidence are often structured within territorial boundaries of disciplinary knowledge. Like human, facts and ideas also travel. In today’s digital world, facts and ideas travel faster through virtual spaces as well as physical spaces as people cross borders. This paper adopts ‘traveling facts’ theory of Morgan (2009) and ‘traveling theory’ (Said 1982) to understand how scientific facts travel and used to inform DRR practices across places. In this research we ask question: How can we characterise the life cycle of DRR scientific facts (e.g. of that early warning system save lives or a specific construction techniques and concrete design can reduce and minimise seismic risk)? Using ‘traveling facts’ theory and/or ‘traveling theory’ we examine how a particular DRR knowledge that travels across physical and virtual places? The study recommends a rethinking in present design of community resilience.

Bio(s):

Dr. Jonatan A. Lassa is a Senior Lecturer at the humanitarian, emergency and disaster management studies, Charles Darwin University, Australia. His research largely focus on institutional vulnerability, governance and institutional dimension of climate and disaster loss mitigation, social network analysis and network theory application in climate adaptation and disaster studies, early warning system, disaster policy reform, global and regional humanitarian ecosystems, NGOs/CSOs network structure and urban climate governance.

Constance Lever-Tracy (University of South Australia)*

“After Paris – Confronting Global Disasters in the Anthropocene”

Social changes often unfold in decades, while past natural changes ‘evolved over millennia’. However geologists now propose the Anthropocene as a new geological epoch, with a Great Acceleration, since the mid-20th century, of potentially catastrophic global interactions between society and nature. Our institutions and culture continue to doubt the urgency of climate change, and of its irreversible tipping points, that call for rapid, global and profound social responses.

Can we change in time? The evidence is mixed. Prospects for global cooperation seem in decline, with outbreaks of national and ethnic conflict, floods of refugees and xenophobia. Economists argue that there is a fixed human propensity to ‘discount the future’ which prevents sacrificing now for remote benefits. However, our recent studies in Australia and Portugal contradict its unchangeable universality.

Global cooperation has made some progress. The Paris climate accords, in December 2015, were unexpected and unprecedented in the extent of international agreement to mitigate the dangers of human action. China and the US have since come together to ratify the accords, despite their growing rivalries. Scientists are now willing to attribute many disasters to Climate Change, public concern sometimes responds and there are indications that a younger generation is more concerned for the future.
Bio(s):

Constance Lever-Tracy studied sociology at the London School of Economics (BA 1962) and Flinders University of South Australia (PhD 1984). She has taught sociology at Enfield, UK (1968-1972), La Trobe University (1972-1975) and Griffiths University (1984-1990), and was a lecturer and senior lecturer in the sociology department at Flinders University from 1991 to 2009. She is currently an adjunct research fellow at the Hawke Research Institute of the University of South Australia, and at Flinders University. In the last decade Constance Lever-Tracy has increasingly focused her research on climate change and society and on social responses to climate disasters. She has authored, co-authored or edited six books and more than 30 journal articles and book chapters on a range of subjects. She was also an expert reviewer for the IPCC and a member of the Associate Board of the BSA journal Sociology.

Jay Marlowe (University of Auckland)*

“Forced Migration and Transnational Disaster Risk Reduction”

Digital technologies offer the potential for new social configurations and connections as its accessibility radically transforms the structure and role of social networks for diasporic communities. This is particularly the case for refugees, where these technologies generate the opportunity to ‘practise’ friendship and family differently and beyond the accepted social and spatial boundaries of local places. Whilst this is true relating to everyday interactions, it is also becoming increasingly common that people seek and offer transnational forms of support during disaster events. Recognising that protracted global conflicts have now created more than 65 million forced migrants, there is an urgent need to develop greater understandings of what informs disaster risk reduction and recovery with such groups. The associated global transformations in mobility can inform such possibilities through travel, remittance transfers and digital interactions that link people and organisations to places proximate and distant. This paper presents three studies related to refugees and their mobilities in disaster situations. In particular, I present the theoretical utility of belonging and its gendered, cultural, chronological, technological and spatial dimensions that help inform disaster preparedness and response with refugees.

Bio(s):

Jay Marlowe is an associate professor at the University of Auckland and his primary field of research is in the area of refugee resettlement with a focus on wellbeing, identity, social inclusion, disaster risk reduction and understandings of trauma. As a social worker and former visiting fellow with the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford, he has experience working with refugee communities as a practitioner and published more than 50 papers as a researcher.
Steve Matthewman (University of Auckland)*

“Disaster Research: Time for a Mobilities Turn?”

There is an overwhelming tendency in disaster research to fix disasters, to confine them in time and space. Yet disasters are mobile because people, non-human lifeforms, information, and commodities move. Similarly, the ecosystems and earth systems that sustain us are also always in flux. Conceptually, we are dealing with processes rather than states, continuous actions as opposed to stable affairs. Today’s risks are further marked by their complexity and exacerbated by our interconnectivity. Techniques of modern industrial production and the consequences of mass transportation magnify their ambiguity and potency. They have taken us from an era of plague to one of biopollution, from a time where disasters were localised to one in which they increasingly appear to be ambient. We consider the implications of this for both disaster research and disaster recovery.

Bio(s):

Steve Matthewman is Head of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Auckland. Teaching and research interests include social theory, science and technology studies, the sociology of the military, and the sociology of disasters. Recent publications include a critical assessment of Ulrich Beck’s risk society thesis, and the need for a strong programme to research the military. His latest book, Disasters, Risks and Revelation: Making Sense of Our Times was published by Palgrave in 2015.

Emily Moskwa (University of South Australia)*; Delene Weber (University of South Australia); Guy M. Robinson (University of Adelaide); Douglas K. Bardsley (University of Adelaide)

“Preparedness for Wildfire: An exploration of socio-cultural and mobile transformations”

This research explores perceptions of wildfire risk in peri-urban areas of the Mediterranean biome. It addresses and seeks to balance two concerns:

1) the threat of destructive wildfires occurring close to residential areas; and

2) the need for effective conservation measures to maintain important and unique biodiversity.

We investigate community understandings and misperceptions of risk to consider socio-cultural and mobile aspects of the wildfire management system. While individual readiness for wildfire plays an important role in creating fire smart communities, so too do the structures of communities and the migration patterns of people. Connections are formed among people living in the same locality, fostering increased social capital and creating networks that are relied on during times of need or crisis.

Despite advances in individual landholder preparedness for wildfire, overall community readiness appears to be lagging behind and needs more attention. The creation of fire smart communities relies on not only engaged individuals but also a pervasive sense of shared ownership of the challenge of living in a high risk wildfire zone.
Bio(s):

Emily Moskwa is a Postdoctoral Researcher working on a three-year Australian Research Council Linkage Grant shared by the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia. Her research explores perceptions of vegetation management regimes in peri-urban areas at high risk of bushfire, with the aim to determine stakeholders’ understanding of risks and values and what motivates the decisions of managers, communities and individuals when faced with a significant threat of bushfire.

Masahiro Ogino (Kwansei Gakuin University)*

“Disaster and Time”

A disaster makes a break in time and space, which gives rise to a social transformation. Therefore, disaster is not a subsidiary topic in sociology. It should be a starting point for rethinking social theory. In this presentation, I will try to clarify the relationship between disaster and time and show two opposite conceptions of time that can emerge after the catastrophe. First conception of time is what we call logic of absorption of the future in the present. In this logic, the future is not to come, but it must be built. This is not a later time. It is what is happening. Second conception of time is the logic of ephemerality in which the present is considered as time inevitably to disappear. The logic of ephemerality has three characteristics: perception of mobility, lack of interest in property and perception of risk. I will show how two different logics operate after a disaster and put forward the hypothesis that the first logic is born to prevent risks and it helps the development of capitalism while the last logic calls into question the desire of the accumulation of wealth. However capitalism today manages to domesticate the feeling of ephemerality that acquires a value in the consumer society.

Bio(s):

Professor Masahiro Ogino is a professor in the School of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan. He is a foreign expert for State High-end Project at Chinese National Academy of Arts. His primary research interests lie in the field of the sociology of culture, disasters, and social theory. He published Fissures, Kobé, 17 janvier 1995, le séisme (Ed. De la Villette, Paris, 1998) and his recent work on catastrophe and time has appeared in Communications (Seuil, Paris, 2015).

Yutaka Oishi (Keio University, Japan)*

“The Role of Local Paper in Disaster: Case Studies of Great East Japan Earthquake (March, 2011) and Kumamoto Earthquake (April, 2016)”

The Great East Japan Earthquake occurred on 11th in March 2011. It triggered Tsunami and nuclear accident. I will present how has Kahoku-Shimpo, which is one of the most influential local newspaper in the area, coped with the serious disaster. Then the ‘Kumamoto Earthquake’ occurred on 14th and 16th in April 2016. The intensity of earthquakes was 7. There is a major local newspaper in Kumamoto prefecture, Kumamoto Nichi-Nichi Shimbun. The newspaper has been very influential in Kumamoto. The two local newspapers
tried to make news about the disasters and have reported about recovering and reconstructing the areas. On the other hand how did the local residents, especially the disaster victims, get information and utilize them? Which media and information were useful for them in such an advanced information society? Japanese people have experienced huge earthquakes again and again. (i.e. the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, 17th in January 1995). How did or have been local media, namely the two local newspapers and the local residents build on the past experiences? I will try to consider these questions.

Bio(s):


Takashi Okumura (Rikkyo University)*

“Disasters and the Travelling Emperor: Considering the Emperor’s Visits to Stricken Areas after 3.11”

After the Great Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami Attack on 3.11, numerous people moved from and to stricken areas. One of the most salient figures that travelled there frequently is supposed to be the Emperor Akihito. He and the Empress Michiko visited Chiba, Miyagi and Ibaraki in April, Iwate and Fukushima in May. They kneed down and talked with sufferers at their shelters to console them in person, and these scenes were televised nationwide.

The Modern Imperial Institution in Japan could be characterized by its “mobile” mode. Just after the Meiji Restoration, the Government managed the Emperor’s Six Grand Tours around Japan (6 Dai Junko, 1872-1885), in which Meiji Tenno saw the nation and was seen by the nation. Since then many journeys by the Emperor or the Prince have been held repeatedly, including Showa Tenno’s Tours after World War II (Sengo Junko, 1946-1954). Compared with former Emperors, Akihito has been travelling to sites damaged by disasters much more often and ardently. This presentation tries to interpret a new mode of ‘politics of visibility’ (Takeshi Hara) considering disasters and the “mobile” Imperial Institution in contemporary Japan.

Bio(s):

Takashi Okumura is Professor in College of Sociology, Rikkyo University, and is appointed to be Professor in School of Sociology, Kwansei Gakuin University from April 2017. He has been studying in the field of sociological theories, history of sociology, sociology of culture and sociological studies in communication. His main publications include Coexistence with Others: Sociology of Communication (1998, Nihon Hyoronsha), Norbert Elias: Enquiries into Violence (2001, Keiso Shobo), Anti-communication (2013, Kobundo) and A History of Sociology: Discovering Enigmas of Society I (2014, Yuhikaku). A collection of his articles titled Where is Society?: Sociology as a Radicalism (Minerva shobo) will be published shortly.
Jen Rae (University of Melbourne)*

“Fair Share Fare: The Art of Austerity Measures and Rationing”

According to the World Health Organization (2016), “Food is our most powerful narrative”. World food systems account for up to 29% of global greenhouse gas emissions through production, distribution, processing and waste (Vermeulen et al 2012). While ensuring adequate nutrition is a key principle of food security in Australia and globally (cc UNSDG 2015), climate change and the likely resulting disaster scenarios present new and increasing challenges for future food systems, governments and communities. There is now a “greater awareness of balancing the need to feed a growing population and maintaining environmental integrity”, whilst, considering the “social aspects of how people interact with food” (PMSEIC 2010) now and into the future. Therefore, food is a timely, familiar and critical topic in addressing climate change. In this presentation, I will discuss Fair Share Fare, a practice-led research and public engagement project exploring some of the emergent and localised issues of food and water security in Victoria (and more broadly, Australia), within the context of the future and disaster preparedness. At Arts House’s REFUGE 24-hour disaster simulation, artists Jen Rae and Dawn Weleski presented a delightfully disturbing take on food distribution and regulation systems, exploring historical, contemporary (and inevitably) future food rationing. Through a data generation model and series of ‘austerity measures’, community members were confronted, challenged and activated to consider how privilege, vulnerability and resilience may shift in the face of an imagined, but possible future disaster scenario.

Bio(s):

Dr Jen Rae is a Canadian Métis (Indigenous)/Australian artist-researcher engaged in the discursive field of contemporary environmental art and a scholar in arts-based environmental communication. Her creative practice and research interests include humour and visual literacy in environmental communication, transdisciplinary collaborative methodologies, and ecological futures thinking. Jen works across media including large-scale drawing, installation, performance, animation and public art. She is the Co-founder and Director of The Riparian Project, a public art initiative that aims to influence a shift in livestock grazing to improve river health; and the co-founder of Fair Share Fare with American artist Dawn Weleski. Jen is a lecturer at VCA, University of Melbourne.

Yoshihiro Seki (Kwansei University)*

“Recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake; the Sufferers are divided into various dimensions”

In this article, we discuss what situation the sufferers of the Great East Earthquake are struggling with. The areas affected by this disaster are very diverse. So, we should not understand the situation of these areas through the simple dichotomy of center/periphery. In these areas, there are actually many lines which mark the boundary between center and periphery. Thus, we cannot simply mark the point where peripheries are controlled by the center. And we cannot decide which way of reconstruction and recovery is best.
**Bio(s):**

Dr. Seki is a Professor at Kwansei Gakuin University in Japan. His research focuses on the role of volunteer in the contemporary societies, especially, in the revitalization from the disaster. The Great Hanshin Earthquake (1995) had impact on his research. After the earthquake, he came to be sociologically interested in the volunteer. In his book "Borantia Kara Hirogaru Kouyoukukan (in Japanese) (Spreading Public Sphere through the Volunteer Activities), the volunteer activity is considered as the opportunities for people to engage in their own societies. And he is interested in the revitalization from the disaster, too. So, he is going to the disaster areas (Tohoku, Nigata, Kumamoto...etc.) as both researcher and volunteer.

Yingying Sun (Sichuan University)*

“Methodological consideration on video devices used in disaster risk mitigation”

In social science activities, it is difficult to objectively record the behavior of research subjects without exerting any influence. Based on this primary condition, this study proposes to transform such influence to beneficial factors which can backup and support research activities. Action research applied in this study is such an approach which aims at utilizing the profitable influence brought by video devices and questions the traditional scientific research stance of objectively observing research subjects. The authors suggest a new approach called the “single-person drill” in a tsunami-prone community, Kochi, Japan. Results of drill participants are video recorded and then edited on a piece of multi-screen movie, with which tsunami simulation animation is overlaid. Through co-producing and co-watching of the movie with participants, the authors found that three types of “mutual effects” could be expected. Firstly, using video devices in research can make research subjects aware of the “shooting situation” and could be encouraged to perform positive actions for the action research. Secondly, relationship between photographers and research subjects might exert influence on the result of action research, to be positively or negatively. Thirdly, video devices have the functions to cultivate the “birds-eye maps” and “worms-eye maps” on both sides of researchers and research subjects.

**Bio(s):**

Dr. Yingying Sun is an Associate Professor in Information at the Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction (IDMR), Sichuan University-The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Dr. Sun continues to do action research to promote risk awareness in communities and to develop disaster education tools at schools. Dr. Sun’s study includes disaster risk mitigation, response and recovery based on research in Japan (earthquake, tsunami, and flood), Mexico (earthquake, tsunami), China (earthquake, landslide, flood), Taiwan (earthquake, typhoon), and Australia (cyclone, flood).

Akhilesh Surjan (Charles Darwin University)*; Jonatan Lassa (Charles Darwin University)

“Urbanization and cultural (mis)understandings of disasters?”

Urbanization is most profoundly attributed to ‘mobility of people from rural area’. Rapid pace or urbanization is being observed in most cities of Asia and Africa in the recent decade. In addition to swelling population, complex web of infrastructure, services and networks collectively defines ‘culture of cities’.
High-concentration of people in cities of developing countries often pushes poor, marginalized and unskilled rural folks to vulnerable pockets, deprive them of opportunities of cultural integration, cultivates culture of living with often-unfamiliar risks and increases exposure to everyday urban stresses.

This paper will highlight how 'cultural understanding of disasters' brought by the new migrants is ignored in a city fabric due to the peril’s of urbanization. Addressing greater exposure of cities to wide array of disasters requires a paradigm shift from techno-centric perspective to the one, which is solidly built with greater cultural confluence. Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) is paramount in preparing for, responding to and recover from impending threats to cities better. This paper will argue that people mobility in urban settings with greater recognition of cultural interpretation of risk will be key to resilient cities and communities.

Bio(s):
Dr. Akhilesh Surjan is an Associate Professor / Research & Theme Leader of Humanitarian, Emergency and Disaster Management Studies at Charles Darwin University. For the past 20 years he has been engaged with issues of climate and disaster risk reduction and urban sustainability, including work in the United Nations, academic, non-governmental and government institutions in Asia-Pacific region.

Stephen Sutton (Charles Darwin University)*

“Patchy Transmission of Disaster Risk Reduction Information. What do you know about the effective DRR behaviours of remote communities in Arnhem Land and Indonesia?”

While globalization seems to aid ever-increasing access to information and cultural mobility, in the natural disaster field there is evidence that the transmission of information that could improve disaster risk reduction between cultures is, at best, patchy.

This paper examines some examples of the perception and practices around disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the varying degree to which effective DRR behaviours have bridge geographic and cultural barriers. The research examines two case studies; one in remote Aboriginal communities in western Arnhem Land and on Simeulue Island in Aceh Province in Indonesia. These studies indicate that the penetration of disaster communication from government into remote communities is inconsistent, while at the same time effective local DRR behaviours have not translated or been adopted in broader contexts.

Some underlying causes for this inconsistent mobility of DRR information are discussed. They include structural communication barriers in bureaucracies resulting from their colonial origins, linguistic and cultural prejudices in media about disasters, including the focus losses. One final, speculative, cause may be centred on the individual; this is the degree to which acceptance of lessons about DRR are part of a person’s coherence – who they think they are and what information they act upon.

Bio(s):
Stephen (Steve) Sutton enjoyed a long career in the Northern Territory public sector, finishing his time there as Director of Bushfires NT. This small fire and emergency management organisation is tasked with reducing the impact of wildfires across 1/6 th of the continent. This includes the urban/rural interface of the Territory’s largest city, Darwin, which is situated in a tropical savanna with an annual fire regime. In this
role Steve worked with volunteers and staff to manage the impacts of bushfires, cyclones and floods. He noticed persistent patterns of failure in risk communication resulting in consequent failures in disaster risk reduction (DRR). That is – ‘no matter what we tried, most people fail to prepare for disasters’. The burning question of ‘why’ led to his enrolment in a PhD project examining the cultural drivers of DRR behaviour.

**Mikako Suzuki** (Keio University and the University of South Australia)*

“On cosmopolitan solidarity”

This presentation attempts to theoretically examine what is the condition for cosmopolitan solidarity and transnational support when disaster causes human suffering. Because of the expansion of globalization and its effects on the way people and objects move about the world, disaster can no longer only be seen as a domestic or territorially bounded event. For example, the global media can facilitate the generation of a ‘popular cosmopolitan solidarity’, which transforms national citizens into global citizens by creating a sense of obligation towards people suffering outside their own nation. It can be said that the images of disasters through the media stimulate compassionate feelings toward distant others and individuals come to imagine the invisible tie between oneself and others. However, the issue is not presumably quite that simple in reality. If so, how do we think about the condition of solidarity for disaster relief activities? To address the question, I appraise contemporary cosmopolitan theory, especially the recent debates concerning ‘new cosmopolitanism’. ‘New cosmopolitanism’ has criticized previous discussions about cosmopolitanism that have not provided a clear account of what could underpin cosmopolitan solidarity. Through an examination of the arguments, I’ll postulate what the foundation of cosmopolitan solidarity and cooperation for human suffering could be.

**Bio(s):**

Mikako Suzuki is a PhD candidate at University of South Australia and Keio University. She is doing double PhD between University of South Australia and Keio University. She specializes in social theory concerning cosmopolitanism and globalization. Her research interests include cosmopolitanism as a theory to deepen our understandings of this highly globalized world. Her recent publications include ‘Cosmopolitanism as a New Alternative in the Globalisation Era: Examining Its Actuality and Difficulty’ (The Journal of Studies in Contemporary Social Theory, vol. 8, in Japanese) and ‘Economic Globalization and State Transformation: Why State Is Driven to Neoliberal Policies?’ (Studies in Sociology, Psychology and Education: Inquiries into Humans and Societies, vol. 79, in Japanese).

**Shinya Uekusa** (University of Auckland)*

“Methodological Challenges in Disaster Research: Reflections on Studies in Canterbury and Tohoku”

This paper discusses some of the methodological challenges I have encountered while conducting qualitative work on the experiences of immigrants, refugees and linguistic minorities in the 2010-2011 Canterbury and Tohoku disasters. This paper highlights: 1) institutional practices, 2) linguistic barriers, 3) timing (the gap between when researchers want to interview and when victims are willing to talk), and 4)
issues of over-researching and over-representation. These challenges led to a critical methodological and theoretical question: are we really reaching out to the socially vulnerable in disasters? As scholars suggest, some groups are socially vulnerable and resilient simultaneously, partially because they have better social capital. Previous empirical research on disasters shows that those with higher social capital demonstrate stronger resilience. Such “success stories” are widely known. Here a concern is raised: is this because researchers may more easily connect with these resilient communities? Due to their lack of social capital, some groups remain hard to reach, or are not researched even though we could learn a great deal from the ways in which they experience vulnerability. Regrettably these groups are far less likely to be included in discussions of policymaking and disaster mobility.

Bio(s):

Shinya Uekusa is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Auckland (department of sociology). His main research interest is social vulnerability and resilience in disasters, focusing on immigrants, refugees and linguistic minorities in Canterbury, New Zealand and Tohoku, Japan.

Brad West (University of South Australia)*

“Disaster, Risk and Cosmopolitan Nationalism”

Representing a broader turn in the understanding of globalisation, Ulrich Beck and Daniel Levy (2013) have recently argued that the ‘cosmopolitan nation’ is an important characteristic of world risk society. This paper attempts to advance their “cosmopolitan realist” approach focussed on national interests by identifying the key discursive and ritual processes through which cosmopolitan nationalism emerges in the aftermath of foreign and transnational disasters. This will be illustrated by comparing the different “distant suffering” narrative responses in the United States and Australian public spheres to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. While it is now over a decade since the tsunami hit, it remains a strategic case study in being the first disaster dominated by amateur digital footage and for eliciting the largest international humanitarian response of any disaster in history.

Bio(s):

Brad West is a sociologist and Associate Head of School (Research) in the School of Communication, International Studies and Languages at the University of South Australia. Working largely within the perspective of cultural sociology his research focuses on the intersections between cultural trauma, collective memory and nationalism. While he started publishing on collective responses to disasters in the mid-1990s, his recent scholarship in the area has concerned the narration and commemoration of transnational disasters, in particular outlining the conditions under which more cosmopolitan recognition of the ‘other’ emerges.
Angharad Wynne-Jones (Arts House)*

“Arts House: Curating and Implementing the ‘REFUGE’ project”

Until recently, arts and environmental conversations and projects were focused mostly within the paradigm of sustainability, an assumption that behaviour change would produce a balance, but this perception has now changed; to an understanding that the impacts of climate change and the Anthropocene are now the condition under which we live. In this age, artistic protest, illustration and demonstration are being forcibly shifted into the space of adaptation, resilience and preparedness. REFUGE is a collaborative interdisciplinary investigation into the role of art and culture in preparedness, specifically looking at the role of an urban cultural centre as a physical place of refuge. Devised by Arts House in Melbourne, REFUGE is a 5 year project that transforms the buildings into an Emergency Relief Centre through a disaster simulation model, over a 24hr period – led by artists and open to the public. The initiative enables artists and disaster management professionals to work with local, regional and international communities to devise responses to climactic disaster scenarios through commissioning and developing work that is contemporary, experimental and participatory. An Australian first, REFUGE is where art can enable people to consider risk and disaster scenarios beyond the newspaper image; to being a purposeful practice of empathy and trust

Bio(s):

Angharad Wynne-Jones is Artistic Director at Arts House, where she developed Dance Massive as a dance festival of international reputation, initiated the Festival of Live Art - Australia’s first international biennial festival of live art, and Going Nowhere – an international event exploring ways in which we can sustainably develop international arts projects. Angharad’s career in the experimental arts includes the roles of Artistic Director, founding CEO and Associate Director of venues (Performance Space, Arts House), arts companies (Chunky Move, TippingPoint Australia) and national festivals (Adelaide Festival) and international festivals (LIFT). She has been on a number of Boards and Panels: Australia Council Hybrid, New Media and Dance Boards, Lucy Guerin Inc, Real Time, Snuff Puppets and Total Theatre (UK). She studied Cultural Leadership (Grad Dip) at the City University, London and is chair of Mobile States and is co-designing and teaching the inaugural Cultural Leadership course at National Institute of Dramatic Art in 2016.

Honggang Xu (Sun Yat-sen University)*

“The dark heritage tourism: a potential tool to learn from disaster?”

Within the increasing mobilities, both in terms of human mobilities and information mobilities, the pattern of temporal and spatial effects of disasters is dramatically undergoing changes. Most of the current studies have been focusing on effect of mobile technology on information mobilities of disasters, indicating a more rapid and intense pattern. The recent rising trends of establishment of dark heritage site and the growing number of dark heritage tourism show another pattern of disaster mobilities. The dark heritage sites attempt to memorize the disasters and then attract tourists and their potential effects can be extended to far away places and in the long run. Through the study in Wenchuang earthquake site, the study attempts to explore how the dark heritage sites are socially and cultural constructed and what tourists experience at the tourist sites. The opportunities and challenges of using dark heritage as a tool in improving the understanding of the disaster is also explored.
Bio(s):

Professor Honggang Xu, Ph.D. School of Tourism Management, Sun Yat-sen University. She obtained Bachelor of Geography (1988), Peking University, China; Master and Ph.D. from Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand (1999). Servicing as associate editor of *Tourism geographies* and editorial board member of *Mobilities, Applied mobilities, tourism management, Asian Journal of Tourism research*. She is the vice chairman of Chinese tourism geography commission and member of Tourism and recreation committee of International geography union. Her interests are mainly in tourism geography studies, including the tourism lifestyle mobilities, sustainable tourism development and tourism planning. She has published over 100 journal papers both inside Chin and international journals.

Caroline Zickgraf (the University of Liège)*

“Migration, Immobility and Transnational Disaster Relief”

The transnational lens steps away from methodologically nationalist understandings of the migration experience by considering how societies and social spaces are not necessarily encapsulated by national boundaries. In terms of migration, a transnational approach has the ability to incorporate the immobile and mobile (migrants and non-migrants) within its grasp. Indeed, transnationalism has been applied to a variety of migrant national and ethnic groups, especially as it pertains to labor migration. However, it is seldom applied to a) the study of environmental migration, and b) disaster sociology. In order to remedy these lacunae, this contribution relies on both desk research as well as qualitative data collected in Southeast Asia and West Africa during the EU-funded HELIX project (High-End Climate Impacts and eXtremes) and the IMMOBILE project (IMMOBILity and the Environment), funded by the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS). We approach disasters firstly as they affect (im)mobility outcomes, not just those who are displaced but also those who are forced to stay, or ‘trapped in transit’. Secondly, we look at how international migrants mobilize (or do not) when disasters strike their countries of origin/descent, citing such examples as the Haitian diaspora’s repeated disaster relief efforts.

Bio(s):

Dr. Zickgraf’s research focuses on the migratory impacts of climate change on coastal populations, transnationalism, and (im)mobility in West Africa and Southeast Asia. Currently, she is conducting the research project ‘IMMOBILE’, which analyzes populations ‘trapped’ or who choose to stay in areas affected by environmental changes and their relationships with those who go. In addition to her research, she has consulted for the World Bank, the Nansen Initiative, ICMPD, and FAO on the links between climate change and migration. In 2016, she began leading ULg in the ‘EDGE’ (Environmental Diplomacy and Geopolitics) project, funded by the European Commission. She also lectures on migration, environment, and ecopolitics at Sciences Po-Paris, Paris 13, and IHECS.