

Innovative Networks in Disaster Management

Interorganizational Cooperation after Tsunami 2004 South India

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Problem Statement

The global increase of natural disasters challenges governments, NGOs and private companies with the need to improve coordination and cooperation of heterogeneous actors in disaster management (UNISDR 2005) in

- less developed countries and
- highly industrialized countries

Methods & Aim

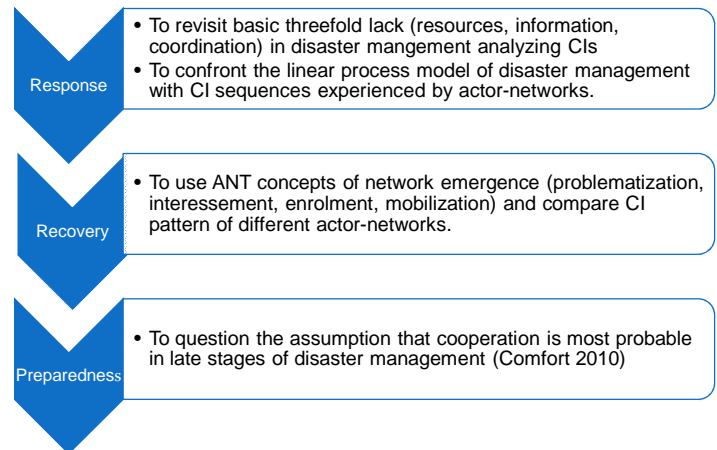
An actor-network perspective can help to understand and improve network dynamics between heterogeneous actors from local to global level.

In a sample of 3 disaster management networks after Tsunami 2004 in India, network emergence, coordination and communication are investigated to reveal typical pattern around critical incidents.

Theoretic Approach: Actor-Network Theory (ANT)

Organizational and technical actors are analyzed in network formation processes. ANT explains non-linear dynamics and reconstructs multiactors' strategies of disaster management. Combined with Critical Incident Technique (CIT) and document analysis concepts for interorganizational cooperation beyond hierarchic leadership are derived.

Process Study – Critical Incident Technique using ATLAS.ti



Network formation strategies in Disaster Management?

Some actor-networks in disaster management actor-networks realize innovations in relief and health care as (a) the inclusion of unusual actors or (b) the realization of unusual project activities (c) sustainable solutions for local problems . Which network dynamics and strategies make for cases?

Expected Outcome

Research	Practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to dynamic network approaches • Application of actor-network theory in disaster management research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to improve leadership in organizations of disaster management (Humanitarian/ Healthcare) • Contribution to interorganizational cooperation in „managing the unexpected“ (Weick 2007)