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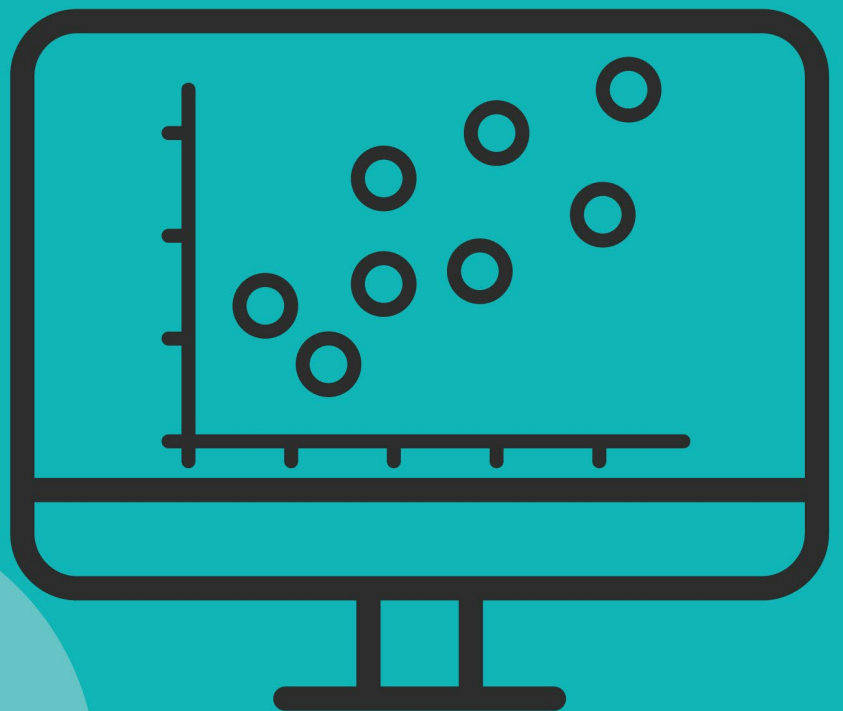
Lecture

Series

3rd

Date: 27 February 2023
Time: 12:00 pm (UTC)
Lecturer: Prof. David Alexander

Title: Cascades, Complexity and Intersectionality:
Towards a Redefinition of Disaster Science



Guest Lecturer



Prof. David Alexander

David Alexander is Professor of Risk and Disaster Reduction at University College London. He has taught emergency planning and management for 43 years. His books include "Natural Disasters", "Confronting Catastrophe", "Principles of Emergency Planning and Management", "Recovery from Disaster" (with Ian Davis) and "How to Write an Emergency Plan". He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, and Vice-President of the Institute of Civil Protection and Emergency Management. His research interests centre on disaster risk reduction, natural hazards and earthquake disasters. He is currently writing a new book on emergency management, a companion to his recent emergency planning volume. David Alexander is presently working for the UK Government on risk management issues. He holds subsidiary academic appointments in Sweden, Portugal, Switzerland and Japan.

Abstract

We live in networked societies with a high and increasing dependency on critical infrastructure that is susceptible to failure during disasters. As a result, almost all significant disaster impacts nowadays have cascading consequences at a variety of geographical scales (the panarchy effect). A strongly related problem is the need to deal with concurrent, coincident and connected impacts, for example, simultaneous earthquake and pandemic. This talk considers the new and future reality of disaster risk reduction and emergency response. Theory is our road map during disasters as it can help us to understand and resolve complex problems. However, the development of theory has failed to keep pace with the evolution of society and technology. The talk will propose new developments in disaster theory, particularly related to the interpretation of complex situations and cascading effects. We need to pay far more attention to the role of context in generating disasters. In this sense, specific vulnerability (e.g. to particular natural hazards) is encapsulated within general vulnerability (to the rigours of modern life). In the modern era many fundamental concepts are being called into question. These include sovereignty, welfare and migration. With climate change, emerging risks and environmental depredation, momentous changes lie ahead. To understand them, we need to develop a theory of intersectionality, as applied to the root causes of disaster, the events that precipitate it and the context in which vulnerability, risk and impact occur. Theoretical observations will be illustrated with reference to current and recent disasters.



Zoom & Time

<https://kyoto-u-edu.zoom.us/j/87348101351?pwd=VEFxMDFabkcxNE40RWICZDZoVIZaQT09>

Meeting ID: 873 4810 1351
Passcode: 093602

Time Zone	Time
UTC	12:00 pm
CET	13:00 pm
IST	17:30 pm
JST	21:00 pm