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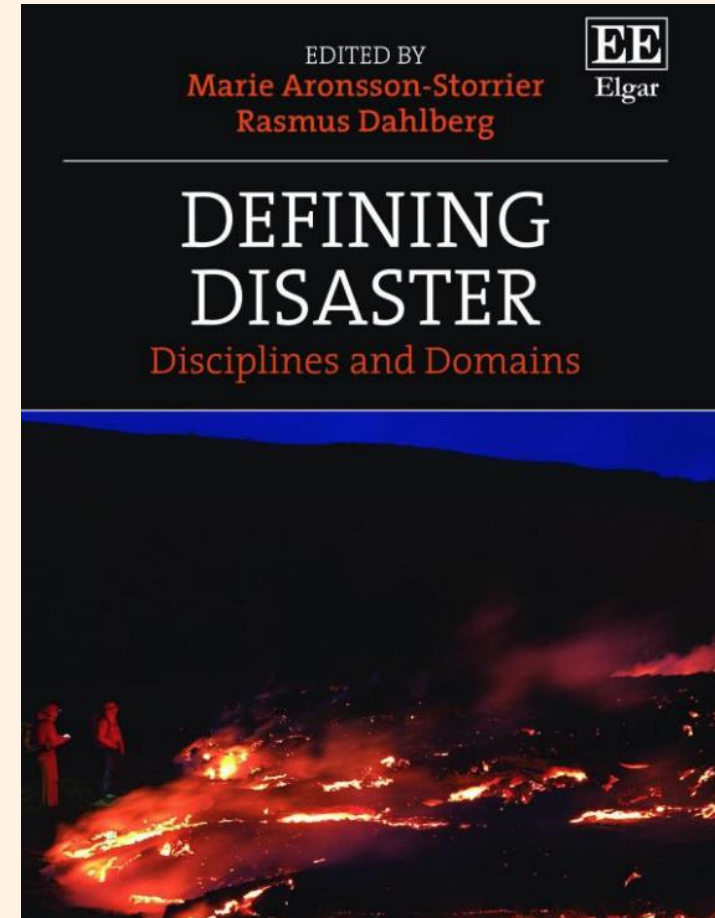
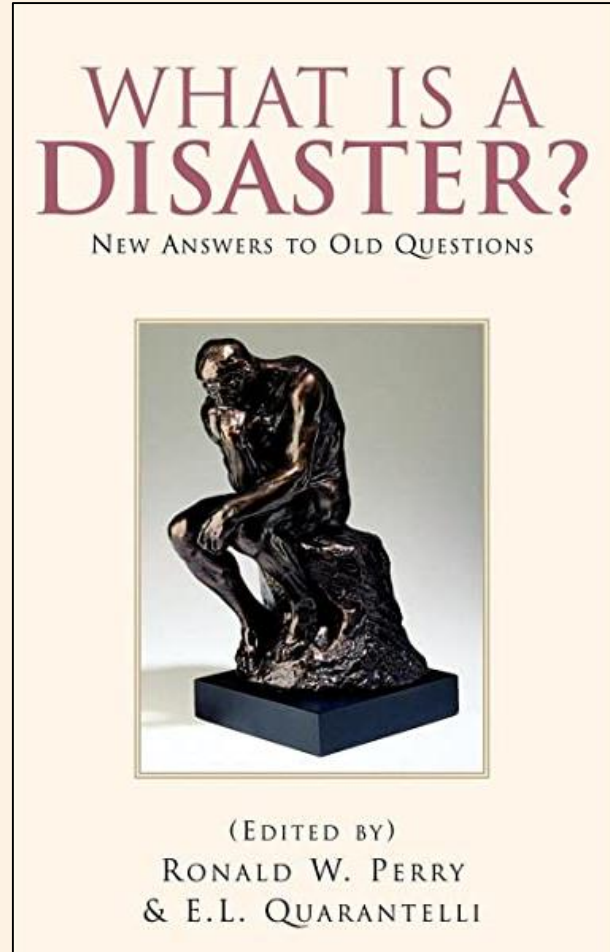
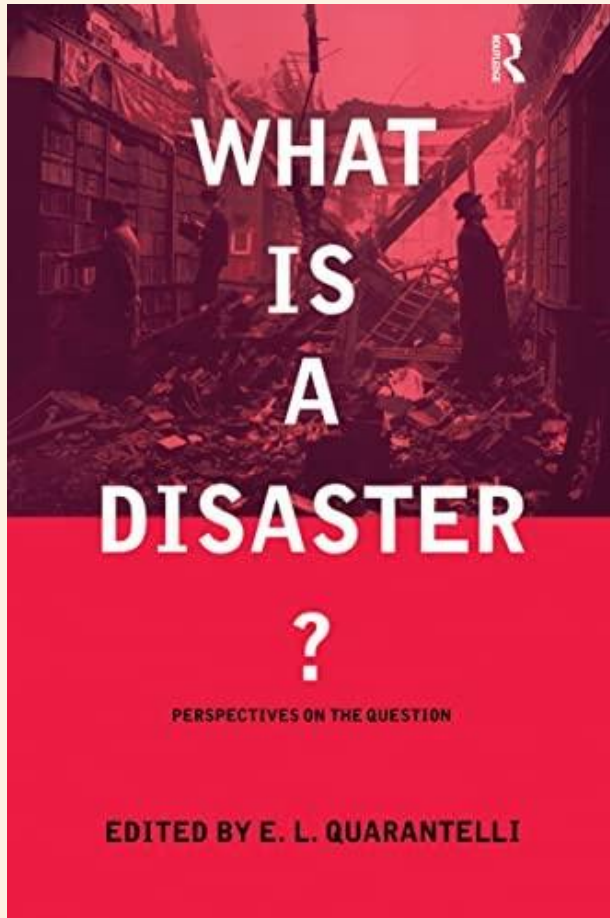
**THE ARCTIC
UNIVERSITY
OF NORWAY**

The changing nature of crises and disasters

Reidar Staupe-Delgado – Associate Prof.



The concept of disaster



The concept of disaster

«An **event, concentrated in time and space**, in which a society or a relatively self-sufficient subdivision of a society undergoes severe danger and incurs such losses to its members and physical appurtenances that **the social structure is disrupted and the fulfilment of all or some of essential functions of the society is prevented** (Fritz 1961, p. 655).»

The concept of disaster

«**A sudden, calamitous event** that seriously disrupts the functioning of a community or society and causes human, material, and economic or environmental losses that exceed the community's or society's ability to cope using its own resources. Though often caused by nature, disasters can have human origins.» (IFRC 2020).

A narrow view of disaster



Kompetanse til å møte fremtidige kriser?

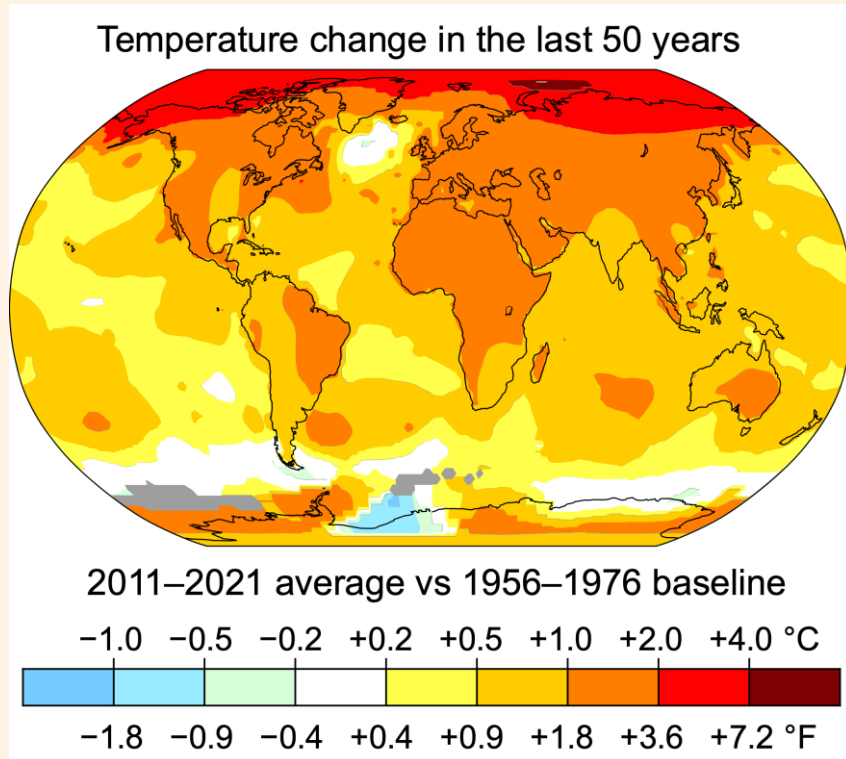
Studer samfunnssikkerhet og miljø eller
internasjonal beredskap ved UIT



What about?



John Hopkins University (2020)



Wikimedia (2022)

GLOBAL

A failure to address the problem of antibiotic resistance could result in:



10m
deaths
by 2050

Costing
£66
trillion

UK Government (n.d.)

We often think about crises and disasters as..

- Acute
- Associated with time pressure (decisive moments?)
- Material destruction
- Wounded and dead people
- Involving "first responders"

How to these situations compare?

- Cost of living crisis
- Microplastics in organisms
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Declining trust in institutions

Example: operational emergency declarations at the WHO-level

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS MEDICINE

Policy Forum

A Call for Action: The Application of the International Health Regulations to the Global Threat of Antimicrobial Resistance

Didier Wernli¹, Thomas Haustein², John Conly², Yehuda C

Monkeypox: WHO declares a public health emergency of international concern

Luke Taylor

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

International Journal of Infectious Diseases

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ijid



ELSEVIER

NEWS EXPLAINER | 22 August 2022

Spate of polio outbreaks worldwide puts scientists on alert

Cases of paralysis in the United States and Israel suggest vaccine-derived poliovirus has infected many people.

Perspective

Is the global measles resurgence a “public health emergency of international concern”?

David N. Durrheim^{a,*}, Natasha S. Crowcroft^b, Lucille H. Blumberg^c



Declare climate a formal emergency?

COLUMBIA | ACADEMIC COMMONS

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2019 REPORTS

What do we mean when we say climate change is urgent?

Wilson, Andrew Jordan; Orlove, Ben

Recent discussions of climate change in multiple domains—the academic literature, the popular press, political movements, and international climate policy regime—have increasingly framed the phenomenon as a “crisis,” an “emergency,” or an “urgent” situation. In this paper, we contextualize the time pressure of climate change in the broader social science literature, perform bibliometric and

MIKE HULME

Climate Emergency Politics Is Dangerous

ular movement over the past year or more years to act” might elicit a grea

Time for WHO to declare climate breakdown a PHEIC?

At the opening plenary of the World Health Assembly in May, 2019, Richard Horton urged member states and the Secretariat of WHO to recognise climate change as a planetary emergency. A few days later, during a side event on air pollution, climate change, oceans, and health sponsored by the Government of Sweden, the Minister of Health for the Seychelles Jean Paul Adam argued that climate change has to be recognised as a public health emergency at the international level. Johan Giesecke¹ once stressed



Bay Ismoyo/Contributor/Getty images

How long can an emergency last?

WHO: COVID-19 Still an International Emergency

The Covid-19 emergency may end, but there's no rule to say when the pandemic is over

By Brenda Goodman, CNN

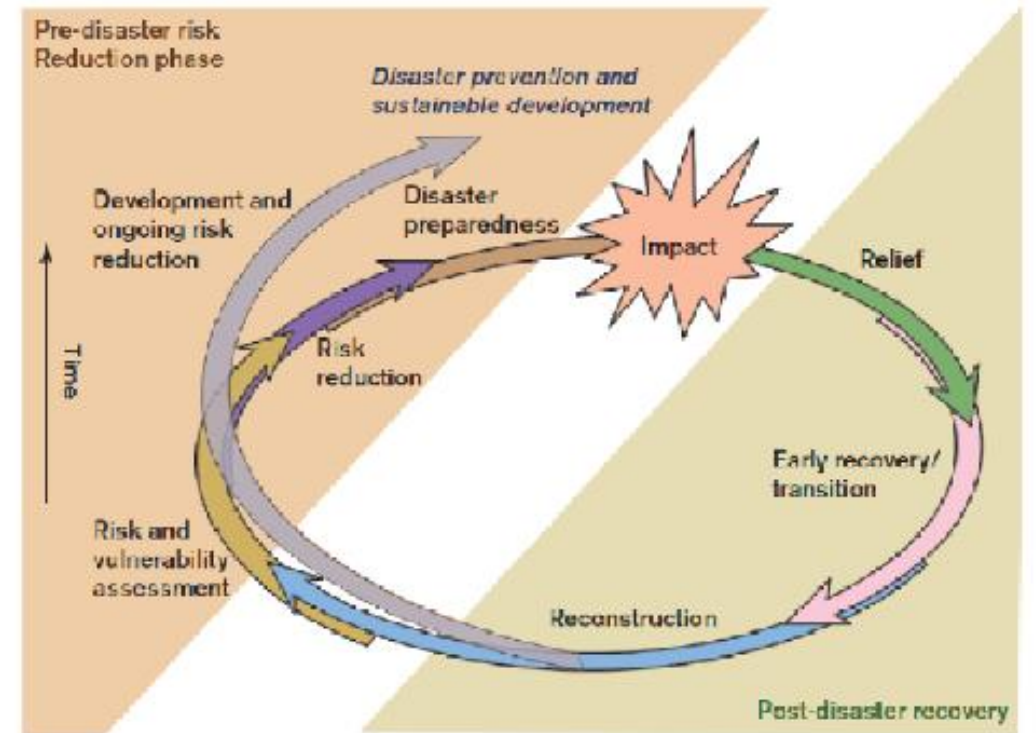
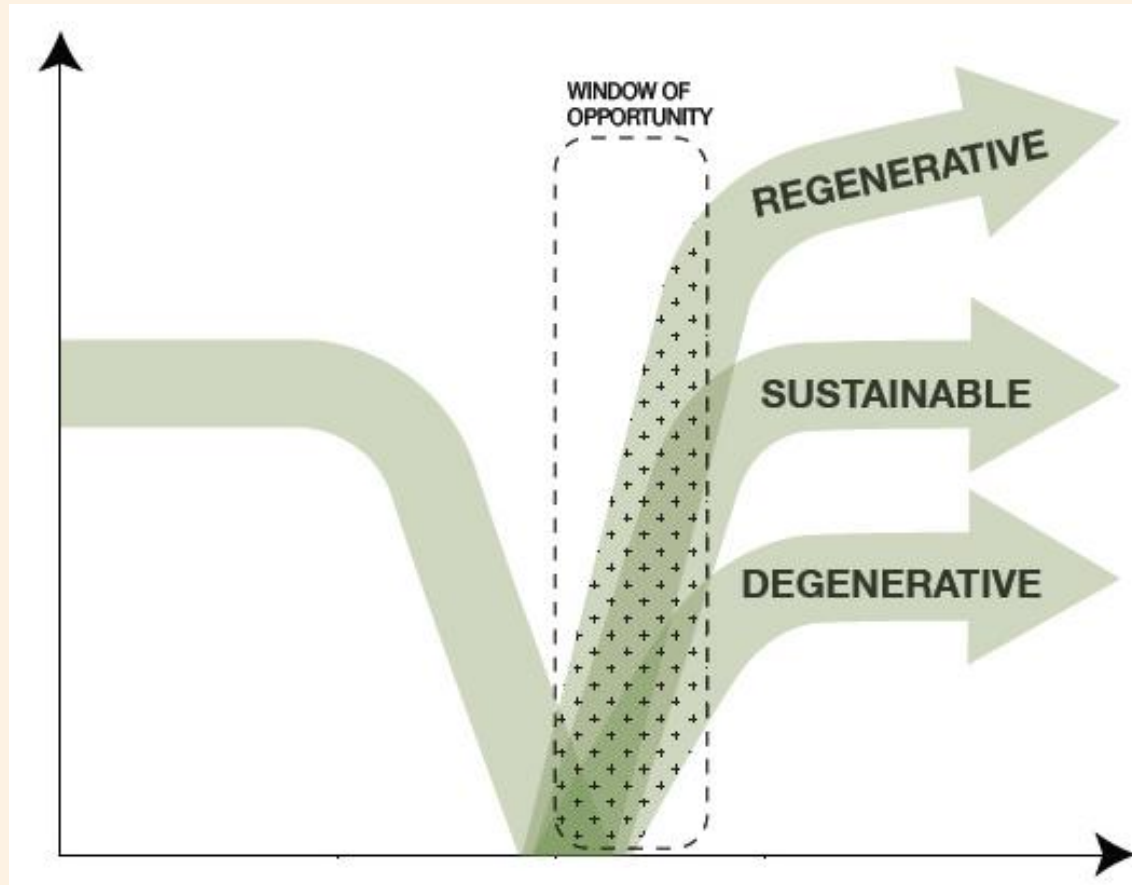
WHO Exploring When and How to Declare End of Covid Emergency

- Public health emergency has been in place since January 2020
- Discussions underway but 'we are not there yet,' agency says

Point of reflection

Does a focus on the eventfulness of «conventional» disasters overshadow more creeping and elusive crises?

Sustainability



The changing nature of crises and disasters

- Phases make less sense (normalcy-impact-aftermath)
- The very existence of a crisis is contested
- Other actors – more complex picture (no «first responders»)
- Bureaucratic and processual responses rather than «termination»
- Outlast our attention span – fade in and out of view
- «Early warning, late response»
- The crisis might not have a clear responsible ministry/agency
- Observable in statistics but not directly through experience
- Difficult to portray in traditional media stories (no clear «story»)

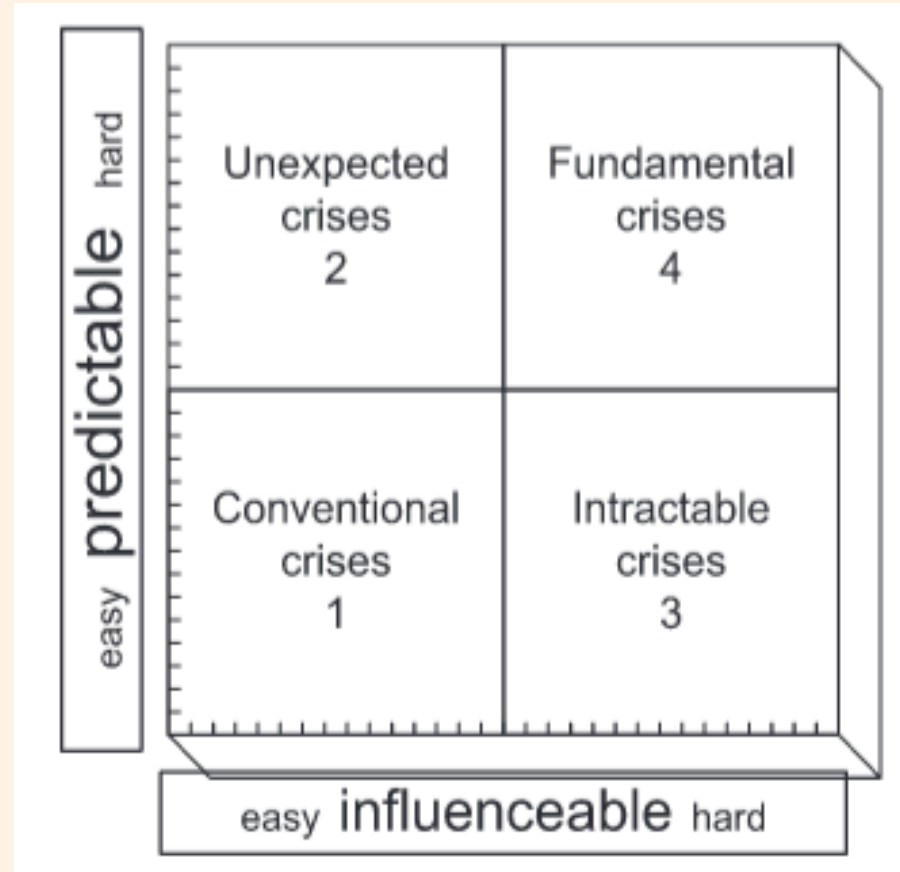
Point of reflection

- Are creeping disasters a game changer or just a sub-challenge within the wider field of disaster risk management?

Crises and disaster increasingly demand..

- Consideration of the «hybrid reality» of crisis (objectivis v. subjective)
- Time-space expansion – ‘transnational crises’ + ‘creeping crises’
- From sense making to meaning making
- Fatigue – *how many simultaneously unfolding crises can the agenda and societal attention spans sustain?*

Kinds of crises (Gundel, 2005)



Implications for societal safety and national disaster risk management

- Govt might increasingly struggle to maintain legitimacy
- Bigger losses and greater response challenges
- Complexity and cascading effects

Thank you

Questions?

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