

## Including the capacity for coping with surprises in post-disaster recovery policies. Reflections on the experience of Tangshan, China

James K. Mitchell

### Abstract

Surprises are characteristic features of many disasters that pose major challenges to theorists as well as practitioners. When surprises occur during the recovery stage of disasters, they can complicate efforts to reestablish order, by introducing new variables that demand attention from societies that are already hardpressed to adjust to a problem-laden environment. The case of Tangshan, China stands as an example of an economic development surprise that permitted decision-makers greater than anticipated latitude to reset and attain post-disaster policy goals.

### Volltext:

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In post-disaster contexts, the potential of email interviews allows researchers to conduct fieldwork even when they cannot obtain face-to-face interviews, or in cases in which participants feel more at ease answering from their home and can take their time to respond. Twelve semi-structured e-mail interviews have been conducted in 2016 with international tourists who visited the Tohoku region, Japan, hit in 2011 by a triple disaster: an earthquake, a tsunami, and a nuclear meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. Political Parties: Political parties do not see disaster risk reduction as an effective platform to obtain votes in part because people are not aware of the risks. In addition, respondents stated that coordination among the different political parties during an emergency is a challenge. District and local government officials are appointed by the central government, which means that they are not representative of the community. Mitigating disasters is the act of addressing vulnerabilities in anticipation of predictable or recurring events to reduce the effects on people, property and the environment. With Nepal's history of natural disasters, investments in mitigation are required to reduce

such anticipated losses. Post-disaster recovery is part of a continuum that begins with actions that happen before the occurrence of an event (known as Early Recovery Planning), to immediate emergency attention and recovery; from humanitarian aid for the victims in order to save lives, to the restoration of a functioning society. In the initial moments, the response institutions focus their efforts on counting the victims and costs of the disaster (assessing losses and damages), 11. • Based on the objectives pursued by recovery: among others, making the territory in-habitable again, ensuring that the public administration is functioning, intervening in the area of public goods and services, and restoring livelihoods. • Based on the existing social and natural threats and their different scenarios. •