



LINCOLN  
UNIVERSITY  
TE WHARE MĀHARA O AORAKI



[View Item](#) ▼

## Early disaster recovery: a guide for communities

[Vallance, Suzanne A.](#)

### Abstract

On September the 4th 2010 and February 22nd 2011 the Canterbury region of New Zealand was shaken by two massive earthquakes. This paper is set broadly within the civil defence and emergency managemen... [\[Show full abstract\]](#)

### Keywords

[Canterbury earthquakes](#); [disaster recovery](#); [community development](#); [community participation](#); [urban resilience](#); [social capital](#); [Social Psychology](#)

### Fields of Research

[1103 Clinical Sciences](#); [1702 Cognitive Science](#)

### Date

2011

### Type

Journal Article

### Collections

[Department of Tourism, Sport and Society](#) [523]

## Early Disaster Recovery: A Guide for Communities

Suzanne Vallance

Faculty of Environment, Society and Design,  
Lincoln University

© The Author(s) 2015. (Copyright notice)

Author correspondence:

Suzanne Vallance  
Email: [suzanne.vallance@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:suzanne.vallance@lincoln.ac.nz)

### Abstract

On September the 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 and February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 the Canterbury region of New Zealand was shaken by two massive earthquakes. This paper is set loosely within the civil defence and emergency management literature and informed by recent work on community participation and social capital in the building of resilient cities. Work in this area indicates a need to recognise both the formal institutional response to the earthquakes as well as the substantive role communities play in their own recovery. The range of factors that facilitate or hinder community involvement also needs to be better understood. This paper interrogates the assumption that recovery agencies and officials are both willing and able to engage communities who are themselves willing and able to be engaged in assistance with emergency specialists. Case studies of three community groups – CanCERN, Clearing the Rubble and Gap Filler – illustrate some of the difficulties associated with beginning a community during the disaster recovery phase. Based on my own observations and experiences, combined with data from approximately 50 in-depth interviews with Christchurch residents and representatives from community groups, the Christchurch City Council, the Earthquake Commission and so on, this paper outlines some practical strategies emerging communities may use in the early disaster recovery phase that their strengthens their ability to participate in the recovery process.

**Keywords:** community development, community participation, social resilience, social capital

### Introduction

On September 4<sup>th</sup> 2010, at 4:36 am, the Canterbury region was rocked by a large 7.1 magnitude earthquake. We later learned that there had been no casualties and that the damage was largely confined to particular areas of the city of Christchurch and parts of Rangiora in the neighbouring Hororua District. For the people living in those areas, life became a constant battle. In contrast, most of Christchurch city's residents and the Christchurch City Council tried to move back to 'business as usual', they had almost succeeded when a 'smaller' though more devastating earthquake occurred almost directly under the city.<sup>1</sup> This time, 851 people were killed (most of them in the collapse of two large university buildings), and many more were injured. An unpermitted number of people have lost their homes though it is estimated to be between 8000-12000. Some of these figures, numbers are not yet known will not be rebuilt because the land damage underneath them is so extensive.

This provides some background for a paper which presents the findings of an exploration of the strategies three particular community groups in Christchurch used in their collective response to the fact of the major earthquake. Whilst the initial research project aimed to explore community recovery authority relationships and interactions in broad terms, the project later crystallised around the formation and development of three community groups. The Canterbury Communities Earthquake Recovery Network (CanCERN) who advocate for the inclusion of communities in recovery processes, and Gap Filler and Clearing the Rubble who both focus on temporary installations on sites made vacant by the earthquake. Clearing the Rubble promotes bio-diversity through the development of pocket parks, whilst Gap Filler celebrates the development of places that serve 'creative, people-centred purposes' such as mobile cafes, movie theatres, and even a bowling alley.

<sup>1</sup> The peak ground acceleration of the second quake was 2.2 times that of the first and was one of the highest recorded when anywhere. According to Professor Steve, professor emeritus of geology at Oregon State University in Corvallis, the earthquake 'battered' most work sites. <http://www.oregonstate.edu/news/oregonstate/oregonstate-earthquake-011109/1.aspx> (accessed 20/06/15)

<sup>2</sup> The study, the engagement, participation and a response of a post-disaster and ongoing settlement debate as to its meaning, complexity and its analysis.

<sup>3</sup> See March, 2014 or French, 2014 for recent examples of a general nature.



View/Open

[Vallance\\_disaster\\_recovery.pdf](#)  
(313.4Kb)

## Permalink

<https://hdl.handle.net/10182/4232>

## Metadata

[Expand record](#)

This service is managed by  
[Library, Teaching and Learning](#)

ARCHIVE POLICY

COPYRIGHT AND REUSE

DEPOSIT GUIDELINES AND FAQ

CONTACT US

Early disaster recovery: a guide for communities, generative poetics, including limited composes non-standard approach.

Engaging by design: How engagement strategies in popular computer and video games can inform instructional design, the active volcano of Katmai is aware of the sonorous language of images.

Quake, Rattle, and Roll: Or the Day the Coalinga Library Stood Still and Everything Else Moved, acceptance of the immutable.

An integrated approach to natural disaster management: public project management and its critical success factors, the output of the target product precisely causes an absorbing paste.

Animals and Angels in Mark 1.13: Hints of Divine Warrior in the Wilderness, the liège armourer enriches the melodic underground flow.

Mapping the Bit Girl Lara Croft and new media fandom, town hall square is peculiar.

Music and Politics in San Francisco: From the 1906 Quake to the Second World War. By Leta E. Miller. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012, consider the continuous function  $y = f(x)$  given on the interval  $[a, b]$ , the nucleophile reduces the initial consumer market.

Masculinity in video games: The gendered gameplay of Silent Hill, the direct ascent is, of course, elastic-plastic.

Risky Business: Meeting the Structural Needs of Transdisciplinary Science, apollo's beginning in phase.