

Disaster studies: The consequences of the historical use of a sociological approach in the development of research.

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Disaster Studies: The Consequences of the Historical Use of a Sociological Approach in the Development of Research

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Abstract: An earlier article discussing the initial days of disaster studies noted that the roots of the applied concerns of research funders led to a pattern of how research was done and what was studied prevails today. However, this paper stresses that a certain sociological orientation and particular scientific ideas implicitly came to permeate much of the early work and many of the observations and findings also indicate that the research approach, initiated with a mixture of applied concerns and basic scientific questions, has had up to now primarily functional consequences on the development of the field of disasters. But the paper concludes with a statement that the field currently needs a further reconceptualization of disaster. It is argued that the impetus for that is more likely to come out of a quest for basic ideas as well as the growing internationalization of disaster studies than from practical concerns.

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