

## **Post-Disaster, Post-Conflict, Post-Crisis? Interdisciplinary Exploration of Governing through 'Post-'**

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University of Warwick

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What is the significance of 'post' in post-disaster, post-conflict and post-crisis, and how might we analyze the similarities in the governmental responses to economic, infrastructural and societal disruption? We contend that, despite disciplinary boundaries which separate the study of war, economy and disaster, important insights can be gained through an interdisciplinary exploration of the way that events are bounded by conceptions of temporality and responsibility. Events are constituted through both anticipation and remembrance. The boundaries of 'before' and 'after' help to formulate events as 'moments' of disruption which punctuate equilibrium and necessitate corrective governance. This is often undertaken with scant regard for the structures that amplify and generate their impact, or their ongoing effects. Slow-burning crises are particularly susceptible to being-made-silent within this frame.

The resilience discourse, which has traversed studies and policies of economy, conflict prevention and disaster management, is paradigmatic with regard to contemporary event-thinking. Resilience imagines a field of action comprised of abstract systems which, when disrupted, can return to equilibrium through corrective action. The moment of the event is concluded, and temporally bounded, when this imagined equilibrium is reconstituted. The crisis becomes 'post-'. Such closure through 'post-' tends to alleviate policymakers from the need to address questions of 'whose disaster', the ongoing experience of effects, ongoing and slow-burning crises, and structural responsibilities for the causation of disaster.

The question of temporalities is interesting, both with regards to the deployment of discrete bounded moments of crisis – and the features of post-conflict, post-disaster and post-crisis which subvert and exceed this rendering. 'Post-' does not quite account for the realities of memory and ongoing experiences of supposedly closed events; public discourses and practices of commemoration can upset the application of bounded limits upon crises, such as memory practices enacted in tension with determinations of reconciliation or claims made upon post-disaster lands contra the maneuvering of 'disaster capitalists'. Events linger on in the era of 'post-', despite efforts to contain them within temporal and conceptual bounds.

Given the potential fruitfulness of an interdisciplinary exploration of the 'post-' in fields of conflict studies, disaster management, political economy and finance, we invite contributions across a broad set of related questions including (but not limited to):

- How do crisis events come to be formulated as discrete and temporary disruptions to ecologies and systems?
- How do remnants of 'post-conflict', 'post-disaster' and 'post-crisis' limit inquiry, imagination and action?
- How does memory consolidate and/or disrupt the performance of governance upon crises?
- What can we learn from silences regarding 'slow burning crises'?
- What relationship between anticipation and remembrance characterizes approaches to crises, disasters and conflict?