



Universe of Disaster Research: Theory, Ethics and Critical Decision Making in transdisciplinary DRR Planning

Rationale of the course:

This course is designed to train students on concerns of ethics, compassion and service beyond self which is much needed in disaster studies. A holistic training in constitutional behaviour in the spirit of rights, responsibilities and relationship to nature, habitats, nonhuman species and duty towards one's neighbourhood and humanity at large.

Objectives:

4. To introduce students to principles of ethics governing human and nonhuman life forms
5. To apprise students on constitutional responsibilities and the legal framework governing rights and responsibilities towards nature and neighbourhood.
6. To train students in the philosophy of service, professional duties and responsible behaviour.

Course Content:

- 5) Ethics in disaster research which helps critical decision required for the captain of a sinking ship. Framework of ethics in dealing with all life forms, desolation, wilderness, biodiversity, moral righteousness of flora and fauna on earth. This section of training in policy formulation is minimally covered in developing the roles, duties, and societal contributions of administrators, scientists, engineers, media and other professionals. Ethics is technical as far as certain written rules demand compliance but it is well beyond the purely technical aspects of research, development, and implementation. It is deeply seated in our relationship with our surroundings, neighbourhood, human and nonhuman lives.
- 6) Disaster Theory as emerging from ancient Indian, Asian and Western Philosophy. Man's progress in history has been attributed to either technology or to elemental forces which were totemistically or animistically embodied as acts of God. The route of progress anthropomorphized divinity and attributed catastrophes as wrath of Gods which justified conquest of nature to harness its powers to serve the ends of mankind. Addressing myths and fallacies, human behaviour, self-Interests, greed and rights of humans and nonhuman species.
- 7) Addressing Philosophical questions in disaster research: Introduction to philosophical schools of Nachiketa and Kautilya on compassion, duty and moral duty, Kant's categorical imperatives, Enlightenment and Romanticist philosophy, Bertrand Russell's principles of social reconstructions, Schumacher to Gandhi in depicting a bucolic simplicity of small village cultures as against the sprawling chaos of a modern city.
- 8) How to address transdisciplinarity in disaster research and its decision making processes. Teaching and training in developing perceptions on risk, vulnerability and resilience. How to design a framework of emergency management by combining computational processes within policy design in the light of situations of scarcity, habitat's carrying capacity and inter/intra generational equity and justice.

Reading list

- Etkin, David., (2015) *Disaster Theory, An interdisciplinary approach to concepts and causes*, 1st edition. Butterworth-Heinemann

- Zack. Naomi, (2010) *Ethics for Disasters*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010 - Philosophy
- Slim,Hugo., (2015) *Humanitarian Ethics, in war and disasters*, C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd; UK ed. Edition
- J. Ramadier, Transdisciplinarity and its challenges: the case of urban studies, *Futures* 36 (2004) this issue, doi: 10.1016/j.futures.2003.10.009.
- J. Thompson Klein, Prospects for transdisciplinarity, *Futures* 36 (2004) this issue, doi: 10.1016/j.futures.2003.10.007.
- Sara Kathleen Geale, (2012) "The ethics of disaster management", *Disaster Prevention and Management: An International Journal*, Vol. 21 Issue: 4, pp.445-462,
- Singh, Amita (2017) *Disaster Law, Emerging Thresholds*, Oxon: Taylor and Francis , (Routledge South Asia ed.)
- Fenton, Natalie (ed.), "New Media, Old News. Journalism & Democracy in the Digital Age", SAGE Publications, London, 2010.
- Kalesics, Monika "Wir müssen Blätter essen", *Die Presse*, Wien, 12 August 2005.
- Moeller, Susan D. "Compassion Fatigue. How the media sell disease, famine, war and death", London, Routledge, 1999.
- Singh, Amita., 2016, "Coastal Ballads and Conservation Ironic: Understanding Implementation Slippages of the CRZ Law", Special article in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.51, Issue No.7,
- Singh, Amita., 2016, "A Journey thorough Smart Cities between Datapolis and Participolis"(Chapter in English) in "Datapolis or Participolis" in Pisani, Francis., "Voyage dans:entre datapolis et participolis" (in French) and, UNESCO Netexplo Publications, Paris.Feb.