

- Peter de Jong** The psychophysiological signature of disgust – Domain specificity and its relationship with psychopathology
- Sylvia Cremer** Pathogen avoidance in insect societies
- Monique Smeets** Chemosensation and disgust
- Disa Sauter** A language with no word for disgust: concepts, perception, and language in Yucatec Maya
- Diana Santos Fleischman** The interaction of disgust and sexual arousal in women: Competition between mating and disease avoidance motivations
- Sherri Widen** Children's understanding of disgust
- Andreas de Block** Disgust and the evolution of symbolic causality
- Josh Tybur** Measurement and theory in disgust sensitivity
- Dan Kelly** Moral disgust and the yuck factor: A case study in selective debunking
- Roger Giner-Sorolla** The original and adapted functionality of unreasoning disgust

Dealing with the Disasters of Others

Closing Conference of the ZiF Research Group 'Communicating Disaster'

Leitung: Jörg Bergmann (Bielefeld), Heike Egner (Klagenfurt) und Volker Wulf (Siegen)

26. – 28. Januar 2012

In the context of the closing conference, most of the fellows involved in the ZiF Research Group 'Communicating Disaster' (2010–2011) forgathered for a final exchange in order to reflect on the research cooperation with a distance of time. The introductory talk, given by Heike Egner (Klagenfurt) and Marén Schorch (Bielefeld) summarised central aspects and discussions of the research year, but mostly argued for a rethinking of disaster research in regard to its blind spots concerning communication. Especially the processes of communication itself have rarely been subject of research so far. With its cooperation, the research group has started to fill this void. The majority of the fellows draw on the first-order definitions of disasters which emerge from the communications and practices of the people involved in disasters, but more second-order concepts such as second-order observation and qualitative methodology are necessary for achieving a comprehensive scholarly understanding of the social and communicative dynamics of these processes of communication. The speakers identified four major fields of research which are thought to be central to such a program. The four sessions of the conference were structured to map these fields.

The first, *Communicating Disaster in Space and Time*, paid attention to the temporal and spatial dimensions of disasters. Both are fundamental aspects of every extreme event since there are always different phases and spatial extents of a disaster that require—while at the same time generating—different strategies and communicative practices. Speaking in terms of second-order observation theory, the differences thus created (differences between before and after an earthquake, for instance, or between areas within and outside of security zones) again produce further differences—for the people affected, the disaster managers, for the bystanders and observers, the media etc. The first keynote, given by Valerie November (Paris) addressed the "spatiality of risk", the complex interrelation between space and risk as one aspect of disaster communication. November departs from the conventional view that looks at how a certain territory can be defined as a low or high risk area, but argues that the construction of various types of risks can just as much influence the transformation of spaces. One practical application of this understanding of risk communication was demonstrated in Michael Bründl's (Davos) presentation about the visualisation of hazards and risk by maps in Swiss communities. Another example



- Ilkka Arminen (Helsinki)
 Gabriel Arnold (Leipzig)
 Ruth Ayaß (Klagenfurt)
 Benigno C. Balgos (Manila)
 Marie-Luise Beck (Berlin)
 Benedikt Birkhäuser (Wuppertal)
 Philippe Blanchard (Bielefeld)
 Michael Bründl (Davos)
 Monika Büscher (Lancaster)
 Barbra Campbell (Epping)
 Dominik Collet (Göttingen)
 Andrew Collins (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)
 Christoph Dennenmoser (Laufenburg)
 Wolf R. Dombrowsky (Berlin)
 Carsten Felgentreff (Osnabrück)
 Frank Friedrich (Wuppertal)
 Reinhold Friedrich (Bonn)
 Michael Guggenheim (London)
 Nalaka Gunawardene (Sri Lanka)
 Stephan Habscheid (Siegen)
 Nicolai Hannig (München)
 Helmut Hauptmeier (Siegen)
 Holger Herkle (Duisburg)
 Sarah Hitzler (Bielefeld)
 Matthias Hofmann (München)
 Katharina Inheteven (München)
 Ryotaro Kajimura (Bielefeld)
 Stefan Kaufmann (Freiburg i. Br.)

for risk communication was taken from a comparative study about public warnings for major floods in Mozambique 2000 and Germany 1997, analysed by Elísio Macamo (Basel) and Dieter Neubert (Bayreuth) in reference to the integration of local knowledge in expert knowledge with respect to public flood warnings and the degree of mistrust or mutual trust involved. The temporal dimension of disasters and what we can learn from a historical example, a “slow motion disaster” such as the smoke pollution in urban-industrial Britain was impressively exemplified by Stephen Mosley (Leeds).

Next to the academic presentations, the conference opening was also staged the great presentation of the first results from the art project *Out of the sandbox—Frederick’s disaster scenarios and emergency provisions* by the team Xperiment (Michael Guggenheim, London; Bernd Kraeftner, Judith Kröll and Isabel Warner, all Wien), which accompanied the research group over its active year. Their work started off with naïve curiosity about disasters, engendering the central questions: What kinds of disasters should we be prepared for and what can emergency provision look like? Conventional methods of disaster forecasting are based on delphi methods and on expert assessments; they are language-dependent, and don’t provide for social alternatives. To avoid these limitations, the research group ‘shared inc./Xperiment’ used psychotherapeutic and military-strategic approaches to develop a sandbox as a simulation instrument, and tested it with the participants of the research group ‘Communicating Disaster’ in 2011. Now, some of the results of this experiment—emergency provisions for different disaster scenarios—were explained in a presentation and guided tours to the wide range of objects exhibited throughout the building of the ZiF were offered.

The second day started with another major topic: the analysis of *Media and the Micro Orders of Disaster*. Picking up the title of the conference, Ruth Ayaß (Klagenfurt) paid attention to the important question how the disastrousness of the disaster of others is (also) created through the visualisations of the disaster, widely spread by the media (here: photographs of the threefold disaster in Japan in March 2011). The media analysis proved that these photographs illustrate the deconstruction of order due to a disaster while adhering to a special, inherent kind of order in the composition itself. Another aspect of order and a further blind spot in disaster research was discussed by Stephan Habscheid (Siegen) in his socio-linguistic analysis of situated texts and geosemiotic resources that can largely contribute to the understanding of communicative processes of disasters and risk regarding the dimensions of social practices, space, time and identities (our own as well as those of others). The second keynote, given by Nalaka Gunawardene (Sri Lanka), stressed the importance of emphatic journalism and training for journalists and disaster managers for coping adequately with the explosion of information and the time pressure involved, the growing influence of “citizen journalism” (providing grassroots information) and the usage of new ICTs (information and communication technology) such as blogs, social media etc.

The latter also bridged to the focus of the third session—*Technologies and Social Media for Dealing with Disasters*—which was opened by the presentation of Monika Büscher, Lisa Wood and Sung-Yueh Perng (all Lancaster) about public crisis response. This contribution shifted the attention even more from the observer’s perspective to self-organised, “altruistic and agile” public responses via social media like twitter and discussed the potential of these forms of engagement for supporting, but also endangering professional efforts of disaster management. Kate Starbird (Boulder) elaborated this topic by explaining and discussing some outstanding examples for digital volunteerism that illustrate how digital volunteers around the world cooperated for crisis mapping (like Ushahidi and OpenStreetMap) and how these forms of self-organisation even emerged into virtual crisis response organisations like Humanity Road. The two following presentations concentrated more on the process of designing technology in a way that is ade-

Andrea Kavanaugh (Blacksburg, VA)
 Ilan Kelman (Oslo)
 Thomas Kox (Berlin)
 Bernd Kräffner (Wien)
 Judith Kröll (Wien)
 Peter Ladkin (Bielefeld)
 Christoph Lamers (Münster)
 Antonia Langhof (Hannover)
 Thomas Ley (Meiningen)
 Daniel F. Lorenz (Berlin)
 Elísio Macamo (Basel)
 Matthias Max (Berlin)
 Andreas Metzner-Szigeth (Münster)
 Stefan Morley (Lübeck)
 Stephen Mosley (Leeds)
 Dieter Neubert (Bayreuth)
 Valerie November (Lausanne)
 Sung-Yueh Perng (Lancaster)
 Marla Petal (New York, NY)
 Valentin Rauer (Frankfurt am Main)
 Norbert Reez (Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler)
 Tilmann Rhode-Jüchtern (Jena)
 Jakob Rhyner (Bonn)
 Gebhard Rusch (Siegen)
 Marén Schorch (Bielefeld)
 Ulrike Schröder (Bielefeld)
 Anita Schroven (Bielefeld)
 Stefan Schulz (Frankfurt am Main)
 Rena Schwarting (Bielefeld)
 Kate Starbird (Boulder, CO)
 Gunnar Stevens (Siegen)
 Stefan Strohschneider (Jena)
 Birgit Velte (Berlin)
 Hendrik Vollmer (Bielefeld)
 Martin Voss (Berlin)
 Tricia Wachtendorf (Newark, DE)
 Angela Wagner (Mainz)
 Ska Wiltschek (Lollar-Odenhausen)
 Lisa Wood (Lancaster)
 Michele Wood (Fullerton, CA)



Exhibit of the ‘Emergency Provisions’,
 Group Xperiment!



quate for the users' needs and communicative habits: Gunnar Stevens (Siegen) reflected on user centred design of smart grid security—future energy networks that integrate or utilise ICT. On a methodological level, the designing process pays attention to the spatial and temporal asymmetry of knowledge and perceives the user as a 'human actor' rather than a 'human factor' such as in traditional design concepts. A quite similar understanding was demonstrated by Stefan Morley of Dräger Safety AG who illustrated industrial safety research by explaining central aspects of two applications from the area of (first) responders: fire fighter localisation systems (designed in cooperation with Siegen University) and infrared cameras. However, there is still a distinct need for more research in this area of civil security (such as with regard to the importance of end users of such applications or, as importantly, the integration of social science and humanities in disaster research) as Reinhold Friedrich from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF, Bonn) highlighted in his presentation about the second phase of the federal government's programme for civil security. Consequently, the session was closed by a panel discussion between the contributors, joined by Peter Ladkin (Bielefeld) about "Analysing Practises—Designing Futures", which again emphasised the importance of research in the context of civil security and the integration of participative design of technology in these areas.

The last session of the conference, chaired by Wolf Dombrowsky (Berlin), dealt with *Organisation and Management of Disaster Communication*. In the first talk, Stefan Strohschneider (Jena) presented his analysis of the communications within a special form of cooperative work: emergency management teams. These organisational structures are set up in the case of an extreme event and exceed the 'normal' routine coping capabilities of organisations. In these teams, mostly not bound together by routine and every-day-practice, affiliation and what Weick & Roberts (1993) described as "heedful interaction" are important for successful cooperation and communication. Expanding the perspective again, Norbert Reez from the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK, Bonn), also referred to disaster management teams, but not on the operational, tactical level (like the police and fire-fighters), but on the strategic level. These actors from different areas and high levels of politics and administration are faced with the huge challenge to communicate, negotiate decisions and act adequately during a crisis or disaster. Such 'white-collar crisis communication' is also object of a series of highly elaborated national strategic exercises in Germany (termed *Lükex*). In contrast to these exercises and simulations, the contribution of Birgit Velte (Berlin) was based on data and experiences of members of a relief organisation, the German Red Cross (for instance Frank Joerres), in one of the most striking disasters of the last years, the Sendai earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. The analysis concentrated on the very important question how information (about the situ-

links

Reinhold Friedrich (l.) und Stefan Morsley

rechts

Nalaka Gunawardene

ation itself, further dangers, help, safe/unsafe areas, the well-being of relatives and friends, etc.) can be communicated and mediated in the communities affected. Here, successful communication does not only depend on the access to data, but mainly on the trustworthiness and reliability of the information itself and its source (actors such as governmental institutions, NGOs, the media etc.)—especially in the complex and often confusing setting of a disaster site. The last two presentations took up the idea of learning from experiences and disaster research so far and tried to look ahead. Andrew Collins (Northumbria) provided an impressive overview of the demands for changes in UK's disaster education and the contribution of the research group's cooperation for such changes in the future: For instance the better understanding of the nature of communicative processes in disasters, the interdisciplinary approach, the different (qualitative) methods of analysis and the extensive role of media. Considering these aspects might also enrich the educative possibilities—not only in the UK, but also in Germany and other countries. Finally, Jörg Bergmann (Bielefeld), in an attempt to summarize perspectives and open questions, reminded the audience of the title of the conference and asked why we tend to perceive the disasters of others as 'our disasters' at all and which multiple analytical categories of the 'other' can be identified (as scientific object, news object, moral, political, lay/professional object, etc.). Furthermore, he pointed to major research questions and more blind spots in the analysis of disasters rhetoric and iconography, epistemic and disaster dispositive that has to be dealt with in the future.

The conference proved to be an appropriate end to a challenging, but also engaging research year, bringing together once more diversity in disciplines, perspectives and not last, participants, and condensing in three intensive days the experience of the research year: while there are a lot of gaps to bridge, the issue of communication has turned out a yielding construction material that has managed to introduce new questions, new tentative answers and new ideas and contacts for research cooperation, which are sure to last beyond the infrastructures of the research group.

Abstracts and some of the presentations can be found on our website:

→ www.uni-bielefeld.de/ZiF/FG/2010CommunicatingDisaster/Events/01-2628-Closing_Conference.html

Sarah Hitzler, Marén Schorch



Valerie November, Michael Guggenheim und Michael Bründl (v. l. n. r.)



Ryotaro Kajimura (l.) und Stefan Strohschneider



Tagungsbeiträge *Contributions*

Heike Egner, Marén Schorch *Communicating Disaster: Framing a New Research Program*

Communicating Disaster in Space and Time

Valerie November *"Space Matters"—The Spatiality of Risk (Keynote)*

Michael Bründl *Visualization of Hazard and Risk—New Ways for Improving the Communication Between Science, Practice and Citizens*

Dieter Neubert, Elísio Macamo *Will this Flood be Dangerous? Risk Communication and the Tension between Expert Systems and Local Knowledge in Mozambique and Germany*

Stephen Mosley *A Disaster in Slow Motion: The "Smoke Menace" in Urban-Industrial Britain*

Xperiment! *Out of the Sandbox. Frederick's Disaster Scenarios and Emergency Provisions*

Media and the Micro Order of Disaster

Ruth Ayaß *Pictures of Pain—Photographs of Disasters*

Gebhard Rusch *The Public Eye on Disasters—Journalists' Views at the Disasters of Others*

Stephan Habscheid *Relating Disasters to Space and Time, Practice and Identity: The Contribution of Situated Texts*

Nalaka Gunawardene *Breaking News on a Restless Planet: Covering Disasters in a Networked Society (Keynote)*

Technologies and Social Media for Dealing with Disasters

Monika Büscher, Lisa Wood, Sung-Yueh Perng *Altruistic, Augmented, Agile: Public Crisis Response*

Kate Starbird *Digital Volunteerism: How Social Media Enable and Structure Collective Action During Disaster*

Gunnar Stevens *User-Centered Design of Smart Grid Security*

Stephan Morley *Industrial Safety Research—From Customer Need to Product (Design)*

Reinhold Friedrich *New perspectives of research for civil security*

Panel Discussion: "Analysing Practices—Designing Futures?"

Organisation and Management of Disaster Communication

Stefan Strohschneider *Heedful Interaction and Affiliation in Emergency Management Teams*

Norbert Reez *White-Collar Crisis Communication. Strategic Exercises and Top-Level Media Management Training in Germany*

Birgit Velte *The Role of Information in Disasters: What Can We Learn from the 2011 Japan Earthquake?*

Andrew Collins *What next for Disaster Education and Communication?*

Jörg Bergmann *The Disastrousness of Disaster*