

ENABLING CRISIS RESILIENCE







Navigating Uncertainty

Reflections on Risk, Resilience and Crisis Management VRT 12/12/2023 - Anne Bergmans

Permacrisis

A permanent state of crisis as the new normal?

A World Guided by Risk (Calculation)

Turning Uncertainty into Probability



RISK

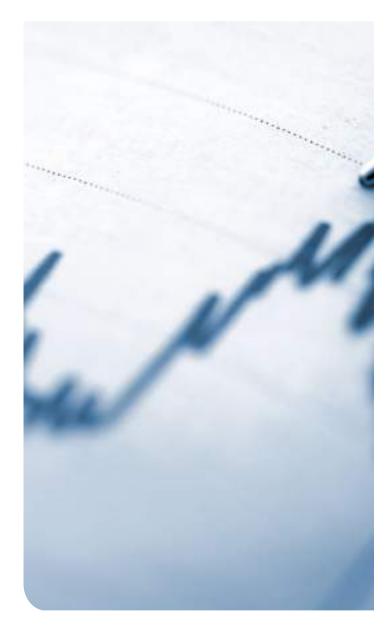
- Risk = chance x effect
- Exact future unknown, some idea about possible futures
- Clearly delineated possibilities



UNCERTAINTY

- No knowledge about probability
 - No knowledge about division
 - Extremely big division
- No knowledge about (all) possible futures





Risk as a way of dealing with uncertainty

To conceptualize an object as risk entails seeing it as manageable and governable. Risk creates space for action as it opens the future for calculation, deliberation and decision making.

Lidskog & Sundqvist 2012

Tendency to reduce uncertainty to risk

- Blinding us for residual uncertainty
- Subjectivity not only in interpretation, but also in e.g. choice of parameters
- Putting the focus on probable safety rather than real (un)safety: low chance interpreted as 'no chance'
- Predictive power of risk analysis and all hazards approaches often overestimated
- Creating an illusion of control



Changes in ...

The Nature and Magnitude of Risks and Crises







The Way Risks and Crises are Perceived





Learning to deal with uncertainty has become one of the most important challenges of the 21st century

Zigmund Bauman

From Risk Management to Governing Uncertainty?!

Embracing Uncertainty

Thank you for your attention

anne.bergmans@uantwerpen.be

