

Navigating Uncertainty

Reflections on Risk, Resilience and Crisis Management

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Permacrisis

A permanent state of crisis as the new normal?

A row of several colorful dice (orange, red, dark red, brown, blue, and purple) is arranged on a reflective surface. The dice are slightly out of focus, with the blue die in the foreground being the sharpest. The background is blurred, showing more dice and a warm, bokeh-like light pattern.

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?!

A dramatic photograph of a small lighthouse with a red lantern room and a yellow base, perched on a dark, rocky island. A colossal, white-capped wave is crashing over the lighthouse, partially obscuring it. The sky is a heavy, greyish-blue, and the water around the base of the island is turbulent and yellowish-green. The overall mood is one of intense pressure and adversity.

Embracing Uncertainty

RESILIENCE



Thank you for your attention

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