Children and Young People’s Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction

Rodriguez-Giralt, Israel, Mort, Maggie

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“This groundbreaking volume centres the perspectives of hundreds of diverse children and youth. Through listening carefully to what they have to say, this work fundamentally reimagines young people’s role in disaster risk management.”
Lori Peek, University of Colorado Boulder

“Based on an innovative multi-country project, this book clearly establishes the tremendous value of including children’s voices in disaster risk management. It is a much-needed, engaging and important contribution.”
Alice Fothergill, University of Vermont

“An extraordinary intervention in disaster studies. It expands our imagination about what matters and who participates in disaster planning and how to articulate meaningful and collaborative child-centred risk policies.”
Manuel Tironi, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

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Disasters are an increasingly common and complex combination of environmental, social and cultural factors. Yet existing response frameworks and emergency plans tend to homogenise affected populations as ‘victims’, overlooking the distinctive experience, capacities and skills of children and young people.

Drawing on participatory research with more than 550 children internationally, this book argues for a radical transformation in children’s roles and voices in disasters. It shows practitioners, policy-makers and researchers how more child-centred disaster management, that recognises children’s capacity to enhance disaster resilience, actually benefits at-risk communities as a whole.

Maggie Mort is Professor in the Sociology of Science, Technology & Medicine at Lancaster University.

Israel Rodríguez-Giralt is Senior Research Fellow at the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

Ana Delicado is a Research Fellow at the Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa.