On March 27, 2017, Dr. Daniel Aldrich visited IRIDeS and presented a lecture entitled “The Role of Social Networks in Japan’s 3/11 Disasters.” This event is the first in a new DRM Colloquium series, and was attended by more than 20 people, including faculty and students from Tohoku University and other visitors. Dr. Aldrich, who is the Director of the Security and Resilience Studies Program, and Professor in political science and public policy at Northeastern University, shared several key findings from his long term and ongoing research into the role of social capital in Japan after the GEJE. In his presentation, he discussed the critical factors of social ties for evacuation to survive disasters, as well as other aspects such as vertical ties contribute to recovery. Along with the importance of social capital for mental health, he introduces several strategies to help develop stronger ties within communities, which also contributes to increased disaster resilience. Following the presentation, a very lively discussion was held in response to various questions from participants on topics related to politics and government, engineering and construction, and social structures and community-building.

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