

Toward a Disaster Science that Contributes to Humanity

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Disaster science is often associated with the sciences, but research on disaster science is now flourishing in the humanities as well. In the field of history, historical records are used to elucidate the cycle of past disasters, the scale of the disasters, and the damage caused. Methods for protecting cultural assets from disasters is also an important research topic and a practical issue.

Psychology is concerned with human cognition and behavior, economics is concerned with disaster-resistant economic systems, and law is concerned with disaster-related legislation and disaster prevention policies. Sociology examines the state of regional disaster prevention organizations, and philosophy considers the idea of disaster prevention. How do disasters affect human society and mentality? There are many issues that need to be clarified in the humanities, such as how to build resilience.

Disaster science research in the sciences often involves the hard sciences, focusing on areas such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, meteorology, mudslides, floods, civil engineering, architecture and more, as well as natural phenomena, destructive phenomena, and physical structures. Issues of lifesaving, emergency, and medical procedures during disasters are also in focus.

Of course, there are many approaches to disaster research in fields other than those listed above. This means that this kind of research can be carried out in any field because disasters are connected to *all* aspects of earth, nature, humans, and society. But that is not all. In the field of disaster science, collaboration between the humanities and sciences has been developed in a very easy-to-understand manner. It's safe to say that it is a comprehensive science that transcends disciplines.

Moreover, disaster science plays a major role in predicting, preparing for, mitigating, and helping people recover from disasters. All fields of study are practical sciences that contribute to society. Study results are very easy to see.

The development of humankind has been achieved by protecting ourselves from the threats of nature and overcoming disasters. Disaster science will become more and more important in the future because it is the discipline that will protect the lives, livelihoods, and societies of countless people. I hope that you, too, will approach disaster science from your field of specialization.