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Why Questioning Social Discourses Can Reduce Your Vulnerability To Disasters

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ENTRY:

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All social actors use discourse as a tool of influence, hence, discourses reflect the power differentials among different social strata. When power imbalance interacts with the strongly discursive field of disaster management, it escalates the preexisting socioeconomic and political discriminations. With particular focus on the central roles of discourses in shaping public perception, I am interested in examining how different actors create social structures and political orders that result into uneven disaster vulnerabilities and risk outcomes for different sections of the population. Identifying and explaining the dynamics of these discursive contentions will hopefully reveal how power imbalance among governments, corporations, media, and individuals crystallizes into real impacts characterized by the present socioecological and climate crisis. The world stands to gain enormously when we understand how individual and institutional daily decisions can be critically questioned in the hope of producing just, equitable and fairer disaster risk outcomes for all.

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