HOW DO ISLAND COMMUNITIES BALANCE DISASTER RESILIENCE AND WHAT CAN MAINLANDERS LEARN FROM THAT?

Steve Sutton
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Project Purpose:
Identify cultural or social mechanisms that lead to disaster preparation

- Bushfire CRC & BNHCRC research into psychology and human behaviour relating to natural disasters.
- Overarching issue of failure to prepare
- Outstanding research has been taken up by agencies and applied in the real world and there is an improvement ...
- But overall levels of community preparedness remain too low.
- “Leave no stone unturned” to find ways to build resilience through disaster preparation
Effective Disaster Risk Reduction: The Case of Pulau Simeulue
Effective Disaster Risk Reduction: The Case of Pulau Simeulue
2004 Tsunami...
Popular Perceptions of Islands
Popular Perceptions of Islands
Islands and biogeography
Islands and biogeography
Islands and Anthropology
Islands and Disaster Risk Reduction
Characteristics of Islands DRR\(^1\)

- Small
- Exposed – ‘vulnerable’
- Isolated
- Neglected
- Self-reliant – ‘doughty’
- Knowledgable - of local conditions

1. After Rampengan 2011
Simeulue Tsunami response characteristics

• What it is not:
  • Not necessarily linked to other ‘healthy’ or ‘safe’ practices
    • Not visible in health statistics or day to day practices
  • ‘in your face’ – its subtle
    • No billboards or broadcast media
  • Corporate – its not sponsored by a cigarette company or incorporated into a logo
  • Championed by the relevant government agencies*
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Simeulue Tsunami response characteristics

- Transmission at all levels of society
  - Bupati sings the “smong song”
  - Mothers croon about tsunami to their babies
  - Schools teach about tsunami response
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• Consistent narrative
• Universal transmission
• Embedded into daily life
  • Part of individual ‘coherence’
  • “Normal”
## Acknowledgements

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