



Vulnerability from a co-evolutionary perspective: valuating natural hazards management in the Eastern Alps

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In past decades, we observed a change in natural hazard management from a structural, security-based policy towards an integrated, risk-based management system. Therefore, the concept of vulnerability has become central in the policy debate. In order to assess vulnerability, we need a broader understanding of the term to manage natural hazards and to reduce damages and losses from future events. This paper adopts a co-evolutionary perspective to provide a critical assessment of vulnerability in natural hazard management, taking the Eastern Alps as an example. We discuss the structural, social and institutional vulnerability and governance from an integrated point of view to understand and to analyse the interdependences and interactions between human and physical systems. The aim is to consider the dynamic interactions between multiple conceptualised vulnerabilities in evaluating natural hazard management systems. A co-evolutionary framework widens the explanatory of multiple interactions in vulnerability to provide useful information and concepts to improve risk management.

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