



The Shadow of the Past: studying the impact of typhoon Yolanda on human behavior

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The Philippines is one of the most exposed countries towards natural disasters in the world. Because of its location on the typhoon belt of the Pacific, the Philippines are exposed to an average of nineteen typhoons or tropical storms per year. One of the most devastating typhoons (Yolanda/Haiyan) occurred in 2013, with an approximate death toll of 6340 people. Following up on a study from 2012, we observe solidarity transfers in a lab-in-the-field experiment one year before and three years after typhoon Yolanda occurred. Based on this unique experimental panel-dataset we can define key elements that influence solidarity, such as fairness and effectiveness of disaster relief and potential corruption of governmental and non-governmental agencies. Furthermore we observe risk and time preferences across affected and non-affected regions and seek to get a better understanding of the effects of natural disasters on human behavior. Understanding the consequences of natural disasters on human behavior might be crucial to develop strategies to conquer the challenges that come with the increasing exposure to environmental risk. Furthermore, our study has important consequences for studies that seek to investigate the stability of economic preferences.