

## Reaction Paper Makiko Kikuchi

In "THE RESILIENT CITY –HOW MODERN CITIES RECOVER FROM DISASTER", Vale and Campanella articulate various processes in which devastated cities revived from catastrophes from the three perspectives - "the narratives of resilience", "the symbolic dimensions of disaster and recovery", and "the politics of reconstruction".

Prior to the main parts, some inherent ambiguities inevitably embedded in every analysis of devastation are addressed in the introduction. They point out the limited implications of death tolls with regard to illustrate magnitude of a disaster precisely. Not only poor availability and accuracy of the data but also the fact that "[To] focus on death misses the broader range of injury and illness that is traumatic but not fatal, including persistent ripples of psychological devastation faced by survivors and all those who are physically removed from the disaster, yet nonetheless consider themselves to be victims." encourage us to consider broad variety of dimensions in the devastation and resilience analysis. They also try to refine the conventional definition of "city" and "recovery" for the sake of subsequent discussions. Though it is nearly impossible to define one simple sentence as a comprehensive definition of each, it may be crucial to delineate the extent what "city" and "recovery" mean in each disaster setting, since those vary day by day, place by place, and culture by culture.

Vale and Campanella conclude by addressing "[t]welve axioms" extracted from the cases of urban resilience. The most attractive point is the notion that a disaster can dramatically manipulate political power dynamics and may enhance economical incentives that is to be transformed into the basic capital of resilience. And yet they do not independently happen but are interrelated. Fluctuation of political power dynamics can be seen more frequently in a place which had been economically attractive before a disaster. The 9/11 aspired reputable ambition to tackle terrorism domestically and internationally, whereas larger number of people had been ruthlessly killed by the genocide in Rwanda under the ignorance of the international community. Political and economical incentives may be more reasonable indicator to estimate how willingly people will react than statistical data of the devastation.