

**1. 'Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies' by John H. Kingdom**

The author has conveyed the essence of debate on 'focusing events' in a very simple language carefully avoiding complex statistical technical jargon. It is true that measurement is a serious problem. What to measure, what measures to use, are the measures used adequately capture what we want to measure, how to avoid errors and the like are the real questions that one has to confront in almost all spheres of life and especially in research. Although the perceptions and notions what issues really warrants action or some sort of intervention by authority are cultural specific, but there is certain degree of external validity in the argument put forward by the author. It is ironical that policy makers consider sudden event or catastrophe needing fast action, and choose to ignore slow, often invisible processes and events that are likely to cause comparable if not larger damage. I am also of the view that focusing events also raise questions about the ethical aspects of many humanitarian responses-providing reliefs after a disaster event, but either cut or trim down the budgetary provision for building safer housing.

**2. Focusing Events, Mobilization, and Agenda Setting by Thomas A. Birkland**

I think this paper has contributed significantly to our understanding of how focusing events play a role in agenda setting and in policy change. The complex variables in the model seem to have been operationalized quite adequately. However, the methodology was not very clear, which could have enabled a reader to appreciate the results much better. It was interesting to learn how invisibility and technicalities and group dynamics have dwarfed the debate on technical disasters. Equally interesting finding was how hurricane community has been over shadowed by earthquake coalition which has been able to impress upon the congress to enact the respective legislation and make a strong presence among scientific community as well as within the government institution.

Since, this study is among the limited number of efforts to empirically test the various hypotheses regarding influence of focusing events on agenda setting for policy change, I wonder about its external validity to other regions of the world.

**3. Business and Political Dimensions in Disaster Management by Thomas A. Birkland and Radhika Nath**

This article presents a very good analysis how businesses deal with crisis and fail to fully appreciate the political and public policy dimensions of the events(crisis). The business communication although is a key element in crisis management, it is the very nature of events themselves-subset of focusing events, which generate negative responses to their handling of disasters and the related policy frameworks.