

Disaster Volunteers for Three Decades in Japan: Longitudinal Collaborative Practice and Action Research from the 1995 Kobe to the 2024 Noto Earthquake

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Problem | Overwhelming Control of Disaster Volunteers

The 1st Year of Disaster Volunteers

- More than 1 million citizens came to Kobe to help survivors there.

Once a disaster occurs, many disaster volunteers help the survivors until 2024.

Three Decades later,

- The Governor of Ishikawa Prefecture declared to have no individual volunteers after the 2024 Noto Earthquake.
- Volunteers were supposed to register at the Prefectural System.

Those who volunteered individually were disparaged via SNS.

Research questions
What happened for the three decades?
Don't we need individual disaster volunteers?

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History | Three Decades of Disaster Volunteers in Japan

1995 Kobe Earthquake
 The 1st Year of Disaster Volunteers

1998 East Japan Floods (and other disasters)
 Spatial Expansion
Volunteer Manuals

2004 Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake
 Temporal Extension (DV for Recovery)
Volunteer Center

2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami, & Fukushima Nuclear Plant Accident
Drive for Order vs. Drive for Unstructured
These two movements have been well-balanced in many disasters before Noto.

2024 Noto Earthquake
Official Control for Disaster Volunteers

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Noto Earthquake | Facts and Background

PM4:10, 1/1/24
 M7.6, maximum intensity 7
 Earthquake, tsunami and landslides
 245 people killed (as of 23 April)



Why Control?

- Because there were few roads to access the disaster fields due to the remote peninsula and rescue professionals had priority for the first 72 hours...
- Psychologically: Xenophobia (fear of strangers)
- Sociologically: Steadily declining society
- Politically: Conservative, Fewer # of officers at city/town halls
- Economically: Gift vs. Market Economy

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Conceptualization | What happened for the 3 decades

Drive for Order

Social Trend for Order

- Manuals for Disaster Volunteers
- Not to help but to be a good volunteer
- Efficiency, Market Economy

Drive for Unstructured

Social Trend for Free

- Improvisation
- Help the survivor in front of volunteers
- Beyond Efficiency, Gift Economy

Three Decades of Disaster Volunteers
 = Dr. for Order overcomes Dr. for Unstructured

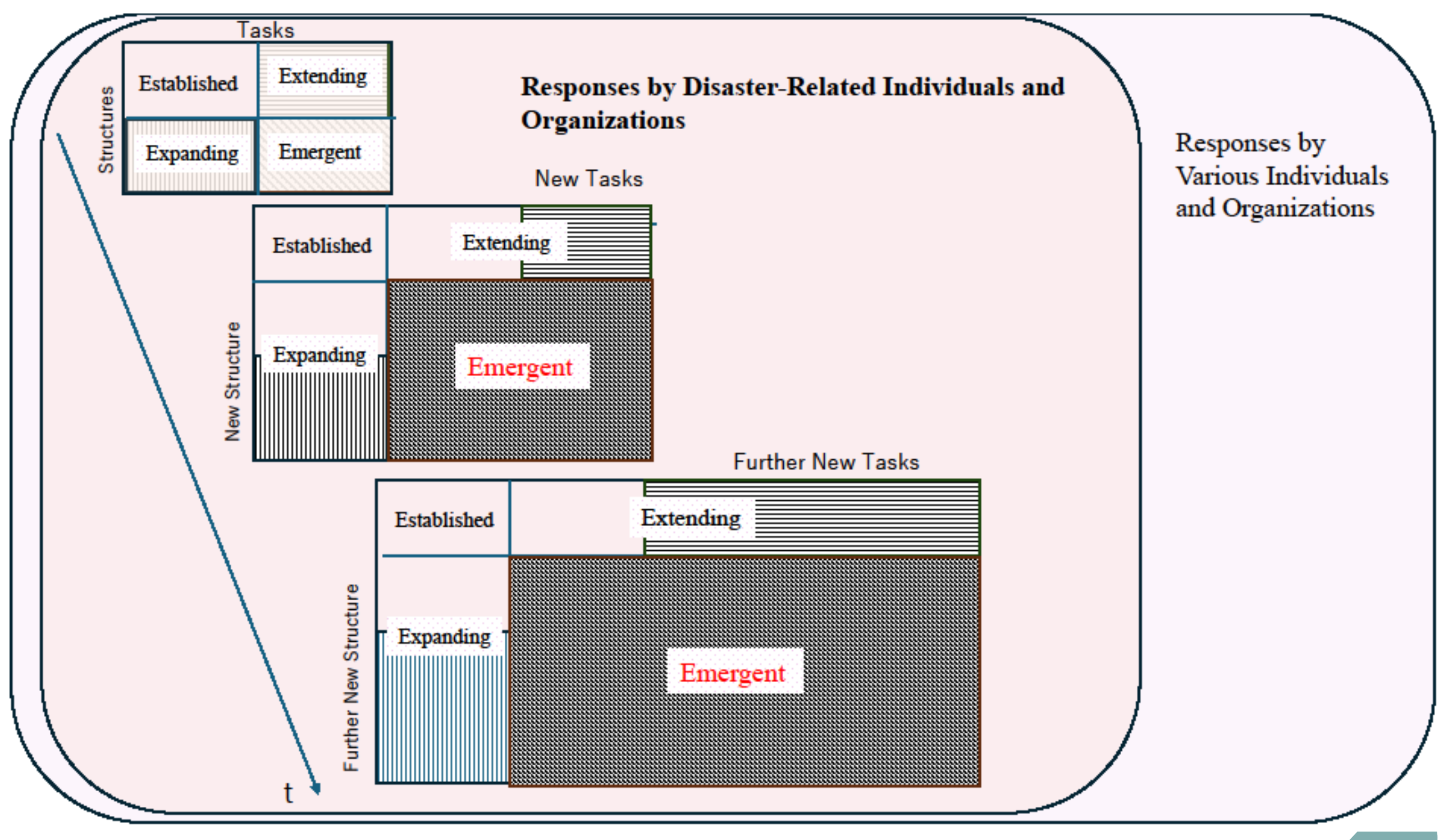
Intervention

- Balance the two drives
- Potential problems of Gift economy can be solved by Pay-it-Forward Network

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Modeling | Extend the DRC Model

- We will face further disasters anywhere in the world... further new tasks (e.g., climate change) with further new structures (e.g., digital network)
- We need more help among citizens and from volunteers...



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Discussion | For the next decade

When a disaster occurs, we face more new-tasks and need more new-structures. As a result, emergent groups should cover more areas of disaster responses collaborating with even non-disaster-related individuals and organizations. Therefore, more and more emergent disaster volunteers should be included, as shown in the new enhanced DRC typology.

Applications

- Allow Individual Volunteers to work
- Balance the Drive for Order and Drive for Unstructured
- Put more focus on Gift Economy, instead of Market Economy

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