

Disasters are not natural.

Historical and social dynamics set the conditions for a hazard to become disastrous.

What kind of mobilities emerge under such extreme conditions?



Humans live in and with environments, entangled with other species, and non-human agents. This project looks at the Central Sulawesi disaster of 2018 as a focusing event to investigate complex interrelations of life and landscapes. How have human and non-human interacted across time and space to produce the particular mobilities that now characterize the region? Making sense of plural framings anthropology's holistic approach will enable an integrated socio-environmental and historically informed analysis.

KEY QUESTIONS

- How do mobilities take shape in conjunction with environmental factors?
- How do people, mountains, bodies of water and forests arrange life with one another in times of socio-environmental crisis?



Earthquake +
Tsunami +
Soil liquefaction



4,000 lives lost
170,000 displaced



Research in the Anthropocene

As climate change increases the frequency and degree of extreme events, the resulting crises exacerbate existing inequalities. This project investigates a question of global concern: will humans need to relocate? How will this take shape and how to conceptualize it? What are the implications for access to rights?



Mobilities

How people, places and things connect to networks variously located in time and space.

Ex.: Internally displaced people



Hazards

technical or environmental forces—pose a risk, but need not necessarily turn into disaster.

Ex.: Tectonic plates in movement



Vulnerability

social, environmental or other characteristics that limit the response to adversity.

Ex.: Homes located in risk areas

METHODS

- Multi-sited ethnography: in-depth interviews, participant-observation.
- Remote and online ethnography.
- Multi-scalar: connecting local, regional, international scales.
- Historically informed: archives and policy analysis.