

Building Resilience: Social Capital in Post-Disaster Recovery

Speaker: Daniel P. Aldrich (Purdue University)

Commentator: tbc.

Moderator: Ryozo Matsuda (Institute of Human Sciences)

Date: Tuesday 10 December, 2013 **Time:** 3:00-4:45 pm

Venue: Project Room 2, Gakuji-Kan Building, Kinugasa Campus

This event is free and open to all, but pre-registration is required. To register please email mestra.transis@gmail.com, before the noon of 5 December. Spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Abstract: Using micro- and neighborhood-level data from four disasters in three nations over the 20th and 21st centuries, this talk will investigate standard theories of recovery and resilience. Bivariate, time series cross sectional, and matching analyses show that more than factors such as individual or personal wealth, aid from the government, or damage from the disaster, the strength of social capital best predicts the ability of local communities to reform. Social capital works through three main mechanisms: elevating voice and suppressing exit, overcoming collective action barriers, and providing informal insurance. Should social networks prove the critical engines before, during, and after disaster, this suggests a new approach to disaster mitigation for NGOs, individuals, and governments

Biography: Daniel P. Aldrich is an associate professor of political science at Purdue University who was on leave as a Fulbright research fellow at the University of Tokyo's Economics Department for the academic year 2012-2013 and who was an American Association for the Advancement of Science fellow at USAID during the 2011-2012 academic year. Aldrich has published two books (Site Fights from Cornell University Press and Building Resilience from the University of Chicago Press) along with 25 peer reviewed articles and more than 40 reviews, op-eds and pieces for the general public. He has been a Visiting Scholar at the University of Tokyo's Law Faculty in Japan, and Advanced Research Fellow at Harvard University's Program on US-Japan Relations, a Visiting Researcher at Centre Américain, Sciences Po in Paris, France and a Visiting Professor at the Tata Institute for Disaster Management in Mumbai, India. He is a board member of the journals Asian Politics and Policy and Risk Hazards and Crisis in Public Policy and a Mansfield U.S. Japan Network for the Future Alumnus. He is the section organizer for the American Political Science Association's Disasters and Crises Related Group.