

Thesis Abstract

No. _____

Registration Number:	<input type="checkbox"/> "KOU" <input type="checkbox"/> "OTSU" No. *Office use only	Name:	ROBLES, Lisette R.
Title of Thesis: A Research on the Significance of Migrants' Social Capital in Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery			
Summary of Thesis: <p>The study focuses on migrants (foreign residents) in instances of large-scale disasters. It addresses the key question: <i>How does the social capital of migrant collectives relate to the disaster risk reduction and recovery of their communities?</i> This research establishes that social capital is the intangible resource found in people's social connections and interactions. This has been validated for a specific population during disasters, which are the migrants (foreign residents). Commonly perceived vulnerable groups during disasters, migrants are found to have capacities available through their existing (and potential) social relationships with individuals and institutions, to respond and improve their resilience in disasters.</p> <p>Using combined qualitative and quantitative research instruments, it establishes the significance of migrant social capital in disasters through the development of three independent yet related studies. An initial study of social capital during disasters looked at the social connections of affected residents of Typhoon Haiyan (2013) in Tacloban City, Leyte, Philippines. Then, a qualitative study of Filipinos (foreign students and residents in Kesenuma City) during the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake, was made to identify the vulnerabilities and capacities specific to migrants. The former study established that disasters affect and alter people's social connections and relationships; while the latter confirmed that migrants' social connections are valid sources of disaster resilience. Combining the results from the first two studies, the third stage identifies the patterns and trends in disaster social capacities through a migrant-specific social survey to foreign residents in Sendai City. This chapter confirmed that pre-disaster social contacts are the sought connections during disasters, and post-disaster participations account as spaces to enhance social connections.</p> <p>The study presented that migrants' social capital redefines familial and social relationships found in the porous boundaries of their <i>bonding</i> and <i>bridging</i> social capital. Also, migrant <i>linkages</i> provided opportunities to better access resources and information in occurrences of disasters. The permutations of these forms of social capital reveal the substantial social actors that defines their resilience to risk, engagement in recovery, and disaster risk reduction inclusion.</p> <p>Keywords: <i>migrants, social capital, disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery</i></p>			