Topics for Master Theses

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All the topics in the list below are suggestions only, you may also suggest your own topic. In case you are interested in one of the topics below, kindly develop your own ideas to it before contacting me. Please read my research focus areas, projects and publications first, for instance on my blog: riskncrisis (https://riskncrisis.wordpress.com) and/or ResearchGate.

After general agreement on a topic, elaborate a short exposé (at least 2 pages) that contains:
1. Relevance for this research topic based on peer-reviewed articles and other sources
2. First main guiding research questions plus 2-3 detailed research questions that will guide the thesis
3. Which theoretical frameworks and methods would you plan
4. Data sources, research area
5. Key literature list

General Research Areas
- Civil Protection / Civil Contingencies Management
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Critical Infrastructure Systems, Business & Supply Chain Continuity Management
- Humanitarian Relief, International & Development Cooperation
- Human Security
- Inter- and Transdisciplinarity
- Natural & Man-Made Hazards
- Risk Analysis / Assessments
- Risk Communication / Warning
- Risk Management / Risk Governance
- Social Ecological Systems / System Theory
- Visitor, event and crowd safety and security
- Vulnerability and Resilience

Topic suggestions

Risk assessment
- Dependencies of disaster logistics on critical infrastructure / lifelines
- Supply chain interruptions
- Interdependencies between urban and rural areas based on critical infrastructures / lifelines
- Multi-hazard risk assessment addressing vulnerabilities of e.g. populations at risk, ecosystem services, institutions, economy or infrastructure
- Development of resilience indicators for the Sendai Framework Monitoring process at case study areas

Risk communication
• De-escalation of crises: developing media information content and risk communication strategies to ameliorate uncertainty, conflicting opinions, myths and fake news
• Improving early warning systems by development of the last mile to users

Risk management
• Development of microzonation plans for natural hazards other than earthquakes (developing customized maps for users such as first responders; adding value to existing risk zonation maps by additional information)
• Development of emergency plans for hospitals or other vital facilities of a community (shelter, schools, fire stations, governments etc.)