

PROPOSITIONS

attached to the thesis

Constructing disaster response governance in post-conflict settings: Contention, collaboration and compromise

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1. Disasters that unfold in post-conflict settings rarely lead to socio-political change, but typically reproduce unequal power relations between aid, state and societal actors. *This thesis*
2. International policies of disaster governance and post-conflict statebuilding encourage the state to take control, but, in practice, aid actors control a state-led response. *This thesis*
3. To decrease intra-state and social contention, international disaster policies should better recognize that governance is more than the central government, as it operates on different levels and includes both formal and informal institutions. *This thesis*
4. State-society disarticulation often limits the decision-making power of societal actors in disaster response governance and can be exacerbated by aid actors supporting the central state. *This thesis*
5. The localization agenda is inherently contradictory in taking a top-down perspective to bottom-up localization and failing to recognize the multiple dimensions of the local. *This thesis*
6. Institutions are difficult to change as power relations privilege the social coalitions that put them in place and limit power resources to those who seek to challenge them (After Moe, 2005).
7. Partnerships should redistribute power and support bottom-up control (after Arnstein, 1969), but in real governance practices such redistribution is often little more than a tokenism.
8. While the decentralization of governance purports to close the gap between the state and citizens, it may not always strengthen accountability or decrease central control.
9. The global and local are not fixed spatial scales, but are to be understood as social constructions of scalar politics (After Swyngedouw, 1997)
10. As social actors, researchers can reinforce unequal power relations by their actions and therefore have a moral obligation to advocate for change that benefits people whose voices remain unheard.
11. A picture is worth a thousand words, but thousands of words in a thesis do not always paint a complete picture.