

PROPOSITIONS

attached to the thesis

Disasters in Conflict:

Understanding disaster governance, response, and risk reduction during high-intensity conflict in South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Yemen

by

Rodrigo Mena

International Institute of Social Studies
Erasmus University Rotterdam

1. Countries in conflict are more likely to experience disaster, as conflict intensifies vulnerability to disaster and disaster can also reinforce conflict dynamics. *This thesis.*
2. Although limited due to logistical, security, and political reasons, disaster risk reduction is possible and needed during high-intensity conflict. *This thesis.*
3. Fieldwork research in conflict and on disaster requires balancing the objectives of the research with methodological, ethical, and safety and security considerations. *This thesis.*
4. Small scale disasters such as local storm winds or floods affecting people with high levels of vulnerability can have major impacts on their lives and livelihoods. *This thesis.*
5. The common idea that disasters are natural is a major impediment to disaster risk reduction. *This thesis.*
6. Reducing the risk of disaster is not enough; we also need to resist disaster risk creation (after Ben Wisner and Allan Lavell, 2017).
7. Research and policy will benefit from the understanding that every social and natural phenomenon – including all types of disasters – develops slowly, as they have been in the making by countless other phenomena over time.
8. Scientific knowledge is ideological insofar as it fails to recognise the vital importance of irrational and contemplative knowledge (after Friedrich Nietzsche).
9. Mental health should be seen as a systemic and integral aspect of academia and research, not as an external psychological and individual problem.
10. Global governance of global issues (like climate change, COVID-19, or migration) too often focuses on international and national actions, while excluding and dissociating itself from local actors and their everyday life practices.
11. Meditation is not only useful when researching disaster and conflict; meditation *is* all about researching disaster and conflict inside and around us.