

2016年度 立教大学コミュニティ福祉研究所海外派遣研究員報告書

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	コミュニティ福祉学部	リッチー ザイン
派遣機関名	College of Arts, School of Maori and Indigenous Studies, University of Canterbury (所在国New Zealand)	協定 (無)
研究テーマ	The East-West Narrative and the Christchurch Earthquakes of 2010 and 2011: Support Mechanisms and the Student Volunteer Army	
派遣期間	2016年 8月 28日 ~ 2016年 9月 16日(19日間)	
研究経費	191,366円	

【研究・交流状況および成果】

派遣期間中の具体的な研究・交流の内容および成果、今後の研究の展望等を記入してください。

The major earthquakes that struck the city of Christchurch New Zealand in September 2010 and February 2011 caused massive damage to the city and immediate area. The second quake of 2011 claimed the lives of 185 people (including many Japanese students) and caused severe damage to thousands of commercial and residential buildings, and the eastern suburbs in particular. A massive clean-up and subsequent reconstruction ensured, and one group which contributed significantly in this regard was one that was formed in the aftermath of the September 2010 earthquake by students of the University of Canterbury(UC), the Student Volunteer Army (SVA). Motivated by a desire to do whatever they could to help their fellow residents who suddenly found themselves facing severe hardship, the SVA expanded rapidly and at its peak following the February 2011 earthquake managed to mobilize a total of 13,000 volunteers to assist with the clean-up operation.¹

However, not all support was distributed equally across the city due to a combination of unfortunate geographic, socio-economic and divisions across racial lines, that had existed before the earthquakes but was exasperated by disasters in the form of a west-east divide between communities, in which residents in the eastern suburbs didn't receive the support they needed or were entitled to. As a result, these communities in particular, continue to struggle to cope financially, psychologically and emotionally five years on from the disasters. The purpose of this research was to investigate the scope and activities of the SVA, as well as the west-east divide and how communities in the east in particular are coping five year on from the disasters.

The scope and activities of the SVA since the disasters:

In recent time, the SVA has become a fully fledged volunteer group that helps out a variety of community projects, and works with various agencies, such as the Department of Conservation. The researcher accompanied the SVA on one such community volunteer activity, where 30 student volunteers worked to widen hiking trails in the surrounding hills above the city to promote the use of the outdoors and exercise among the community. The President and several students who took part in the activities were also interviewed. Observations were confirmed by the interviews that revealed that the make-up of the SVA volunteer members is vastly different to the days immediately following the earthquakes, and instead of being made up of mostly white middle-class, there were a variety of volunteers from across different racial groups across the campus. Their motivations were quite different: The New Zealand students' motivations were to get volunteer experiences, help the community, and also they just enjoyed the comradeship and outdoors, as well as for the free food in general; Members of a Malaysian group of students mentioned how the exercise had given them chance to get to know the countryside better, and having the chance to meet and interact with Kiwi students. Indeed, the Malaysian Student Association

works closely to get its students involved with SVA activities. The research established that the SVA remains one of the largest official clubs at the University of Canterbury, and that they continue to expand their activities into the community outside of disaster relief. However, a sound structure remains in place to deal with future earthquakes and other natural disasters if and when they occur and it remains well known and carries a lot of prestige among different student groups across the campus.²

2. The east-west divide

The researcher worked closely with academics at the University of Canterbury, in the College of Arts, School of Maori and Indigenous Studies, and in particular with Mr. Phillip Borell, who with colleagues has carried out his own research on the aftermath of the quakes and how they affected the eastern suburbs and how there was a severe lack of support from all agencies following the quakes. They described a divide in terms of an “east-west narrative”, and how many communities in the eastern parts of the city were also “socially” divided according to “markers”, namely race, class and crime, which they believe are related to the quality and amount of support that those communities received immediately following the disasters.³

It was expected that more than five years following the two devastating earthquakes of 2010 and 2011, this research will confirm that the East-West divide in Christchurch is an ongoing (and strengthening) phenomenon and that compared to their richer neighbors, residents in many low socio-economic Eastern suburbs still struggle with their daily lives and are not receiving the support they need, neither from official channels, nor from volunteer agencies. Indeed, through a series of interviews with Maori support agencies, social workers, academics and residents, this supposition was mostly confirmed. Support levels following the quakes from agencies and the government (and the pace of the rebuild itself) for the worst affected areas in the eastern communities was inadequate, and indeed has accelerated the pace of the east-west divide in City of Christchurch that began before the quakes. Today, more than five years on, eastern residents remain isolated, and feel that the government and support agencies have let them down. Many of them are still fighting for compensation and remain in the dark regarding options and support, and many communities have been left to fight for themselves to carry out their own litigation processes at an organic level; however in certain cases, this has actually divided the community further, as it has pitted neighbor against neighbor and revealed an animosity regarding the motives of certain households regarding seeking compensation or other support. Still others have given up completely and are trying to get on with their lives the best they can, and there was a certain amount of resignation among the populace that they do not expect things to improve. Furthermore, certain Maori support groups were working with and are continuing to work in these mostly Maori communities carrying out relief work or social work activities, and the findings revealed that they offer support according to their tribal norms and traditions, and this been somewhat successful. Following the quakes, it was revealed that the Pakeha (white) government and relief agencies (including the Red Cross relief efforts) failed to take into consideration Maori cultural needs and demands when attempting to work with Maori communities and as such a lot of relief work in the eastern communities was wasted, or simply didn't work, due to cultural clashes or misunderstandings.

Meanwhile, interviews with residents in western suburbs and observations revealed a level of normality that does not exist in the east, as they were relatively unscathed by the disaster. Indeed, as interviewees mentioned, apart from the initial period following the disaster, they have not nearly struggled as much as their eastern counterparts, and this confirms the complex nature of geographic location, a social divide based upon race, class and crime, and general apathy and ignorance of the people of the greater Christchurch region towards the needs of the eastern communities, according to socio-economic and racial lines. The results of this research built upon and cemented previous research carried out by Ritchie and Short on the activities of the SVA⁴ and prostates that the east-west divide that currently exists in the city is hindering the creation of a more peaceful, vibrant and contented community that needs to be built upon strengthening ties between all peoples, in particular the vulnerable and the often racially discriminated against and misunderstood Maori minority by the dominant Pakeha majority.

1 Ritchie, Z. & Short, J. (2015), *Challenges to community resilience in a post-natural disaster context: Observations and reflections on the Christchurch earthquakes of 2010 and 2011*. Bulletin of the College of Community and Human Services Rikkyo University. no. 17, pp. 89-103

2 Also appeared in discussions with interviews carried out with the founder of the Student Volunteer Army Mr. Sam Johnson, and its current President, Mr. Alex Cheesebrough in August 2015, and March 2016 by Ritchie, Z and Short, J. See: *The Christchurch Earthquakes of 2011 & 2012: altruism and volunteerism in times of adversity – A discussion with the President of the Student Volunteer Army*. The Journal of the Institute of Community & Human Services Rikkyo University, Vol 4 (Forthcoming)

3 <http://webcast.massey.ac.nz/Mediasite/Play/630d279c07f4453d8ae50b78c1d81aac1d>

4. Short & Ritchie (2016) *Towards the enhancement of resilience in a Disaster Management context: The contribution of the Student Volunteer Army to community reconstruction in the aftermath of the Christchurch Earthquakes of 2010 and 2011*. Toyohogaku, 60:1, pp. 1-25