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## Events or People? Trying to Understand Disasters

Phil O'Keefe  
Geoff O'Brien  
19<sup>th</sup> December 2008

The Social-Science Interface in Considering Natural Hazards  
A Workshop to explore common ground  
IHRR, Durham University  
18-19 December 2008



## A Little Theory

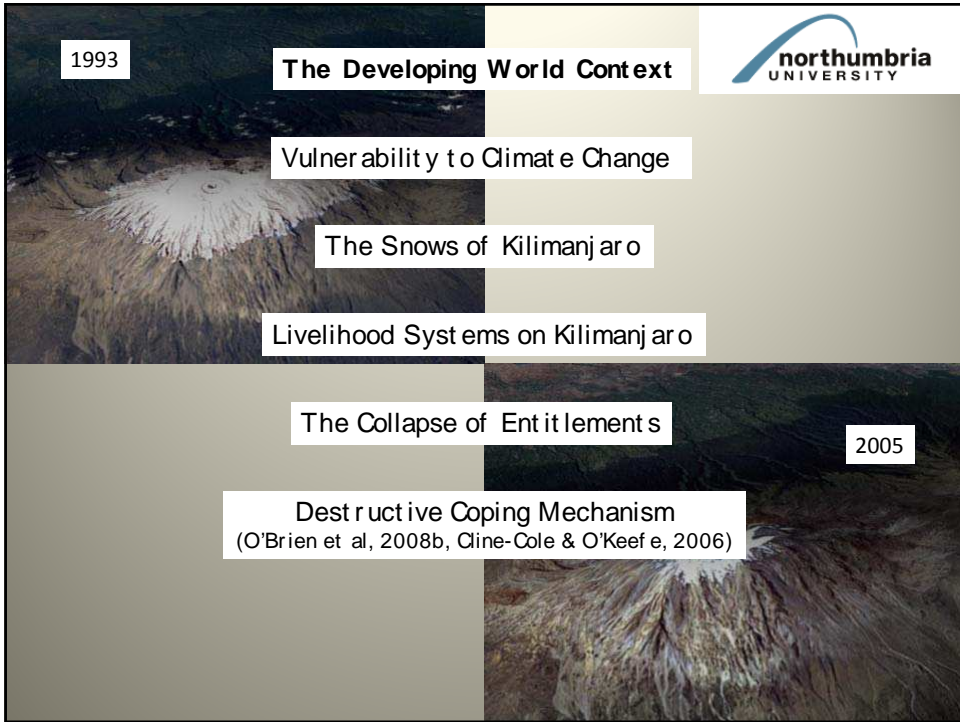
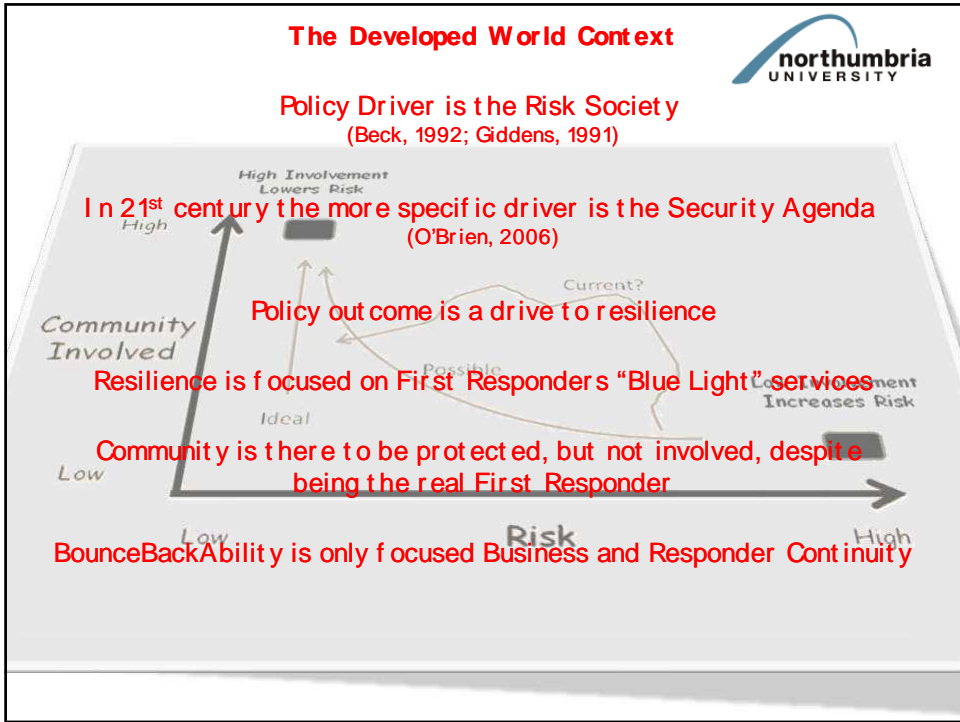
From Husbandry to Mastery of Nature  
(Pepper, 1984)

The Production of Nature  
(Smith, 1990)

The Production of Risk under Capitalism  
(O'Keefe & Smith, 1985; O'Brien et al, 2008a)

Risks in Transition  
(Peet, 1998)

Natural/ Technological/ Complex Emergency as Triggers  
(Wisner et al, 2004)



## Concluding Remarks



Poverty of Institutional Evolution and Poverty of Livelihood Evolution

Social Resilience as THE Development Goal

Recognition that Natural Laws and Processes exist but people can adapt to them

Technological modification to Natural Laws and Processes is possible



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