

Schools as Community Anchors in Disaster Response and Recovery: Case Studies from the Asia-Pacific.

Monday, June 24, 2019

PM13:00~14:30

Venue: E404

The Asia-Pacific region is the highest disaster-prone region in the world (Ferris & Petz, 2012). As international organisations, national governments and disaster agencies devote more money and energy to disaster mitigation, it is timely to examine research that highlights under-utilised resources. Schools are one such resource. Literature reviews show that while there is literature outlining what schools should do, limited research has been done on the multiple roles schools and school personnel have actually played in assisting their communities post-disaster and much of what is available is anecdotal and fragmented. This paper reports on seven years of research across six Asia-Pacific countries (Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Nepal, Vanuatu and Samoa) and four disaster types (bushfires, earthquakes, tsunami and cyclones). The combined findings are discussed using a conceptual framework that highlights the concept of schools as community anchors – before, during and after disasters.

Speaker Profile: Carol Mutch is an associate professor in Critical Studies in Education in the Faculty of Education and Social Work. She is also the Education Commissioner for UNESCO New Zealand. Dr Mutch came to The University of Auckland following many years as a primary teacher, teacher educator and policy advisor. During her career, Dr Mutch has lived and worked overseas as a teacher in Canada and the UK, a visiting professor in Japan (Nagoya & Waseda) and the UK (LSE), and taught at the National University of Samoa. Her teaching and research interests are in research methods, education policy, curriculum development and social education. She has published in scholarly books and journals on qualitative and mixed methods research, social studies and citizenship education, education history and policy, curriculum and evaluation theory, and the peer review process.



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