

Preface

Resilience—is it still the hype when you read this book? It might depend on the background you have, the discipline, field of research or action, country or time. While some might have felt resilience is already past its hiatus, resilience has remarkably shown persistence. In some academic fields, resilience is burgeoning, in others mushrooming, in other fields, disputed. Even when we started planning this book, or on some conference sessions in 2012 when we first gathered authors for this book, disaster resilience was not a novel topic. However, over years, we heard demands to illustrate whether and how such a multifaceted concept of resilience could be put into practice or be operationalised when there existed so many different definitions. This book tries to contribute selected examples how resilience is conceptualised and how researchers and practitioners try to work with it.

The selection of topics, authors and chapters resulted from the editors' interests in recent research and policy fields; notably, critical infrastructure and civil protection as well as urban resilience in the context of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaption (CCA), man-made hazards and threats. On a methodological side, we were interested in measurability of resilience, but embracing both qualitative and quantitative approaches. We are very grateful that so many authors from our wish list agreed to contribute their interesting perspectives to this book. Authors come from various disciplines and countries (with a slight focus on Europe), but we also include perspectives from Iran, Nepal and the USA. This broad perspective is important to foster future discussions on this topic. To ensure the overall quality of this volume, all chapters were cross-reviewed by authors of other chapters and editor-reviewed.

We would also like to thank a number of authors who had intended to deliver a chapter but could not due to brevity of time in the end. We hope to stay connected for continuing research and knowledge transfer in this area.

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