



Universität
Münster

Crises and Resilience

Multidisciplinary Perspectives from Germany and Japan

25-26 August 2025
University of Münster
Castle, Senatssaal



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<https://www.resilient-healthcare.de>



DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Day 1: Monday, 25th of August

10:00 – 10:30 – Welcome and Opening

10:30 – 11:15 – Keynote

Gesa Lindemann (Erfurt): Recursive Development of Technology

11:15 – 11:30 – Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 – Panel 1: Conceptualizing Crises and Resilience

Panel Host: Joschka Haltaufderheide (Potsdam)

Satoshi Kodama (Kyoto): Ethics in Extremis: Rethinking Moral Principles and Resilience in Times of Crisis

Stephanie Bünemann (Münster), Charlotte Behlau (Dortmund), Maike Tietjens (Münster), Bernd Strauss (Münster): Theoretical Perspectives on Crises in Sport Psychology

Annie Kurz (Offenbach): The Meta-Crisis: Anxiety, Distrust, and the Role of Technologies

13:00 – 14:15 – Break / Lunch (self payed)

14:15 – 15:45 – Panel 2: Technologies in Crises

Panel Host: Gabriel Bartl (Berlin)

Hironori Matszusaki (Oldenburg): Care Robotics and Social Clean Room (SCR):
On the Limitations of Current Participatory Technology Development

Joschka Haltaufderheide (Potsdam): Cassandra Technologies –
Ethics and Automated Crisis Prediction in Healthcare

Markus Bohlmann (Münster): Projecting Crisis into the Future:
The Pre-Spectival Focus of Imaging Technologies in Crisis

15:45 – 16:00 – Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 – Panel 3: Global Perspectives on Crises and Resilience

Panel Host: Susanne Brucksch (Tokyo)

Davide Viero (Duisburg-Essen): Facing the Grey Wave: Trends in
Long-Term Care Systems' Inclusiveness and Benefits

Daniela Pastoors (Münster): Transformational Resilience for Regenerating
People & Earth – Connecting Inner & Outer Transformation to Foster Personal,
Collective & Planetary Wellbeing

Malina Spieker (Münster), Christian Fischer (Münster): Sensitivity and Social
Influence in the Climate Crisis – Resilience Potential Among Young People
Between Vulnerability and Engagement

Day 2: Tuesday, 26th of August

10:00 – 10:45 – Keynote

Susanne Brucksch (Tokyo): Theoretical Approaches to the Sociocultural Dimension of Health Technologies from the Locale of Japan

10:45 – 11:00 – Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 – Panel 4: Law, Crises, and Resilience

Panel Host: Dennis Krämer (Münster)

Shigeto Yonemura (Tokyo): The Legal System Appropriately Reducing the Risks of Natural Disasters

Akemi Yokota (Tokyo): Legislative Responses to the Coronavirus Crisis: A Comparison of Resilience in Japan and Germany

Takanori Fujita (Tokyo): Legal Policies for Healthcare Data Use and Resilience in Crisis: Lessons from Japan's Digital Health Transformation

12:30 – 13:45 – Break / Lunch (self payed)

13:45 – 15:15 – Panel 5: Organizational Responses to Crises and Resilience

Panel Host: Daniela Pastoors (Münster)

Yoshinori Nakata (Tokyo): Resilience of Healthcare Productivity During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Japan

Yukio Sakurai (Yokohama): Crisis, Culture, and the Family: End-of-Life Decision-Making in East Asia (Online Presentation)

Dennis Krämer (Münster): The Treatment of Gender Diverse People in Sport as a Crisis of Classification

15:15 – 15:30 – Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00 – Panel 6: Critical Reflections on Crises and Resilience

Panel Host: Markus Bohlmann (Münster)

Ken Ogata (Tokyo): The Resilience of Japan in Cyberspace

Azher Hameed Qamar (Münster): Re-Conceptualizing Social Resilience in Crisis and Migration: A Social Constructionist Perspective

Gabriel Bartl (Berlin): The Concept of Resilience as a Contingent Construct

17:00 – 17:30 – Closing Discussion

Keynote I

Monday, 25th of August, 10:30–11:15

Recursive Development of Technology

Gesa Lindemann, Max Weber Kolleg in Erfurt

The lecture presents a social theory of technology and connects it to a theory of society. This allows for a critical evaluation of digital steering technologies. According to social theory, technology is considered not only a useful tool but also a means of communication. Based on the square of technological development as the fundamental theoretical concept, which links the theory of institutionalization with the analysis of technological development. From the outset, technology serves as a substitute for the body, offering a specific range of uses in the sense of affordances, while also operating as a communicative symbol that indicates how it should be used. Assuming this, technological development can be understood as a process in which the mechanical replacement of the body remains relevant but is increasingly overtaken by communicative steering. This creates a problem in societal theory. The institution of the responsible individual is central to modern society. However, can this institution continue to play a pivotal social role when social control processes are increasingly automated? To address this issue, technology research and the theory of society must be linked. Only then can we identify different development paths and determine which ones are desirable.

Reference: Lindemann, Gesa (2024). Reflexive anthropology: On the method-guided construction of premises in social theory. In: *European Journal of Social Theory*, 28(2):226-246.

Open Access: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13684310241265864>

Gesa Lindemann, Prof. Dr. phil., is a Fellow at the Max Weber Kolleg in Erfurt. Her research focuses on social theory, theory of society, violence and the formation of order, sociology of technology, sociology of human rights, and philosophical anthropology. Her theory of technology is presented in her book “Approaches to the World: The Multiple Dimensions of the Social” (English translation of “Weltzugänge. Die mehrdimensionale Ordnung des Sozialen”). She has held research fellowships, among others, in Rio de Janeiro, Cambridge (MA), Boston, and Tokyo. Currently, she is working on modern orders of time, space, and technology in relation to the procedural orders of violence in modern societies.

Keynote II

Tuesday, August 26, 10:00–10:45

Theoretical Approaches to the Sociocultural Dimension of Health Technologies from the Locale of Japan

Susanne Brucksch, Teikyo University Tokyo

Over the past decades, there has been an increase in technological innovation in healthcare workplaces, influencing medical practices and regulatory requirements alike. Complex technologies are now ubiquitous in healthcare settings around the world, also meant to respond to situations of crises and to secure resilience in healthcare. However, many earlier studies in this field stemming from countries in Europe and North America take the sociocultural context and historical situatedness of health technologies for granted. This presentation argues instead that research from specific locales such as Japan allows critical and perceptive insights as to underlying sociocultural interpretations and embedded assumptions of socio-technical settings. The meaning of healthcare technologies changes not only with their professional, disciplinary or organizational context, but also with the specific locale. Hence, the introduction to theoretical approaches specifying the sociocultural dimension of a particular locale (*genba*) like Japan can serve as an example when examining socio-technical settings in healthcare contexts. This presentation employs theoretical perspectives from the field of Japanese Studies and Science & Technology Studies, similarly allowing conclusions for the study of the relationship between health technologies, crises, and resilience. Specifically, it casts light on aspects such as technological complexity and healthcare workplaces, the situations of patients, nurses and physicians, user needs and technology development, approval and evidence-based judgement, manufacturing and diffusion, as well as hospitals and the public health system in Japan.

Reference: Brucksch, Susanne; Wiggert, Kevin (2021): Theoretical Reflections on Medical Devices and the Sociocultural Context in the Locale of Japan. In: Brucksch, Susanne; Sasaki, Kaori, eds. (2021): Humans and Machines in Medical Contexts: Case Studies from Japan. Singapore: Springer Nature, pp. 21-51. Open Access: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-33-6280-2>

Prof. Dr. Susanne Brucksch is associate professor at the Department of Global Japanese Studies, Teikyo University in Tokyo. Before, she was principal researcher at the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) and postdoctoral researcher at Freie Universität Berlin. Besides, she has been holding post as chair of the advisory board of DWIH Tokyo (German Centre for Science and Innovation, 2019-2021). At present, her research continuously focuses on “Technical Innovation and Research Collaboration in Japan in the Field of Medical Engineering” and “Humans and Machines in Medical Context in Japan”. She also co-organizes the Research Initiative of STS Research on Japan and Beyond by organizing annual workshops with international scholars.

Panels Monday

Panel I: Monday, August 25, 11:30–13:00

Conceptualizing Crises and Resilience

Ethics in Extremis: Rethinking Moral Principles and Resilience in Times of Crisis

Satoshi Kodama, Kyoto University

This presentation examines how disaster ethics can guide healthcare resilience. By differentiating between risk and crisis, and categorizing ethical objections such as corrupting, overly taxing, and bad omen, I argue that healthcare emergencies generate moral tensions between acting quickly under pressure and maintaining legitimacy. Using Naomi Zack's arguments and Japan's resilience debates, I suggest a framework for ethically justifiable healthcare systems in times of crisis.

Theoretical Perspectives on Crises in Sport Psychology

Stephanie Bünemann, University of Münster; Charlotte Behlau, University of Dortmund; Maike Tietjens, University of Münster; Bernd Strauss, University of Münster

Crises in sport can occur on different levels and may include crises in health (e.g., mental health or injuries), performance (e.g., losing streaks or choking under pressure), or even the greater society (e.g. toxic sport cultures or the COVID-19 pandemic) (Strauss et al., 2024). Thus, when speaking of crises in sport, this means that a) the type of crisis needs to be specified and b) all levels of crises may influence each other. Exemplified by performance crises in teams, we aim to provide theoretical understandings of the conceptualization and initial research results.

The Meta-Crisis: Anxiety, Distrust, and the Role of Technologies

Annie Kurz, University of Art and Design Offenbach

This paper argues to conceptualize anxiety and distrust as the contemporary meta-crisis rooted in the accelerating entanglements of human experience with digital technologies. Through a post-phenomenological lens, it critically examines how technological mediation co-constitutes perception, identity, and agency. The analysis reveals that anxiety and distrust are not merely psychological states but are ontological – disrupting our sense of being in the world – as well as epistemological – reflecting the crises in how we know, trust, and interpret reality within a technologically saturated lifeworld.

Panel II: Monday, August 25, 14:15–15:45

Technologies in Crises

Care Robotics and Social Clean Room (SCR):

On the Limitations of Current Participatory Technology Development

Hironori Matsuzaki, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg

My talk will tackle, from an STS perspective, the issue which I call ‘social clean room’ (SCR) and offer an insight into some unexplored challenges for knowledge transfer between research, development and practice concerning robotic assistance for care work. Based on results of my ethnographic study, I will show that in care robotics, the framing of everyday nursing practice comes along with a problematic decontextualization and poses an impediment to enhancing the resilience of nursing care.

Kassandra Technologies – Ethics and Automated Crisis

Prediction in HealthCare

Joschka Haltaufderheide, University of Potsdam

This talk explores how predictive AI reshapes the ethical landscape of crisis response. It argues that the systems require ethical attention as they co-produce a specific understanding of crisis, providing a reading of the world in a state of urgency and complexity, rendering humans as passive observers. By highlighting how AI creates crisis and configures responses, the talk invites a broader reflection on the ethical stakes of algorithmic governance in extreme situations, proposing a different design framework to allow for a responsible adoption of such technologies.

Projecting Crisis into the Future: The Pre-Spectival Focus of Imaging Technologies in Crisis

Markus Bohlmann, University of Münster

Crisis as a cultural phenomenon is characterized by the projection of avoidable disasters into the future. The perception of the crisis is mediated by imaging technologies. This is achieved by creating fields of perception and focusing attention on otherwise invisible effects, such as nuclear fallout, viral spread, smoldering conflict, and global statistical warming. In this talk, I will elaborate on Sugawara’s concept of pre-spectival focus in order to better understand imaging in crises.

Panel III: Monday, August 25, 16:00–17:30

Global Perspectives on Crises and Resilience

Facing the Grey Wave: Trends in Long-term Care Systems’ Inclusiveness and Benefits

Davide Viero, University of Duisburg-Essen

As societies age, countries are called to reassess their approach to providing adequate support. Yet, the need for long-term care (LTC) is rarely recognized as a social risk, and only 51 countries have developed LTC systems. The results from this comparative review of existing LTC systems align with welfare regime groupings but also provide detailed insights into the degree of familialism within a system and the impact of benefit provision on the socio-economic condition of those in need.

Transformational Resilience for Regenerating People & Earth – Connecting Inner & Outer Transformation to Foster Personal, Collective & Planetary Well-being

Daniela Pastoors, University of Münster

What if resilience aims not only at “bouncing back” but at “bouncing forward” into a viable future for all creatures on planet earth? The concepts of transformational resilience, regeneration and buen vivir are closely linked and can be applied on all levels: psychosocial (inner) as well as socio-ecological (outer) transformation is needed to overcome polycrisis & sustain life. Personal, collective and planetary wellbeing are interconnected and supported by regenerative cultures and practices of care.

Sensitivity and Social Influence in the Climate Crisis – Resilience Potential Among Young People Between Vulnerability and Engagement

Malina Spieker, University of Münster; Christian Fischer, University of Münster

How can environmental sensitivity contribute to resilience in the climate crisis? This empirical study investigates whether, and under what psychosocial conditions (e.g. social influence, climate anxiety), highly sensitive young people act in a more climate-conscious manner. Based on differential susceptibility, the study aims to investigate how supportive learning environments can strengthen young people's well-being and engagement, with the goal of creating educational spaces that promote resilience.

Panels Tuesday

Panel IV: Tuesday, August 26, 11:00–12:30

Law, Crises, and Resilience

The Legal System Appropriately Reducing the Risks of Natural Disasters

Shigeto Yonemura, University of Tokyo

Japan has historically experienced many natural disasters. After a catastrophic disaster caused by a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011, many lawyers discuss what is the best legal system in order to reduce disaster risks appropriately. Though Japan has already several statutes on disaster, such legal rules are not sufficient to prevent damages. On the other hand, it would not be a better solution to impose excessive restrictions on people's activities because of disaster risk. I would like to introduce such discussion and show the direction for resolving this issue.

Legislative Responses to the Coronavirus Crisis: A Comparison of Resilience in Japan and Germany

Akemi Yokota, Meiji University Tokyo

In Germany, the coronavirus crisis had repeatedly drawn attention to the tension between federalism and infectious disease laws. In Japan, the effectiveness and limitations of administrative law enforcement, which is centered on administrative guidance, have been called into question in the face of a crisis. This presentation compares the two countries and examines the relationship between legislation and administration in times of crisis.

Legal Policies for Healthcare Data Use and Resilience in Crisis: Lessons from Japan's Digital Health Transformation

Takanori Fujita, The Tokyo Foundation, Keio University Tokyo

This talk explores healthcare resilience through digital transformation, highlighting Japan's Personal Information Protection Law and Next-Generation Medical Infrastructure Act. Discussing local health data sharing, PHRs, and data portability, it evaluates policy responses to crises like pandemics or disasters, briefly comparing these frameworks with the EU's EHDS to propose adaptive reforms enhancing resilience.

Panel V: Tuesday, August 26, 13:45–15:15

Organizational Logics of Crises and Resilience

Resilience of Healthcare Productivity During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Japan

Yoshinori Nakata, Teikyo University Tokyo

The COVID-19 pandemic was the most critical issue in the recent healthcare history. We investigated the surgical productivity during and after the pandemic in Japan. Our studies demonstrated that the pandemic negatively affected the productivity in the short term. However, productivity did not suffer despite the states of emergency. Furthermore, no evidence indicated that the pandemic had any lasting effects on productivity. Our findings will be valuable lessons for future healthcare crises.

Crisis, Culture, and the Family: End-of-Life Decision-Making in East Asia

Yukio Sakurai, Yokohama National University

Ageing populations and health crises reveal key challenges in end-of-life (EOL) care. This study explores how family-centered EOL care in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore shows both strength and weakness. Shaped by Confucian ethics, these models allow timely, relationship-based decisions but face legal and ethical limits—especially during COVID-19. By comparing East Asian and European approaches, the study suggests culturally sensitive reforms like relational advance directives. A hybrid model could better balance care, autonomy, and clarity.

The Treatment of Gender Diverse People in Sport as a Crisis of Classification

Dennis Krämer, University of Münster

To ensure fair and meaningful competition, most sports disciplines classify athletes into two sex categories: male and female. The growing visibility of intersex athletes – individuals with variations / differences of sex development (DSD) – and transgender athletes exposes the limits of this binary system and poses challenges for organized sport. Although gender classification in sport is intended to safeguard competitive equity, the measures implemented for this purpose – such as medically induced suppression of endogenous testosterone – raise sensitive ethical, medical, and legal questions.

Panel VI: Tuesday, August 26, 15:30–17:00

Critical Reflections on Crises and Resilience

The resilience of Japan in Cyberspace

Ken Ogata, University of Tokyo

Crime, terrorism and conflict in Cyberspace has become a critical national issue that requires the development of national-, social- and industrial-resilience. Therefore, in recent years, Japan has been establishing a framework to enhance the resilience against cyber-crime, cyberattack and cyberterrorism through reforms and strengthening of government, police and military, as well as the development of legal systems. My presentation identifies and discusses the legal and political challenges emerging in this context.

Re-Conceptualizing Social Resilience in Crisis and Migration: A Social Constructionist Perspective

Azher Hameed Qamar, University of Münster

This presentation challenges neoliberal framings of resilience as individualized adaptation. Instead, it reconceptualizes social resilience in migration (internal/external displacement) as a dynamic, socially constructed phenomenon shaped through person-environment interaction across social, psychological, institutional, and cultural levels. By emphasizing collective, relational, and transformative dimensions and the social construction of resilience, this perspective situates resilience within the structural contexts of crisis and displacement.

The Concept of Resilience as a Contingent Construct

Gabriel Bartl, Weizenbaum Institute Berlin

The ‘multiple crises’ of our time require a different way of dealing with interdependent risks and uncertainties. The concept of resilience is often invoked in this context, but the question arises as to whether resilience is merely a buzzword or whether it is actually a “paradigm shift in dealing with uncertainty”. It also needs to be clarified what the central elements and characteristics of resilience should be. However, there is little consensus on this. This presentation is dedicated to this problem and the far-reaching implications that arise from it.