

IRSN

INSTITUT
DE RADIOPROTECTION
ET DE SÛRETÉ NUCLÉAIRE

Faire avancer la sûreté nucléaire

RICOMET conference. July 2019.

Christine Fassert, LSHS, IRSN.

Returning or not in contaminated territories after the nuclear accident
in Fukushima. (SHINRAI project)



A horizontal bar at the top of the slide, divided into a red section on the left and a blue section on the right.

The SHINRAI Project

SHINRAI objectives

- SHINRAI is a franco japanese project coordinated by IRSN.
- IRSN, Sciences PO medialab, Tokyo Tech University
- It aims at analysing the social and political consequences of the Nuclear accident, focusing particularly on :
 - the dynamics of trust (institutional trust, between citizens and institutions and organisations in general)
 - The relationships between science, expertise and policies, through a STS perspective
- It comprises an important field work, interviews with representants of the authorities, counter experts groups and individuals, and inhabitants returned or not in the places where Evacuation Orders have been lifted
- Research team : Christine Fassert, Reiko Hasegawa, Masashi Shirabe, Rina Kojima
- Authors of the report : Christine Fassert, Reiko Hasegawa



Six categories

Returning or not : interviews

- Exploring how inhabitants made their decisions, how they give an account of their reasons, and how they describe their concerns, fears, anger, hope and expectations is a key aspect of the *Shinrai* research project
- Each category contains a variety of people with distinct differences; each category could always be further refined to reflect such nuances. However, this simple categorization helps comprehend the main issue for each type of inhabitants, and the consequences of their decisions on their lives.
- For each category, one complete “story” was retained, as an *archetype* of that category, which allows in-depth presentation of the case of one person: their reasons for returning or not, their analysis of the situation.
- For each *emblematic case*, the more prominent factors are identified; the analysis provided is also completed and enriched with other cases of the same category, providing the various nuances within each category of inhabitants.
- Inhabitants interviewed mainly from Naraha and Kawauchi.



Return and forget/resist to RP culture

Mrs Aki : *I cannot live without touching the soil*



Return and control/comply to RP culture

Mrs KS : *Communication with experts allows to remove radiation fear*



Return and worry

Mrs Yi : *I do not know even now whether it was the right decision to return ...*



Return and commute ...

Ms. W : Kawauchi is a place for working, but not for living ...



Not returning now ...

Ms. SA : I fear that the Government is making the accident look as if it no longer exists ...



Not returning ever

Mrs KT : The myth of the safety of the NPP has gone after the accident but the new safety myth on low-dose exposure has emerged and is still intact

Conclusion

- Returning or not is a very dividing issue, as shown by other scholars who worked on the life in contaminated territories after the nuclear accident (Slater, 2015, Kimura, 2016,).
- The points raised show that the decision to return or not involves balancing a whole range of reasons, (assessment of the radiological dangers, infrastructures availability, return of other villagers, ...), making a *personal* and intimate decision,
- It is also a way of responding to government ‘pressures’ and incentives. To this extent, whether to return or not can also be framed as a *political* stance on the part of residents, which mobilizes their broad assessment of the government’s post-accidental policy.

The Fukushima accident reactivates the questions raised after the Chernobyl accident, and calls for long term approaches.

