



# **Learn as you go: Social science-in-the-making in post-disaster Fukushima**

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# OBJECTIVES

Potential of citizen science in  
nuclear incidents, accidents and post-disaster situations



# METHODOLOGY

- Qualitative research
- Fieldwork in Japan (2018)
  - interviews
  - Participatory observation
  - Ethnographic techniques
- Document analysis



# When Sushi goes bad

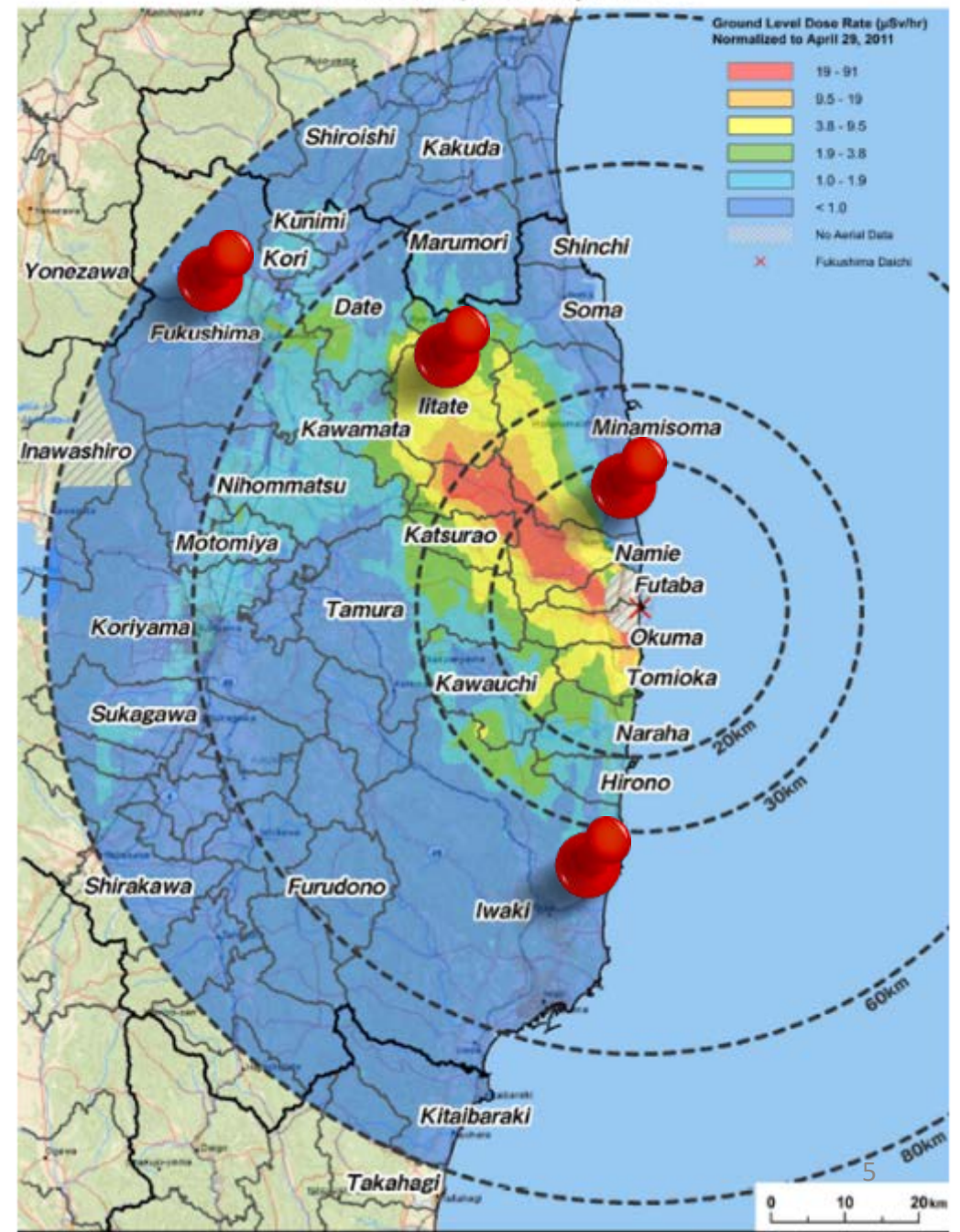






# Aerial Measuring Results

Joint US / Japan Survey Data













# CHALLENGES

1. Post-disaster situation
2. Bridging cultures



# POST-DISASTER SITUATION

- Before and after 3.11: disruption
  - Social
  - Material
  - Environmental
- Risk perceptions (Zinn J.O., 2008)
- Boundary-work (Gieryn T.F., 1983)
- Scientism (Kimura A., 2016)



# BRIDGING CULTURES AND LANGUAGES

- Political cultures (Jasanoff S., 2001)
- Orientalism (Said E.W., 1978)
- Risk society (Beck U., 1992)

“contemporary realities force people to think of themselves as being located in spaces which are necessarily global, or in any event which extend well beyond the nation-state” (Wieviorka M., 2016)





# CONCLUSION: SOCIAL SCIENCE-IN-THE-MAKING



"Let me begin with a "worst scenario," a virtually completed study over which a researcher belatedly wishes he or she could wave a magic wand: "Poof. Ethnography!""

(Wolcott H.F., 1990, p.53)



# CONCLUSION: SOCIAL SCIENCE-IN-THE-MAKING

"[...] Given this negative character, it makes no sense to crystallize first principles or seek natural laws that generate best cases. Instead, I practice arts of noticing. I comb through the mess of existing worlds-in-the-making, looking for treasures—each distinctive and unlikely to be found again, at least in that form. [emphasis added]"

(Tsing A.L., 2015, p.191)





**NOTICE**

**THANK YOU  
FOR NOTICING  
THIS NEW NOTICE  
YOUR NOTICING HAS BEEN NOTICED**



# THANK YOU

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