

Diego A. Vazquez-Brust
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Claudia E. Natenzon *Editors*

Business and Environmental Risks

Spatial Interactions Between
Environmental Hazards and Social
Vulnerabilities in Ibero-America

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Foreword by Kjell-Erik Bugge

 Springer

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*To all those living in 'hot-spots' and
suffering the consequences of the problems
outlined in this book. We wish them a
brighter future both socially and
environmentally*

To our families and friends

Foreword

Vulnerability and poverty are real threats to worldwide prosperity, and there is a need to act now. Fortunately this is exactly what this book does: presenting results from real life cases and simultaneously providing a methodology that can help us move forward towards increased awareness, improved understanding of risks, and effective risk management based on well-informed decision-making.

And this is why I was both honoured and pleased to accept the opportunity to write this foreword. During the past two decades I have been ‘fighting’ for a more sustainable development, focusing on how the combination of process management and decision-support can help stakeholders creating a better future together. My work has been both in developed and developing countries, and in all cases I have seen one key success factor: human beings. They create most of the problems, and they are the ones that have the ability to solve them too.

This brings me to my visit to Buenos Aires last year where not only the beautiful parks and the nicely revitalized harbour area were visited, but also ‘La Villa de Retiro’: a massive semi-illegal settlement of marginal dwellers. The contrasts are so striking between rich and poor, opportunities and threats, and this is not only the case in Buenos Aires, but in all Latin America.

After having seen the problems with my own eyes, we (the authors and I) continued the discussion on how a better understanding of real life problems can contribute to their solution, and I was again impressed by their knowledge but also in particular by their desire to make a real difference. They not only convinced me about the importance and urgency of the problems, but they also gave me hope for the future.

This hope is embedded in the contents of this book, because both challenges and a workable strategy towards solutions are presented in a coherent way. The particularly useful perspective, and emphasis of this book, is on the risks related to how social vulnerability and environmental hazards negatively reinforce each other in so-called ‘hot-spots’. The methodology for identifying these risks even includes an attempt to take into account cumulative effects of localized environmental hazards e.g. caused by several small firms. In that respect the authors make a daring, and necessary, step towards improved inter-disciplinary approaches for addressing real life challenges. They acknowledge that the richness and complexity of life is much

more than its individual parts, and, in particular, they focus on how understanding of the problems provides a basis for effective governability and management of risks.

Policy makers should therefore read this book focusing on how governability affects performance, and how the understanding of 'hot-spots' and GIS can be used together as a powerful tool for visualizing results and facilitating decision-making. Scientists should read it, because the methodology suggested represents a daring attempt to address real life cumulative problems and there is a need for more scientists to engage in inter-disciplinary science.

Finally, I would like to return to the three issues mentioned initially, increased awareness, improved understanding of risks, and effective risk management based on well-informed decision-making. These are interdependent objectives. Effective risk management builds on understanding, and awareness is an important step towards support for changes to policy and practice. This is why this book is so important, because it offers the basis for an integral approach to all three issues!

As the Latin American case studies especially illustrate, (much) more understanding of 'hot-spots' is definitely needed, but it should be accompanied by, and embedded in, an approach that focuses on multi-actor involvement. My hope and strong recommendation for the future is, therefore, that the stakeholders seize this opportunity: together.

Deventer, The Netherlands

Kjell-Erik Bugge

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Finally, many thanks to Miguel Angel Plaza-Ubeda for his invaluable assistance in a variety of technical emergencies.

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List of Acronyms

3D	Tridimensional
AECID	Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development <i>Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo</i>
AL	Latin America <i>América Latina</i>
BRASS	The Economic and Social Sciences Research Council Centre for Business Relationships Accountability and Society at Cardiff University
CABA	Autonomous City of Buenos Aires <i>Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires</i>
CBI	Confederation of British Industry
CCAA	Autonomous communities of Spain <i>Comunidades Autónomas de España</i>
EU (CE)	European Commission
CLACSO	Latinoamerican Council of Social Sciences <i>Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales</i>
CMDSN	National Social Minimum Data Sets <i>Conjunto mínimo de datos sociales nacionales</i>
CSR (RSE)	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAC (CAD)	Development Assistance Committee, OECD
EAGGF (FEOGA)	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
ECHP (PHOGUE)	European Community Household Panel
ECLAC (CEPAL)	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency USA
ERDF (FEDER)	European Regional Development Fund
ESCB (SEBC)	European System of Central Banks
ESRC	The Economic and Social Sciences Research Council UK
ESS (SEE)	European Statistical System
EU (UE)	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Communities

FLACSO	Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences – Buenos Aires <i>Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales</i>
FTAA (ALCA)	Free Trade Area of the Americas
IDB (BID)	Inter American Development Bank
FIFG (IFOP)	Financial Instrument for Fishing Guidance
GIS (SIG)	Geographic Information System
IHD (IDH)	Human Development Index
IMF (FMI)	International Monetary Fund
INDEC	Statistical office of Argentina <i>Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos</i>
INE	Acronym of the Statistical Office of Bolivia and also of Spain <i>Instituto Nacional de Estadística</i>
IP	Index of Industrial Hazardousness (perilousness)
IR	Index of Evaluated Risk
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISV	Index of Social Vulnerability
LCS	Living Conditions Survey <i>Encuesta de Condiciones de Vida</i>
LEC (NCA)	Level of Environmental Complexity <i>Nivel de Complejidad Ambiental</i>
m.a.s.l	meters above sea level
MABA (AMBA)	Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires <i>Area Metropolitana del Gran Buenos Aires</i>
NGO (ONG)	Non Governmental Organization
OAS (OEA)	Organization of American States
OECD (OCDE)	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAHO (OPS)	Pan American Health Organization, UN
PIRNA	Natural Resources and Environment Research Programme of Argentina <i>Programa de Investigaciones en Recursos Naturales y Ambiente</i>
PL (LP)	Poverty Line
RAMINP	Regulation on disturbing, unhealthy, toxic and dangerous activities <i>Reglamento de actividades molestas, insalubres, nocivas y peligrosas</i>
SABI	Database of Spanish and Portuguese Companies <i>Base de datos de Empresas Españolas y Portuguesas</i>
SEN	National Statistical System <i>Sistema Estadístico Nacional</i>
SIGBI	Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland
SME (PyME)	Small and Medium Entreprises
UBA	University of Buenos Aires

UBN (<i>NBI</i>)	Unsatisfied Basic Needs <i>Necesidades Basicas Insatisfechas</i>
UDAPE	Social and Economic Policy Analysis Unit Bolivia <i>Unidad de Análisis de Políticas Sociales y Económicas</i>
UN (<i>ONU</i>)	United Nations
UNDP (<i>PNUD</i>)	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
US SIC	United States Standard Industrial Classification System
USA	United States of America
WB (<i>BM</i>)	World Bank
WHO (<i>OMS</i>)	Organización Mundial de la SaludWorld Health Organization
WTO (<i>OMC</i>)	World Trade Organization

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