
ZiF-Research Group *Communicating Disaster*
Closing Conference “Dealing with the Disasters of Others”
26-28 January 2012

Presentation Abstract:

Heedful Interaction and Affiliation in Emergency Management Teams

Stefan Strohschneider, Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany
(stefan.strohschneider@uni-jena.de)

Date & Time: Saturday, 28 January 2012, 09:45

Location: Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Bielefeld, Germany; Room 222 “Plenarsaal”

Emergency Management Teams (EMTs) are important puzzle pieces in any attempt to successfully deal with the disasters of others. Even a brief look at the challenges such teams face during actual emergencies indicates the necessity of reflected experience as well as intensive training to make them work. Besides having highly elaborated functional divisions and well established Standard Operating Procedures the character of the processes, the work flow, the tone and register of verbal communication in many successful EMTs have surprised many observers.

Theoretically, concepts like heedful interaction, implicit coordination, or affiliation have been used to explain the success of this remarkably soft, friendly, and interpersonally cautious way of interaction even under the most stressful of circumstances. The talk will elaborate the concepts of heedful interaction and affiliation and discuss their importance in the larger context of psychological safety, uncertainty, and control. Some rather speculative comments will deal with the specific problems of culturally heterogeneous or even outright multinational EMTs.

For further questions on the conference or the research group,
please contact the research group assistant:

Marén Schorch
Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF)

Tel.: +49 (0)521 106-2776
communicating_disaster@uni-bielefeld.de