The Disastrousness of Disaster

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The blackness of black (Charles Goodwin 1997):

"what will count as valid instances of the color category black is established within a public, socially constituted world of relevant activity, rather than in the mental processes of an isolated actor "
1. Disaster ownership

- The disasters of others as our disasters
- How come that we are concerned about the disasters of others?
- The others
  - as scientific objects
  - as news objects
  - as moral objects
  - as political objects
  - as lay object for professionals
  - as beneficiaries
- Chains of Affection
2. Knowing about disasters I: Disaster rhetorics

• Disaster topoi
• Numbers, losses, Richter scale etc
• Extreme case formulations
• Disaster formats
• Articulating speechlessness, dumbfoundedness
3. Knowing about disasters II: Disaster iconography

- The semiotics of disaster
- Disaster as valuable news
- The freezing effect of pictures
- Non-pictureability of disasters - Pictureability
4. Disaster practices

- Don't just stand there, do something! vs. Don't just do something, stand there!
- Morality of disaster behavior: Caring for oneself - caring for others (cf. Kapitän Schettino)
- Improvisation vs. Planning - and the morality of preparation (subsidiarity)
- Living with provisional solution
Legge 626: Laurea ad Honorem
5. Disaster epistemics

- Uniqueness vs. Comparability (Richter scale);
- Semantics of disaster: Risk, crisis, security etc.
- Triviality of disaster precursors
- in situ vs. ex post perspective
- One is always wiser after the event
- Cognitive re-organization and re-centering
- Vis-à-vis a disaster: Awareness, ignorance, fatality, hysteria
- The effect of knowing the cause of / reason for the disaster
6. Disaster dispositif

- Disasters as all-encompassing events
- Disaster discourse - Politics of disaster
- Compassion vs. rationality
- Disaster industry / disaster as commodity
In a grab and run test, Heineken was the number one choice of beer for looters in the New Orleans metropolitan area. When asked, most agreed that Colt 45 or Red Dog was their main beer of purchase, but when money doesn’t matter, they grab for the finest beer around, Heineken.

Thank you New Orleans for making us number one.
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6. Disaster dispositif