

# Review of: "An approach to the background, methods and challenges of research in disasters"

Boris Braun<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universität Köln

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The article provides a brief but well worth reading overview of the evolution of disaster studies since the mid-19th century. Many of the arguments put forward by the authors can only be supported. I also share the analysis of the challenges (too little multisectoral research, little work on slow-onset disasters, etc.). Unfortunately, these challenges are only addressed in the text, but hardly any ways and solutions are outlined on how these desiderata can be overcome. This disappointed me somewhat at the end of the article. Interdisciplinary approaches in particular are very challenging because the individual disciplinary approaches are based in part on different paradigms and we are not always in a position to speak a scientific language that is understandable to all. The increasing importance of climate change or rapid urbanization in the study of disasters does not make this any easier, because the complexity is increased even further. I also think that social and spatial science perspectives might not have been taken sufficiently into account. It is precisely here that exciting research has emerged in recent years on the questions of how vulnerability can be reduced and resilience increased, and what adaptation options exist for vulnerable groups.