

FUKUSHIMA TRAVELS

Michiel Van Oudheusden



Fukushima Dai-ichi and the Ocean: 10 Years of Study and Insight

Tokyo Conference 4/3/2021

This poster depicts how 'Fukushima' has registered in narratives, pictures, and images in my home country of Belgium, evoking hope, despair, anger, and awe. Fukushima travels a complicated route, and is transformed and repackaged in various ways. Alongside the dominant, mediatized narratives of expert reasoning ('Here are the facts' [1]) and fear ('It could happen here' [2]), we encounter denial and technological solutionism ('Important milestone in Fukushima cleanup' [3]), as well as aspirations of transformation and renewal. The latter include **experiments in citizen science**, with citizens in Japan and elsewhere generating their own scientific data and tools, and seeking to open research and science policymaking to the wider public [4].



As a social scientist who collaborates with nuclear scientists and technologists and who informs policymakers, I am drawn to these new starting points and to **how travels between Japan and Europe can generate new fields of possibility for stakeholders interested in civic engagement, mutual learning, and democratic renewal [5].**

While inevitably partial and unfinished, my impressions are meant to be generative, bringing practical and speculative considerations into the picture so that others could get an idea of what is at stake in citizen science after Fukushima, for individuals and broader communities. I invite others to think through these issues with me and to confess to the difficulties of transforming (nuclear) science-society governance towards robust and responsible processes and outcomes.

GRACE – Grassroots Citizen Science for Global Data Environments

The information, documentation and figures in this presentation are written by researchers of the GRACE project under EC grant agreement H2020-MSCA-IF-2018 (836989) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission. The European Commission is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.