

Black Ops – Mobilising Communities: One Experience from the Christchurch Quake

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On 22 February 2011 Christchurch experienced New Zealand's most devastating natural disaster. Following the 'quake' Christchurch was widely portrayed in the national media as a unified community. Although the city shared the experience of devastation, the reality of the quake was that what side of town, what hill, what suburb, which side of the street you were on became determinants of quake damage. Certain geographic areas of Christchurch faced an enforced isolation in the period immediately following the quake. In some areas emerged a particular sense of social exclusion from the mainstream support and relief initiatives that were mobilising in other suburbs around the city, revealing distinct communities. This presentation is based on the experiences of the co-presenters, an exploration of the east-west narrative, and a discussion of community responses immediately after the quake.

These seminars are a joint event with the MANU AO Academy and MASS, the Māori Association of Social Science www.mass.maori.nz



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