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研究課題名(和文) Coming back home: An examination of the importance of community in recovering from disaster in Shinchimachi, Fukushima

研究課題名(英文) Coming back home: An examination of the importance of community in recovering from disaster in Shinchimachi, Fukushima

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研究成果の概要(和文)：本研究は、住民の地域社会とのつながりが災害後の復興・復興における重要な要素の一つであるという提案に基づいて確立されたものである。福島県の6つの町でインタビューとサーベイ調査と共に、調査福島県全体でオンラインサーベイを行った結果、福島の住民が、主流のメディアから、福島原発事故に関連して新しく作られたスティグマを知覚していることが明らかになった。居住者の隣人、コミュニティ組織、地元メディアへの接続が彼らの回復にポジティブな影響を与えることを発見しました。全体として、調査結果は、住民の地域コミュニティへのつながりを促進することが、福島住民の社会、心理的な復興に重要な役割を渡すことを示唆した。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

1. Enhancement of communication infrastructure theory to include relationships between macro- and meso/micro-level storytellers.
2. A proposition of future outlook as an outcome factor of neighborhood storytelling networks
3. One of the few studies that represent Fukushima residents' perspectives.

研究成果の概要(英文)：This study was established based on the proposition that residents' connections to their community are one of the important factors in the post-disaster recovery. Interview and survey research was conducted in six towns in Fukushima as well as an online survey conducted across the Fukushima Prefecture. Six publications and six conference presentations were derived from the project. The study found that Fukushima residents perceived newly created stigma associated with the Fukushima Nuclear Accident from the mainstream media and interpersonal contacts. Based on communication infrastructure theory, the study found that residents' connectedness to neighbors, community organizations and local media had a positive influence on their resilience. Overall, the study findings implicate that utilizing and facilitating resident's connectedness to their neighborhood storytelling network is a sustainable and effective way to help Fukushima residents adjust to post-disaster Fukushima.

研究分野：Communication and Media

キーワード：Communication Media local community Fukushima Disaster Stigma Resilience

1 . 研究開始当初の背景

This study was established based on the proposition that residents' connections to their community are one of the important factors in the post-disaster recovery and restoration. Scholars have emphasized that local communities are an essential unit of society. Even in the age of globalization, urbanization and advanced new technologies, residential communities are where people lead their everyday life. Traditional local communities in Japan are particularly known for their strong connectedness among the residents (Bellah, 2003).

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, many people in Fukushima had to leave their homes and relocate to various places, including temporary housing units. The immediate surrounding, including their home and their neighborhood, was suddenly altered. People had to cope with post-disaster trauma and loss in a new living environment. As people who have lived in temporary housing units move back to their old neighborhood, many people are likely to go through the “repatriation shock” – a feeling that what people remember as their old neighborhood is not the same and that they have to re-adjust to their lives in the old but new neighborhood (Olshansky et al., 2006). In the process, studies have found that connectedness to one's community and a sense of community play an essential role (Shaw & Goda, 2004).

There are many different ways of defining “community.” The present study defines and measures community from a communication perspective. From this perspective, community is defined by the communication network within a local neighborhood. According to communication infrastructure theory (Ball-Rokeach et al., 2001), the viability of a community is defined by a “storytelling network” among residents, local media, and local organizations (Figure 1). If local media and local organizations are telling stories of one another, and if residents are connected to local media and local organizations, the neighborhood is likely to have a viable community. The neighborhood storytelling network is a crucial “infrastructure” that enables a community to exist in a local neighborhood.

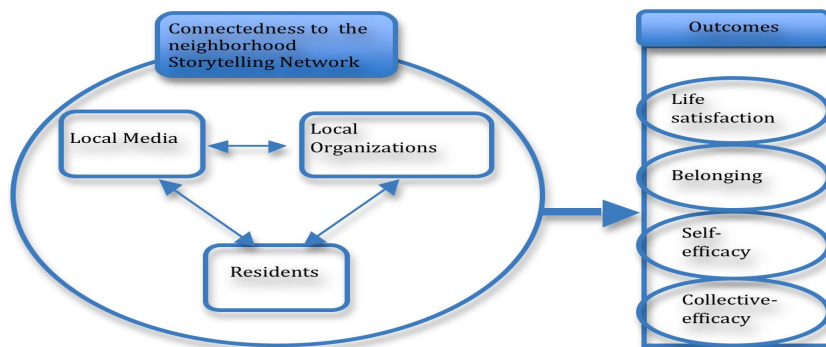


Figure 1. Connectedness to the neighborhood storytelling network and outcomes

2 . 研究の目的

From a communication perspective, the study examines residents of Shinchimachi (新地町), a small town in Fukushima. Many of the people included in the study came back to their neighborhood after staying at temporary housings for several years. The ways in which people's connections to community media, local organizations and neighbors influence their successful repatriation to their neighborhood are examined.

The study is based on four objectives:

First, the study aims to examine how Fukushima residents perceive their newly created stigma associated with the nuclear accident. In Particular, the study empirically examines Fukushima residents' felt stigma by conducting interview research. The ways in which the stigma is related to media framing of Fukushima and interpersonal communication are examined.

Second, the study aims to examine residents' connectedness to community resources and networks: (1) where people find information about what is going on in their community; (2) which venues and organizations people follow and participate to meet other people and engage in community activities; and (3) how people connect to their neighbors and discuss issues they face as community members.

Third, the degree to which residents' connections to the neighborhood storytelling network influence their socio-psychological recovery is examined. Four aspects will be considered in assessing people's recovery: *life satisfaction*, *future outlook*, *sense of belonging to their neighborhood* (Ball-Rokeach et al., 2001), and *collective-efficacy* (belief in the ability of community members to succeed in controlling certain situations; Sampson et al., 1997). The relationship between connections to the storytelling network and outcomes has been researched in past studies (e.g., Matsaganis & Wilkin, 2015).

Fourth, the ways in which residents' connections to social media storytelling networks influence the outcomes mentioned above are examined. As more and more people are using social media to understand what is going on in society, how people use social media to find out about local information, connect with people and resources in their local community, and express their thoughts and opinions become more significant. In such a context, the role of online storytelling about local affairs is examined.

3 . 研究の方法

The research employed mixed research methods and mainly carried out the following four projects.

(1) Interviews

A network sampling method was used to recruit residents of Shinchimachi to participate in the interview. Twelve in-depth interviews were carried out. The interviews mainly concerned residents' (1) perceived stigma toward Fukushima, (2) connections to community media and organizations as well as to others neighbors, and (3) important issues or concerns they have about their community lives.

(2) Community survey in Shinchimachi, Fukushima

A resident survey was conducted in Shinchimachi to examine their connectedness to the storytelling network and its relations to people's post-disaster recovery. A survey employing neighborhood stratified sampling was conducted in 2018, and 428 responses were collected.

(3) Online survey in Fukushima

In order to explore people's online activities and local community connectedness, an online survey was conducted in January 2019 in the Fukushima Prefecture. A reputable survey research company was hired to conduct the survey. One-thousand responses were collected based on quota sampling of age and gender.

(4) Community survey in four towns in Fukushima

After conducting a community survey in Shinchimachi, a second-wave of community survey was conducted in five towns in Fukushima: Fukushima City, Koriyama, Kitakata, Iizaka, and Kawamata-cho in May and June 2019. These communities were strategically chosen as communities in western and central Fukushima that did not experience the tsunami, but experienced changes in population, accepting evacuees

and a Fukushima stigma, which has implications on the local economy as well as prefecture-wide socio-psychological implications.

4 . 研究成果

Research findings are summarized by publications and conference papers.

(1) Perceived Stigma

Kwesell, A. & Jung, J. (2019). A multidimensional analysis of stigma: Findings from a qualitative study of Fukushima residents following Japan's 2011 nuclear disaster. *Journal of International Crisis and Risk Communication Research*, 2(2), 233-258. <https://doi.org/10.30658/jicrcr.2.2.4>

This study examines stigma from the perspective of residents of Fukushima prefecture following the 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan, to better understand effective crisis communication strategies that can mitigate the negative effects of self-stigma and promote sustainable psychosocial recovery. Social cognitive theory was employed to explore cognitive, affective, and behavioral changes faced by Fukushima residents in response to the stigma imposed upon them after the disaster. The study result based on in-depth interviews with residents of Shinchimachi, Fukushima, indicates that affectively, participants experienced a remarkable amount of fear and sadness. Cognitively, they focused on concerns about outsiders' negative images or misinformation about Fukushima, changed priorities or values, and self-efficacy. Behaviorally, they actively resisted the stigma while strengthening their connections and belonging to their own community. Additionally, residents felt that they were branded as polluted and contagious and attributed the creation of a Fukushima stigma to a lack of full and accurate information as well as mistrust in main information sources, including media and government. This research suggests that developing a more transparent and locally-based communication and information system could mitigate the negative effects of self-stigma. Theoretical implications for future research and policy suggestions for crisis communications are discussed.

(2) Communication Infrastructure and Resilience (Future Outlook and Life Satisfaction)

Jung, J. (2019). Socio-psychological recovery from disasters through the neighborhood storytelling network: Empirical research in Shinchimachi, Fukushima. *International Journal of Communication*, 13, 5927-5947

This study focuses on socio-psychological recovery from the triple disasters in 2011, which involved the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear accident. Based on communication infrastructure theory, the study examines how people's connections to their neighborhood storytelling network and collective efficacy influence their socio-psychological recovery measured by life satisfaction and future outlook. Based on a survey conducted in Shinchimachi, Fukushima, the study found that residents who are more connected to their neighborhood storytelling network—consisting of community organizations, local media, and interpersonal storytelling—are likely to have higher life satisfaction and a more positive future outlook. In

addition, collective efficacy was found to have positive effects on life satisfaction and future outlook. Implications of the study for disaster research and intervention are discussed.

(3) Communication Infrastructure as a Moderating Factor for the Effect of Stigma on Future Outlook

Jung, J. & Kwesell, A. (2019). The effects of perceived stigma and community storytelling on future outlook: Multi-method research in Fukushima, Japan. Paper presented at the *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, May 25-27, Washington DC, USA.

The Fukushima nuclear disaster left residents of Fukushima with an ongoing struggle to recover from not only physical damage and health risks but also socio-psychological difficulties of facing stigma and having a negative future outlook. This research takes place in a coastal village in Fukushima Prefecture and employs interview and survey methods to unearth nuanced perceptions of stigma and to test the effects of the perceived stigma and neighborhood connectedness on future outlook. Based on communication infrastructure theory, findings suggest that a perceived stigma imposed on residents has a negative effect on future outlook, while residents who are connected to neighborhood storytelling networks are more likely to have a positive future outlook than others. In particular, connectedness to community organizations and stigma have an interaction effect on future outlook: the negative effect of stigma on future outlook is weaker among those who are more connected to community organizations.

(4) Online and Offline Storytelling Connections and Future Outlook

Jung, J. (2019). Connectedness to online and offline storytelling networks and socio-psychological disaster recovery in Fukushima, Japan. Paper presented at the *Digital Asia Preconference, International Communication Association Annual Conference*, May 24, Washington DC, USA.

This study examined the influence of Fukushima residents' stigma perception and connectedness to offline and online neighborhood storytelling networks on future outlook. Based on an online survey of 1000 Fukushima residents, the study found that residents who perceive higher stigma toward Fukushima from outsiders were more likely to have a negative future outlook than others. On the other hand, residents' connectedness to the neighborhood storytelling network – consisting of interpersonal conversation about what is happening in the neighborhood, connectedness to community organizations, and connectedness to local media – was positively related to future outlook. With regard to online communication, people who upload stories and share information about local affairs on social media were more likely to have a positive future outlook than others. Moreover, uploading stories and information about local affairs on social media was found to moderate the effect of stigma on future outlook: the negative effect of stigma on future outlook was weaker for those who engage in more expressions about local affairs on social media. Implications of the results are discussed.

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〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

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6. 研究組織

	氏名 (ローマ字氏名) (研究者番号)	所属研究機関・部局・職 (機関番号)	備考
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