Crisis Management and Urban Security

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Crisis Management and Urban Security

- Images of crisis (London, Paris, Gothenburg)
- Core concepts
- 'Structural' vs conflict-based threats
- Urban environments: up and downsides
- The challenge and potential of inter-organizational cooperation

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Crises in urban settings: Some examples

- Terrorism: 9/11, 7/7, 11/3, Mumbai
- Socio-political conflict: Athens, Paris, Gothenburg
- 'Natural' disasters: Hurricane Katrina, Port-au-Prince,
- Critical infrastructure failures: Montreal, Auckland, Buenos-Aires
- Public health: SARS (Beijing, Ottowa), HIN1

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Crisis: definition (and diagnostic)

- Core values at stake (**threat**/opportunity)
- Urgency
- Uncertainty

- Sister concepts:
  - disaster
  - security,
  - vulnerability,
  - resilience

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Trends

- Transnationalization
- Multi-level governance
- Complexity
- Mediatization
- Politicisation
- PPnPP
- Technical change

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The downside of 'urbanity'

- Urban environments are crisis-prone
  - Population density and latent/manifest social tensions
  - Political visibility and symbolic loading
  - High degree of interactive complexity (c.f. Perrow, 1984)
  - Dependence upon critical infrastructure/life-lines
  - Vulnerability to contagion
  - Evacuation difficult

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The upside of (first world) 'urbanity'

Urban environments are resilient:

- Often rich in resources and expertise
- Potential for effective, concentrated intervention
- Capable (or improvable) 'blue-lights'
- Emergent response potential
- Focal points for mass media
- Political visibility and 'drawing rights'

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Inter-organizational cooperation

- Essential for effective, legitimate cm
- Substantial barriers exist
- Trend towards institutionalization in urban regional contexts
  - France
  - UK
  - Holland
- Challenge for Sweden and Stockholm

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