SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND TERRITORIALISATION IN EASTERN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Gabriele Casano

University of Genoa (Italy) - Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche e Internazionali (DISPI) - CIMA Research Foundation (Italy)



gabriele.casano@edu.unige.it

This research is part of the PhD project entitled: 'Environmental risks and climate change: migration and community resilience in Eastern Sub-Saharan Africa - IGAD Region' within the PhD Programme in 'Security, Risk and Vulnerability', curriculum 'Risk, Climate Change and Sustainable Development'.



Introduction

Climate change and environmental risks can aggravate socioeconomic problems, instability, and violence. These issues can exacerbate existing resource disputes, social and political tensions or spark new conflicts, leading to internal and cross-border displacement.

Objectives

The main research question is:

How does 'community resilience' impact local processes of territorialisation?

This poster shows the preliminary theoretical results preceding the data collection in the field and the analysis of quantitative data. It presents the conceptualisation of 'community resilience' and the strategy of analysis adopted to understand the change in terms of territorialisation processes mediated by the potential effect of 'community resilience'.

Socio-geographical Focus



Agro-pastoral communities in northwest
Kenya because seasonal mobility of
pastoralist communities in Arid and SemiArid Lands is both a coping strategy to
deal with environmental risks or conflicts
over the use of natural resources, as well
a potential source of tension.

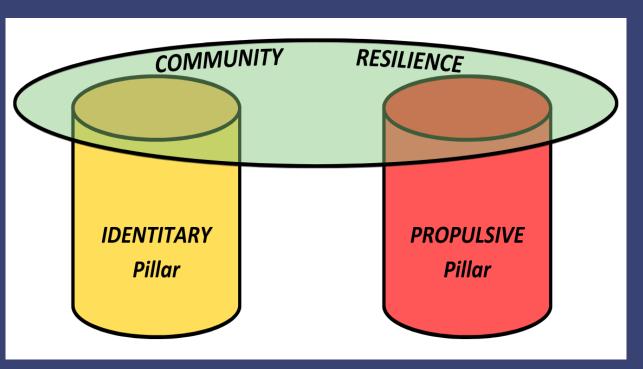
Methodology

The research project will integrate qualitative elements with quantitative ones. We expect to select 2/3 local projects on 'community resilience' enhancement (on-going or implemented) having explicit ties with environmental risks and climate change. The study will be conducted by applying geographical research approaches and on-site interviews with relevant local stakeholders.

Bibliography

- Carpenter, S., Walker, B., Anderies, J. & Abel, N. (2001). From Methafor to Measurement: Resilience to What to What?. Ecosystem, Vol. IV(VIII), 765-781.
- Hermans, K. & Ide, T., (2017) Advancing research on climate change, conflict and migration. Journal of the Geographical Society of Berlin. 150(1).
- Linke, A. M., Witmer, F.D.W., O'Loughlin, (2022). Weather variability and conflict forecast: dynamic human-environment interactions in Kenya. Political Geography, 92(102489).
- Matarrita-Cascante, D., Trejos, B., Qin, H., Joo, D. & Debner, S. (2016). Conceptualizing community resilience: Revisiting conceptual distinctions. Community Development, 48(1), 105-123.
- Pemberton, S. et al. (2021). 'Staying' as climate change adaptation strategy: A proposed research agenda. Geoforum, 121, 192-196.
- Raffestin C., (2012). Space, territory and territorialità, Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, 30, pp. 121-141.
- Robertson, T., Docherty, P., Millar, F., Ruck, A. & Engstrom, S. (2021). Theory and practice of building community resilience to extreme events. International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, 59.

Results Community Resilience Conceptualisation



In other words, 'community resilience' is the capacity to prevent and respond by defining a new equilibrium (more or less similar to the previous one) in terms of territorialisation processes,

reducing community and territorial exposure, as well as vulnerability, without compromising the main identity traits, and (re)structuring the interactions of that specific social system with itself and the territory.

Discussion Risks - Community Resillience - Territorialisation

