

COLLECTIVE ACTS OF RESISTANCE AND RISK CONFRONTATION: VOLCANO ERUPTION CHAITEN, CHILE.

Salgado Vargas, Marcela¹²

¹Estudiante del doctorado en ciencias sociales de la Universidad de Chile

²Centro de Investigación en Vulnerabilidades y Desastres Socionaturales

Key words:

Socionatural disasters reveal the different vulnerabilities and risks of stricken areas; this is why the control of these situations at public policy level has a direct impact on the perception of risk and the significance of the experience of affected people. On May 2, 2008, Chile experienced the eruption of Chaitén volcano, located in the city of Chaitén, Los Lagos Region. The volcano eruption and the overflow of a river destroyed the city and public actions for the evacuation and subsequent return of local people disrupted social systems and daily relationships at public and private level. This generated collapses within work and family structure and changes in the relationship between the State and citizens. Through the use of qualitative strategies, as individual and group interviews, focus group and collectives cartographies, this proposal analyses the Chaitén case by focusing on the experience and significance of such a disaster on the impact at territorial identity level, including the evaluation of public policies and the collective actions of risk confrontation generated by the inhabitants themselves.

This research, made between 2012 and 2014, is part of the work carried by the Research Center on Vulnerability and Socio-natural Disaster (CIVDES), University of Chile, composed of an interdisciplinary team in social sciences.