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Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences
Discussions

Interactive comment on "From event analysis to global lessons: disaster forensics for building resilience" *by* Adriana Keating et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The authors follow different aims with this paper.

First, they present a readily developed and applicable open source methodology – the Post Event Review Capability (PERC) - for the assessment and analysis of disaster events of to the scientific community. Second, they give an overview about studies and results already conducted using the methodology. Third, they conduct a meta-analysis on these studies to identify strengths and weaknesses of PERC, draw comparisons and present lessons learned in terms of what are the influences that determine the resilience capabilities of affected regions and societies and what can be done (or avoided) to strengthen resilience.

While the purposes this paper intends to fulfill are quite diverse, the authors nevertheless present their method, results and findings in a clear and structured way: First,

they lay out the motivation and intentions that led to the development of PERC. They describe the disaster forensics background and place their methodology in this field, showing differences and complimentary value to existing methods. A concise description of the methodology follows that gives a good understanding even for an audience that is not familiar with the already published PERC manual. The already conducted PERC studies are briefly described, followed by generalized lessons learned from the synopsis of the studies. The authors close their findings part with a short evaluation of the methodology itself and ways to improve it. They close with a summary of their research and findings and outline the way forward, stressing the point of spreading the methodology further.

The paper is well structured and of adequate length. The language is clear and concise and generally, the manuscript is obviously carefully thought through and well prepared. The method and (meta-)data (reports) are clearly described and the title and abstract summarize the contents very well. References state the previous work and give credit to other approaches in the field of disaster forensics as well as to the relevant science in the field of disaster resilience.

Parts of the paper are not original research, as the method is already published and the project reports are publicly available. Still the synopsis that leads to the lessons learned is a very valuable contribution to the analysis and understanding of the consequences of natural disaster events. It is also important to make the method known in the scientific disaster forensics community.

The development and most applications of the PERC methodology were led by the Zurich's global disaster resilience alliance. While the commitment and effort of Zurich Insurance Group should be highly appreciated, publishing the reports exclusively on the company webpages might cause some problems:

- some links from the paper references do not work and not all PERC reports can be found in the Zurich repository (some only by web search)

- for the Morocco study the wrong report (global income gap) is linked

- the externally conducted study for Boulder, Colorado is not in the repository

As the PERC-reports are not too long, they might be added as supplement to the paper to ensure long-term access for the audience and interested parties.

Recommendations: This well-written, carefully structured paper adds value to the field of disaster forensics and is within the scope of NHESS. Some minor issues with the linking of the PERC reports should be fixed prior to publication.

The manuscript can be published after these minor technical corrections.

I encourage the authors to further promote and spread this interesting methodology. I found this meta-analysis very helpful. Hoping that more PERC-studies will follow, this exercise might be repeated in the future with more studies from different perils.

Best Regards!

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