

Understanding Post-earthquake Cordons in different contexts: A comparative case study between Christchurch, New Zealand and L'Aquila, Italy

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A cordon is a visible barrier used by an authorized institution to temporarily manage access to and from a given site during critical situations

- Access points
- Cordon
- Unauthorized people
- Stationed officer
- Authorized people
- Conditionally authorized people

Objective: To investigate the post-earthquake cordons, their use and implications in different contexts.

Research Design: Qualitative Case Study approach (Christchurch, 2011 (fig 1) and L'Aquila, Italy, 2009 (fig 2))

Data Collection: 23 expert interviews of key informants of varying profession (Emergency managers, Council representatives, Communication managers, Insurance and Business representatives, Police, academics)

Methods: Coded in Nvivo and analysed Inductively



Figure 1 Devastation after 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand and the different phases of established cordons

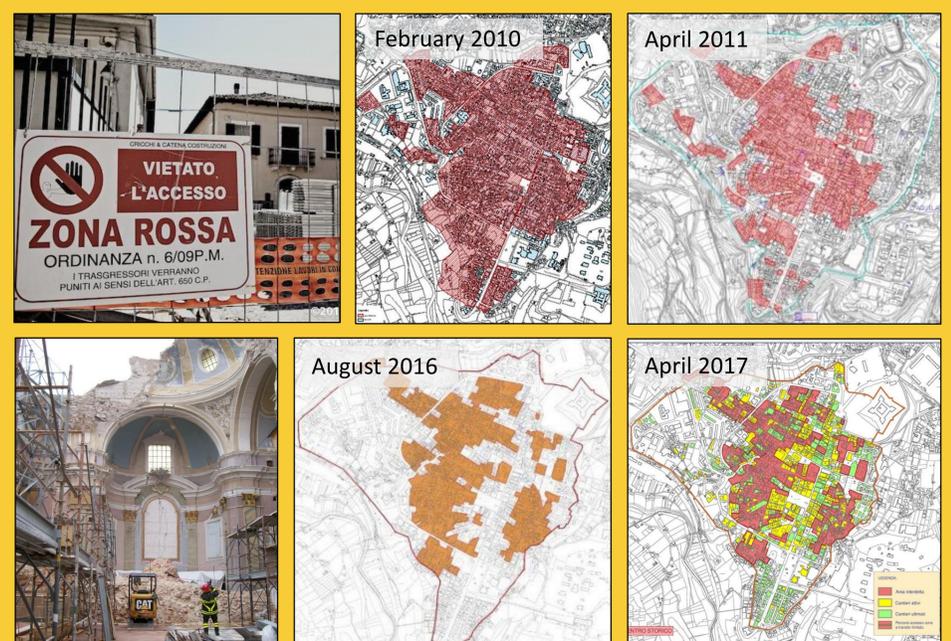
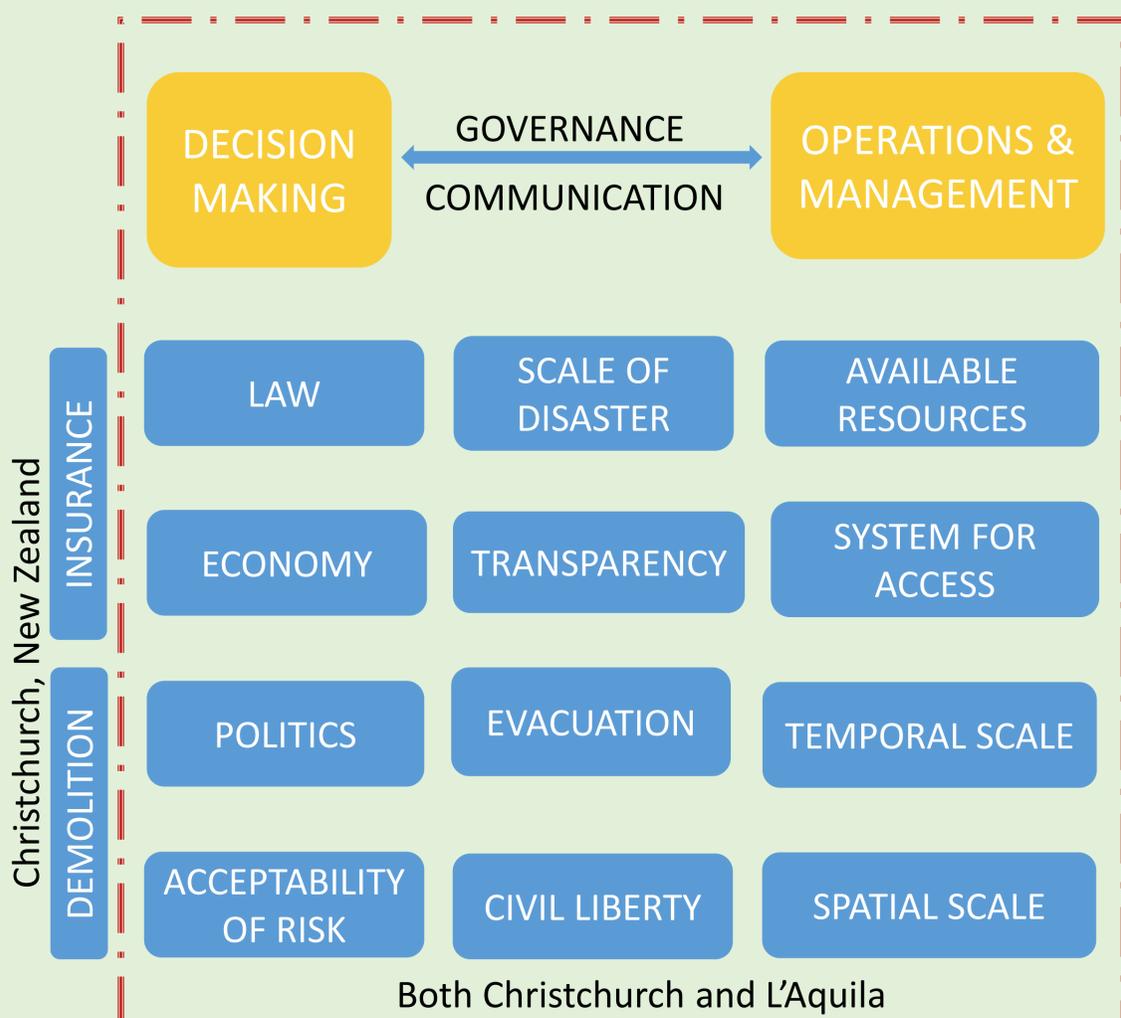


Figure 2 Devastation after 2009 earthquake in L'Aquila, Italy and the different phases of established cordons

Result and Conclusion



- In both case studies cordons were established primarily for life safety and then for security of place. Cordons supported recovery mainly by reducing red tape and logistical ease for demolition/reconstruction.
- Broadly, it can be synthesized and viewed based on two key aspects, 'decision-making' and 'operations and management as part of a complex system.'
- The underlying complexity arises due to the multitude of sectors it transcends such as housing, economics, law, governance, communication, insurance, evacuation, available resources etc.
- Cordons are affected and shaped by contextual realities and site-specific needs.
- Cordons are likely to be controversial and result in non-compliance from public when placed for long period.
- Cordons should be avoided, if possible and when established removed as soon as practicable and safe.



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