

# 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.

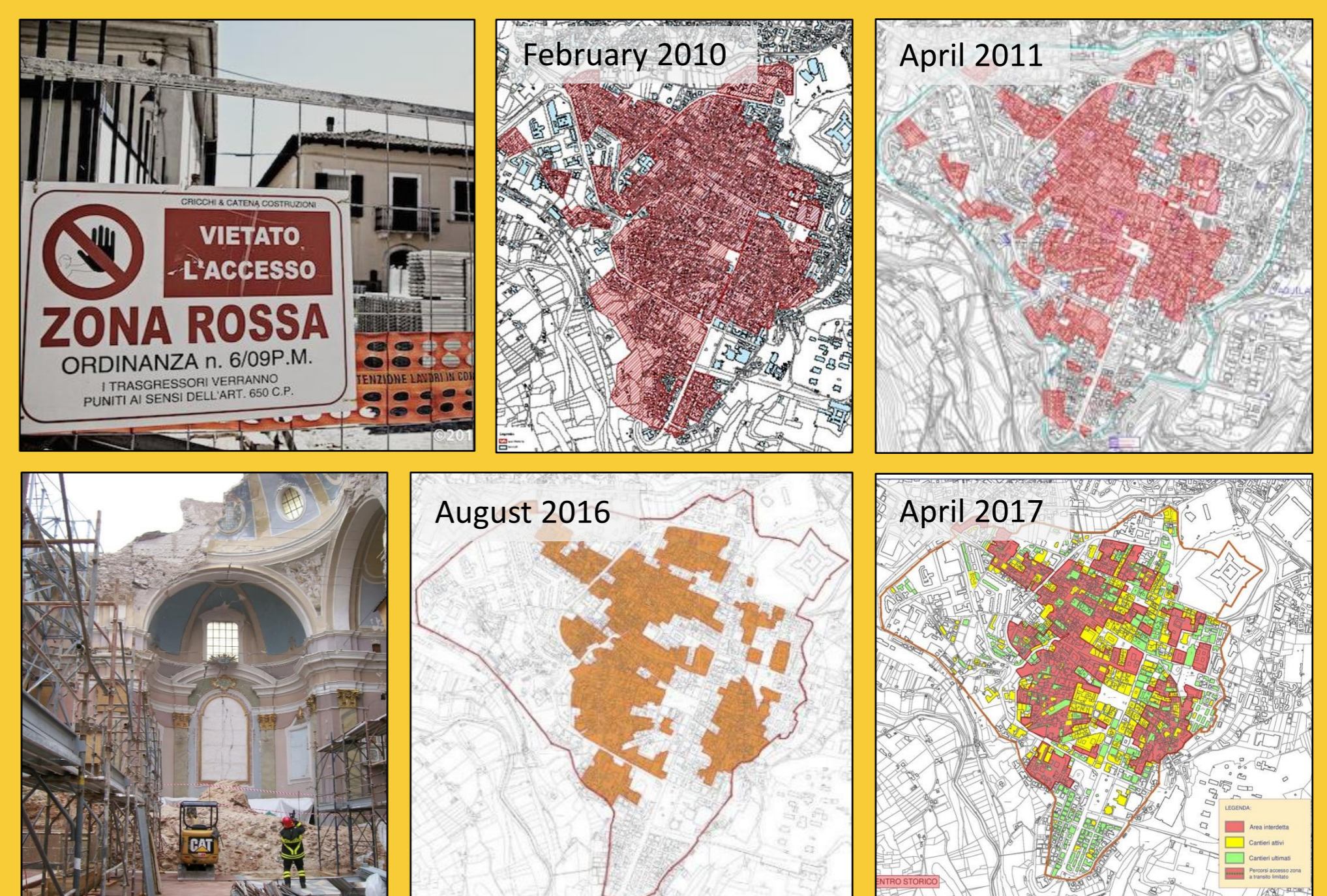
**Research Design:** Qualitative Case Study approach (Christchurch, 2011 (fig 1) and L'Aquila, Italy, 2009 (fig 2))

**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

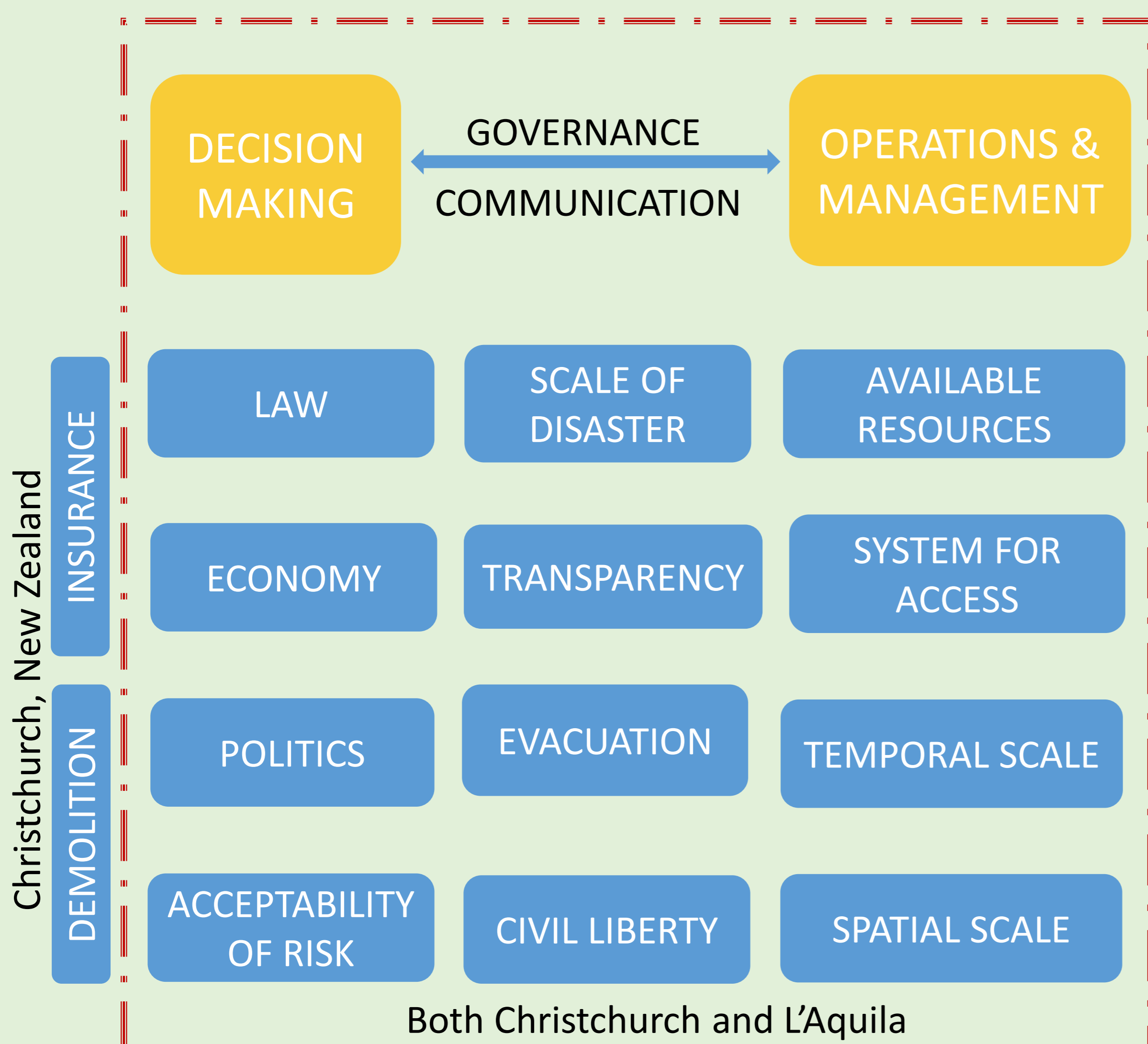


**Figure 1** Devastation after 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand and the different phases of established cordons



**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.

Christchurch, New Zealand

L'Aquila, Italy



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NZ Centre for Earthquake Resilience  
Te Hiranga Rū

