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## The politics of risks: justice, discourses and contexts in risk assessment

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Social strategies of adaptation and prevention program

# The politics of risks

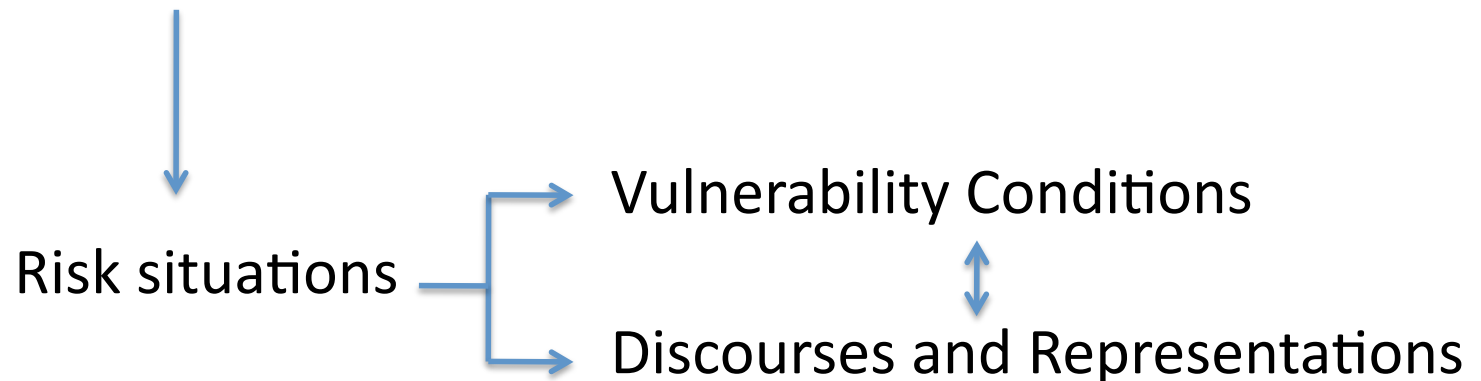
## Justice, Discourses and Contexts in risk assessment

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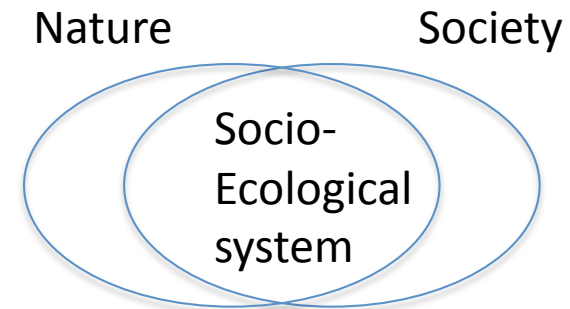
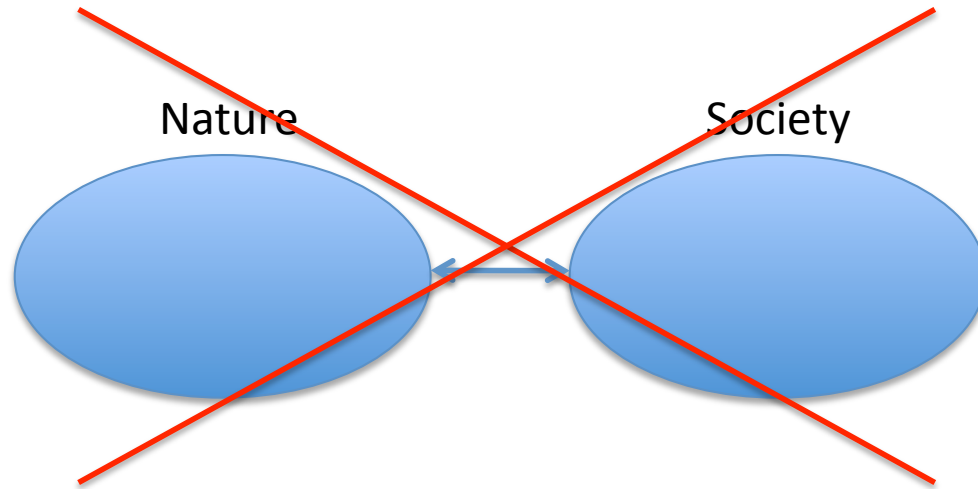
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# 1- A social-constructivist approach of risks

- Risk-hazard perspective: biophysical, impact oriented
- Social constructivist view:
  - Cause oriented research / political economy
  - Discourses and representations as critical drivers



## 2- Assessing human-environment interactions, a matter of development



**Humanized nature**

In which risk situations take place  
and are given sense

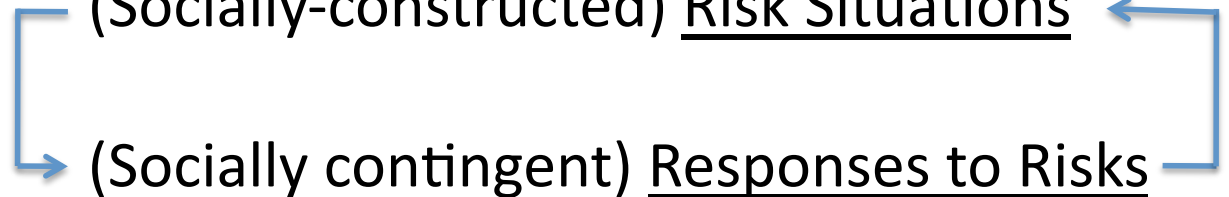


The double-edge  
**Politics of risks**



(Socially-constructed) Risk Situations

(Socially contingent) Responses to Risks



### 3- Risk situations as a snapshot AND as a pathway to development

- What are risks caused by?
- What do risks cause?

*Politics of risks*



Environment and risks are part of a development process...

How are they involved in justice, governance or democracy issues?

## 4- Contexts and scales, a long-standing geographical approach?

Hewitt and Burton, 1971, "The hazardousness of a place" + 1983, 1997

Mitchell, Devine and Jagger, 1989, "A contextual model of natural hazard" + 1983, 1999

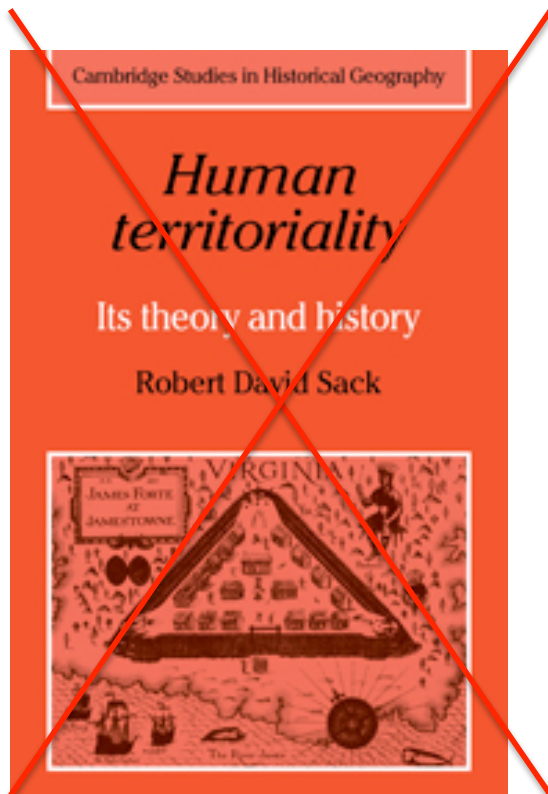
Cutter, 1996, "Vulnerability to natural hazards" + 2003, 2008

Wisner et al, 1994, "At risk" and PAR model

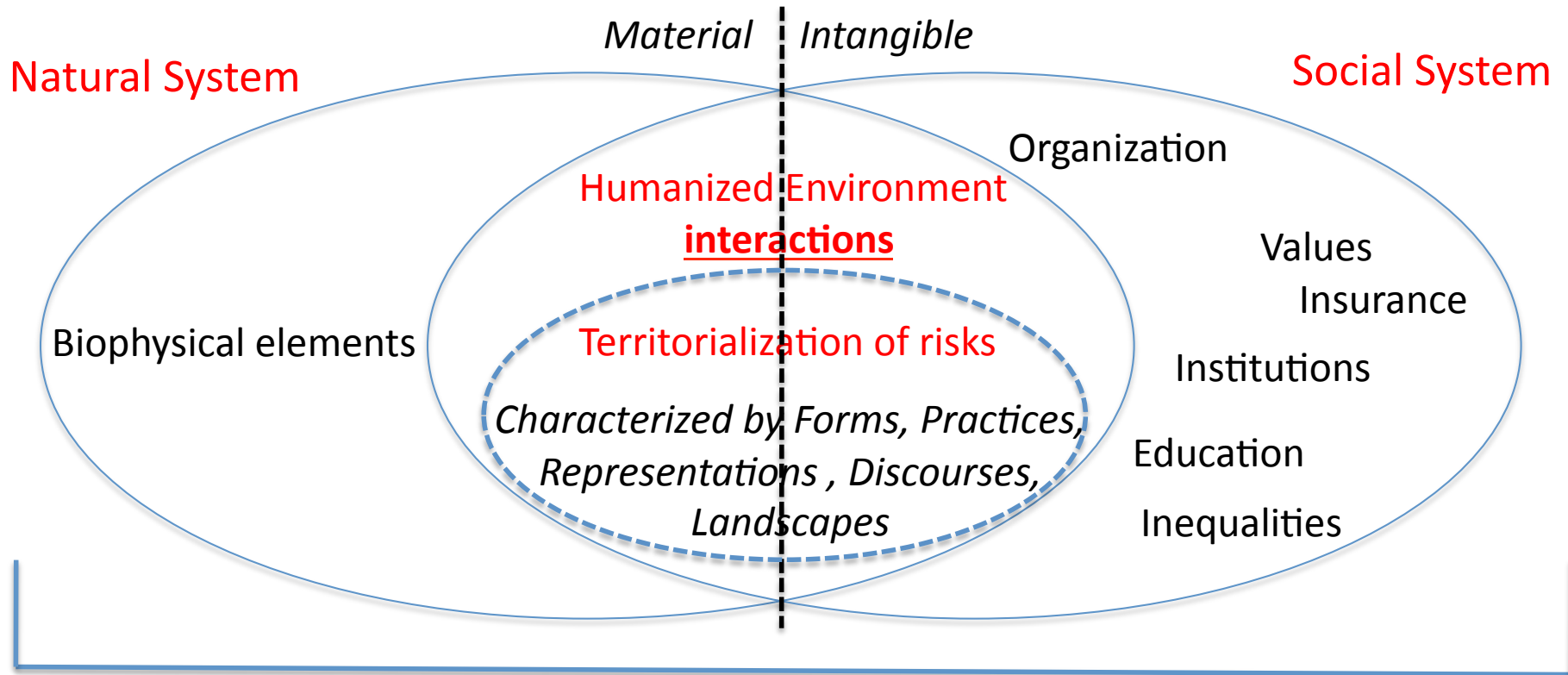
Turner et al, 2003, "Framework for vulnerability analysis in sustainable sciences"

Basset, Blanc-Pamard, Boutrais, 2007, "Constructing locality: the terroir approach in West Africa"

Ribot, 2009, "Vulnerability does not fall from the sky" multi-layered but not place-grounded...



# 5- Model and variables



**Socio-Ecological System** = to be situated in Time, across Space and among Societies



**Selected Variables** depend on:

- The situated framing of human-environment interactions
- The research questions at stake

## **Conclusion: between renewed questions and “more of the same” structural challenges**

- Hegemonic and self-legitimate GEC discourse
- Governmentality of risks, uncertainties and more broadly insecurity in a post 9/11 world
- Adaptive strategies to achieve which socio-ecological system?