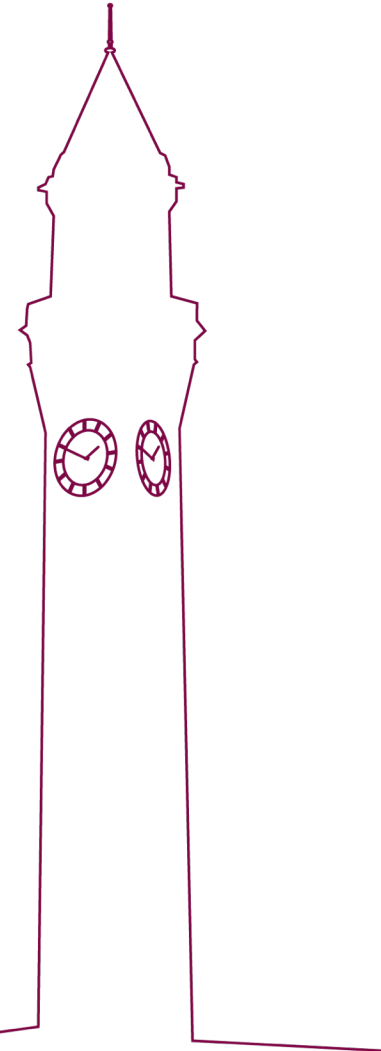




UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

***‘We can only work with
people who work with us’:
addressing disaster
resilience needs of migrants
in the UK and Japan***



Szymon Parzniewski

Ph.D. candidate POLSIS / IRiS, UoB

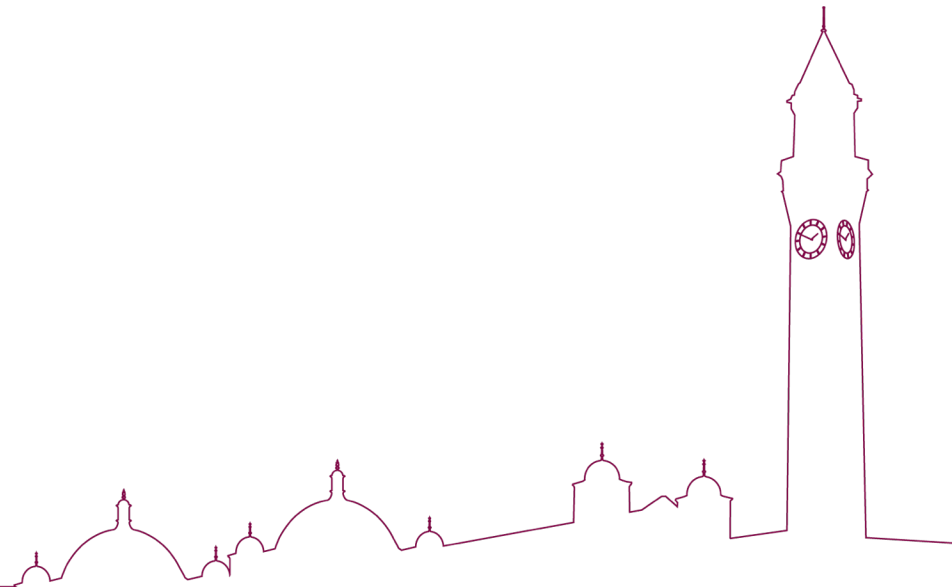
Email: sxp459@student.bham.ac.uk

Panel 4: Illegality, displacement and exclusion

International Symposium, Waseda University 2-4 December 2019

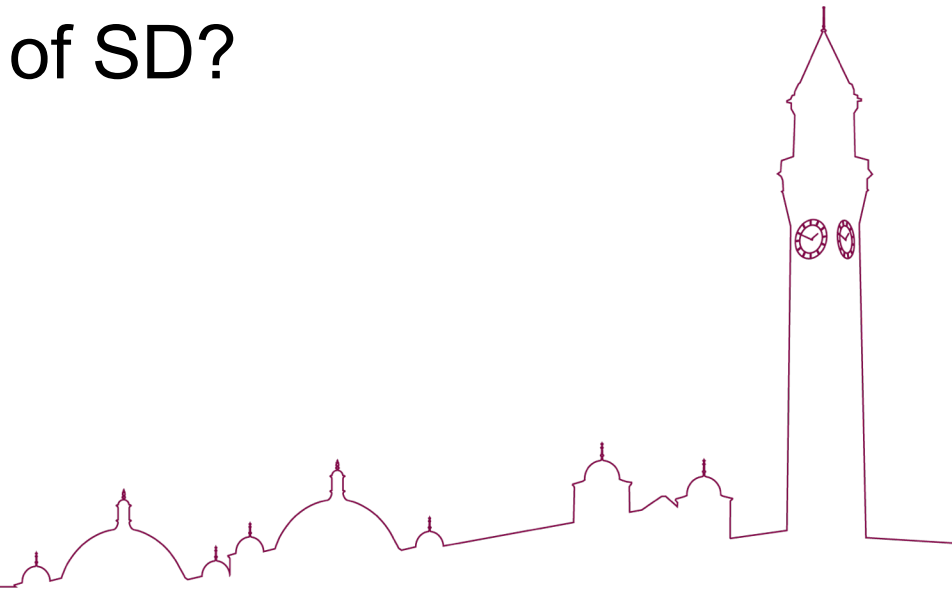
Introduction

- How can disaster resilience policy and practice meet the needs of migrants/ superdiverse population?
- Background to resilience and SD
- Methods
- Three main approaches
- Tentative conclusions



Background

- What is resilience and why does it matter in disaster planning?
- Why do we need to think about disaster resilience in the context of SD?



Methods

- 20 semi-structured interviews in two locations: Toyama (Japan) and Birmingham (UK): March 2017 – May 2018
- Two groups of respondents:
 1. local ‘public administrators’ – active in the field of resilience; and international cooperation;
 2. local ‘practitioners’ – with vast experience in working for Non-profit Organizations (NPOs) and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) that help migrants.



I. Communicating disaster resilience

□ Shifting importance of traditional mechanisms

'Indeed, before there were few of those centers and the whole life of foreign residents was based there. Those were the little islands where the person could go and meet foreign people'

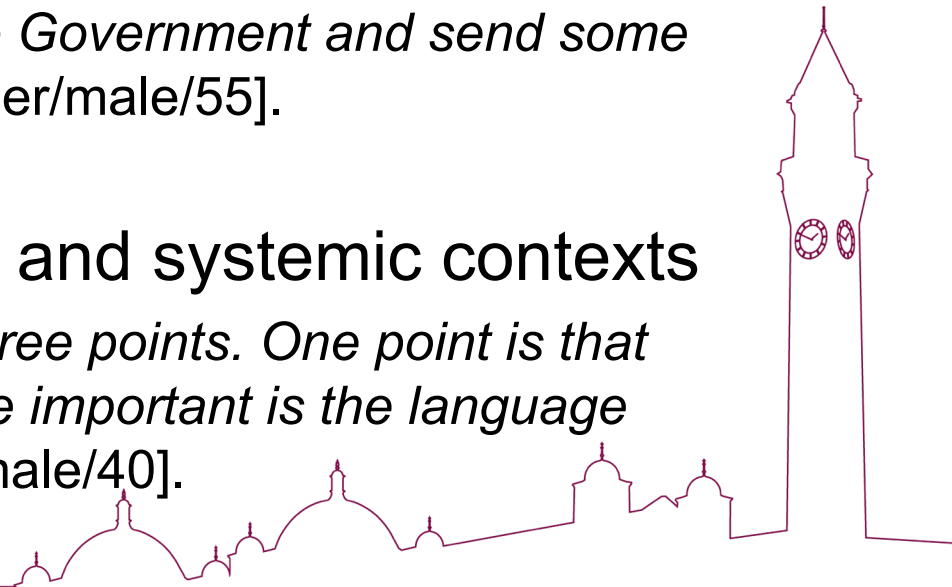
[I10/Toyama/practitioner/female/45].

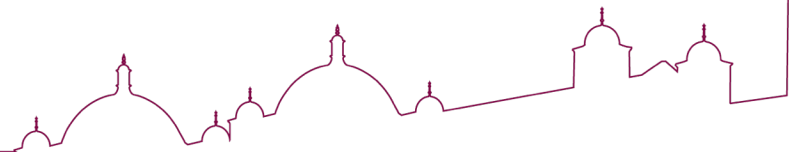
□ Mixed deliverability, consistency, structure

'We catch some information from the Government and send some text messages' [I5/Toyama/practitioner/male/55].

□ Key role of cultural, social and systemic contexts

'Translation is important for two or three points. One point is that language needs translation, but more important is the language translation' [I7/Toyama/practitioner/male/40].





II. Engaging with SD

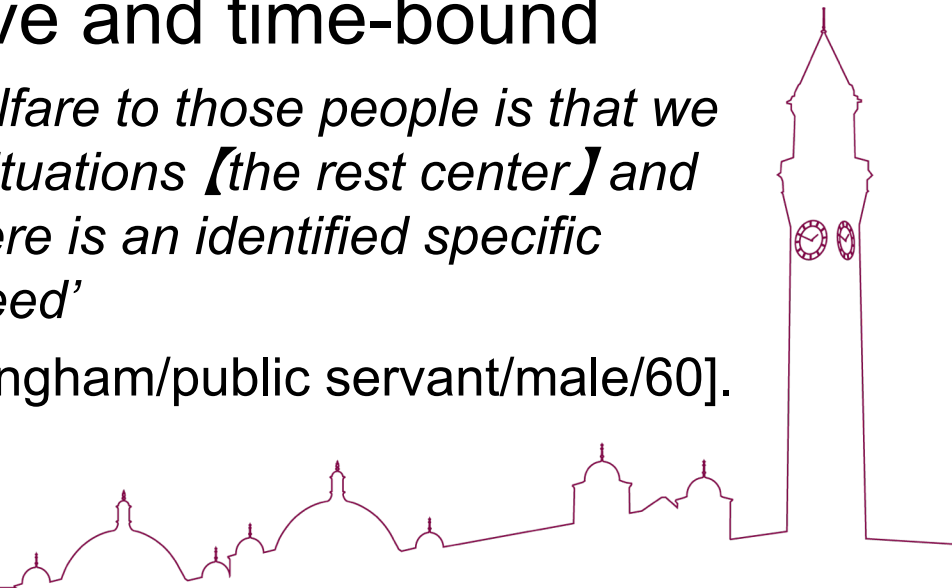
- Cohesion and group representation shape resilience and disaster preparedness

'We [the organization] can only work with people who work with us'
[I1/Birmingham/public servant/male/60].

- The response to SD in disaster situations is often conditional, reactive and time-bound

*'The normal process of providing welfare to those people is that we put a trained person into a welfare situations **【the rest center】** and they would process people and if there is an identified specific need they will ask for that specific need'*

[I2/Birmingham/public servant/male/60].



III. Place-based resilience

□ Bottom-up initiatives often fill resilience gaps

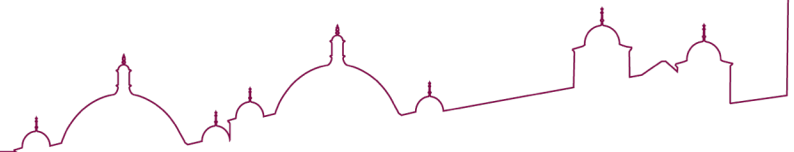
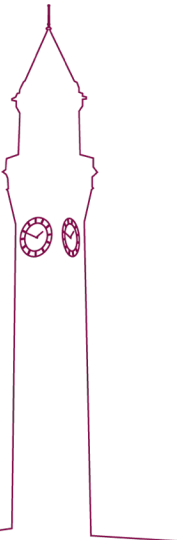
'What we need to be able to do more of is to provide those structures, those safe places where people can go and take a deep breath, just get a little bit of support around what it is, what they can and cannot do'

[I4/Birmingham/practitioner/male/55].

□ Continuity needed rather than ad hoc responses

'Some people say that, if the daily life bonds are strong, at the event of an emergency it becomes much stronger. If in your daily life it is not present, during an emergency it will become more challenging'

[I1/Toyama/policy-maker/male/52].



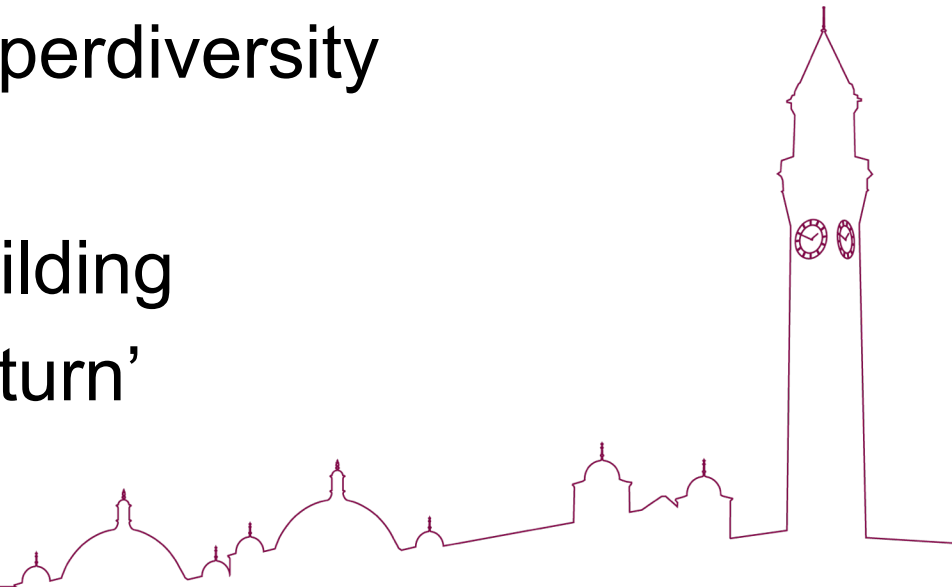
Discussion

Policy-making for resilience

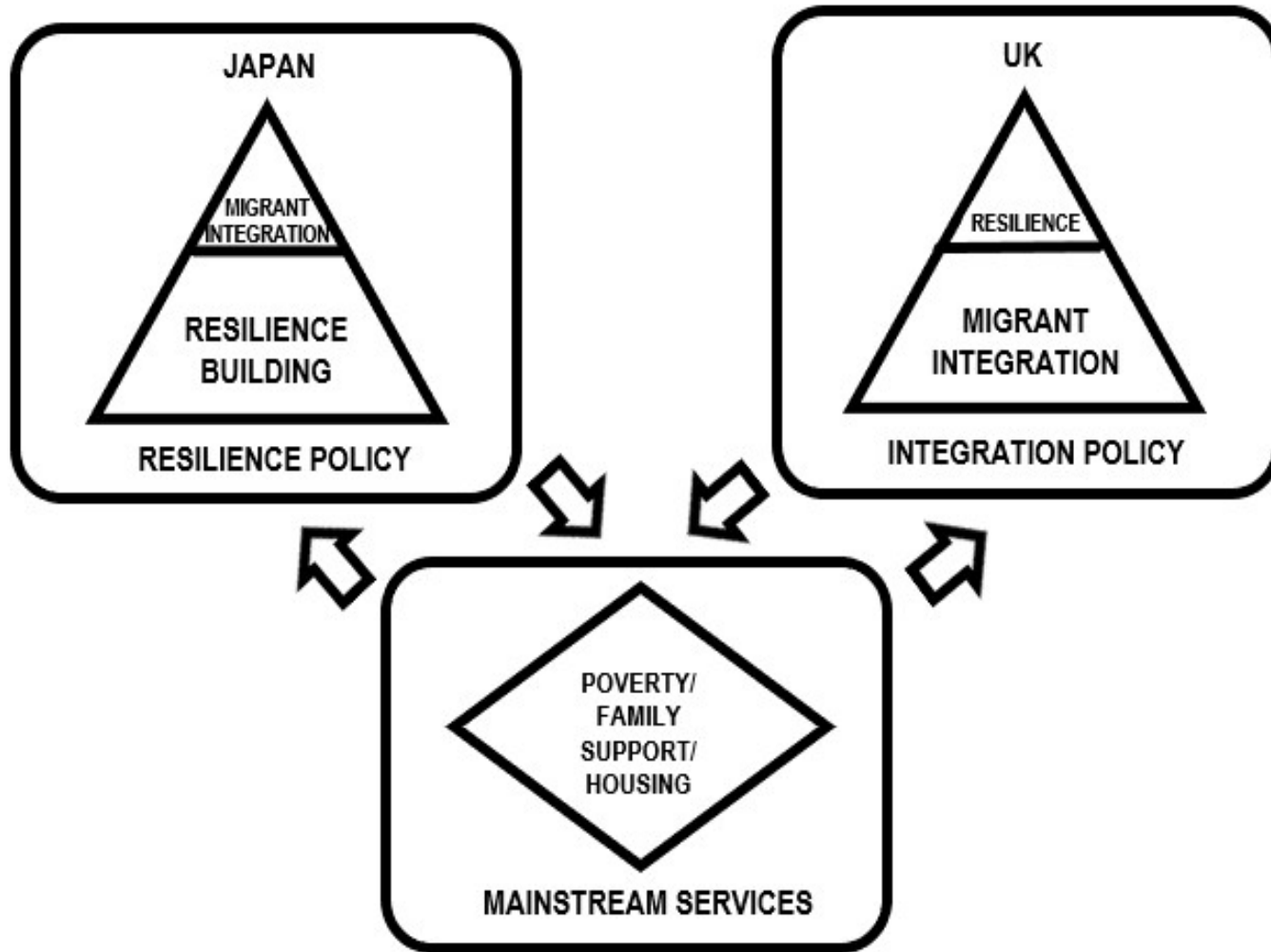
- Growing complexities in local resilience building
- General vs. specific forms of resilience
- ‘Anticipation of future diversities’ vs. complacency around superdiversity

The future of resilience building

- Mainstreaming or ‘local turn’
- Multicultural vs SD



Framework proposal



Conclusion

- Complexities of migration and the increasing role of superdiversity challenge the existing approaches in resilience building in the UK and Japan
- Addressing migrants' welfare needs in disaster situations requires a balanced effort that cannot be achieved within a single policy area and requires a joint effort of multiple actors.

