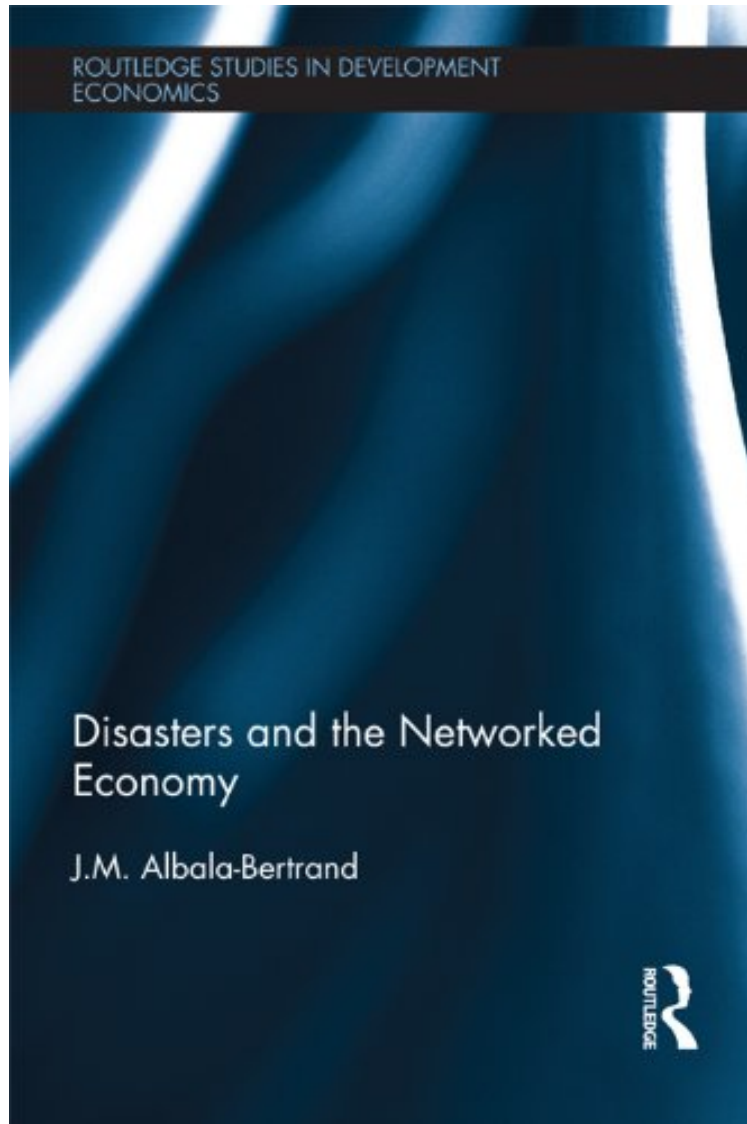


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J.M. Albala-Bertrand

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Disasters and the Networked Economy (Routledge Studies in Development Economics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Illuminating...By Fernando VillegasThe author has taken a field rarely discussed in scholarly places and he does it very well. Normally the images of disasters in the mind of almost all of us are near Hollywood catastrophe movies, with full destruction and misery. In fact they are localized events and

are more illuminating about what kind of society is that where it happens than about the disaster in itself. It is also good to be remembered that societies are not static artifacts, but moving, living things, so the old fashioned approach - that pitifully was almost lost due to the preeminence of supposedly more scientific mathematical analysis, comes to light and life with a vengeance.

Mainstream quantitative analysis and simulations are fraught with difficulties and are intrinsically unable to deal appropriately with long-term macroeconomic effects of disasters. In this new book, J.M. Albala-Bertrand develops the themes introduced in his past book, *The Political Economy of Large Natural Disasters* (Clarendon Press, 1993), to show that societal networking and disaster localization constitute part of an essential framework to understand disaster effects and responses. The author's last book argued that disasters were a problem of development, rather than a problem for development. This volume takes the argument forward both in terms of the macroeconomic effects of disaster and development policy, arguing that economy and society are not inert objects, but living organisms. Using a framework based on societal networking and the economic localization of disasters, the author shows that societal functionality (defined as the capacity of a system to survive, reproduce and develop) is unlikely to be impaired by natural disasters. This book will be of interest to scholars and practitioners involved in disaster analysis and response policy, and will also be relevant to students of development economics.

"The economic impact of disasters is hard to pin down. The local effects are indisputable, but whether there is an effect - either temporary or lasting - on the national economy is another matter. It's one that Albala-Bertrand explores in depth." - Dan Whipple, *Natural Hazards Observer*, July 2014
About the Author J.M. Albala-Bertrand is a development economist and teaches economics at Queen Mary, University of London, UK.