

Wahrnehmungen von Risiken aus der Naturgefahr Lawine - Eine empirische Untersuchung zu den Risikowahrnehmungsfaktoren in der Tiroler Berggemeinde Galtür

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Risk assessment and perception of the local population are important to legitimise risk management. The assessment of risk perception therefore plays a central role in dealing with natural hazards.

This work deals with the perception of avalanche risk by the local population in Galtür. The aim of this work is to make a scientific contribution to the risk perception of snow avalanches in order to minimize the gap in the current scientific debate on the risk perception of snow avalanches by inhabitants of areas at risk of avalanches. Furthermore, the work aims to show a possible access to the socio-cultural risk perspective, which is necessary for the risk-governance approach. Based on a constructivist-structuralist risk perspective and a symbolic-interactionist research perspective, primary data from guide interviews are to be examined as part of a qualitative content analysis. Conceptually, the work uses on the one hand the risk perception factors according to Leiter (2011) and on the other hand the concept of social reinforcement of risks (SARF).

The findings of this work are that in Galtür the high availability of information, precise memories of past avalanche events, and a lot of experience in dealing with avalanches increase the risk perception of the respondents. This means that these factors lead to increased risk awareness. A high degree of willingness to take a risk, or when the risk is perceived to be manageable, and when people see different ways of coping with the risk, is more likely to weaken the perception of the risk. Even if people recognise a benefit in taking risks or have often experienced a high degree of self-efficacy in risky situations, this leads to a lower level of risk awareness.

The findings further show that social interactions strongly influence avalanche risk perception in Galtür. Due to the experience of dramatic risk events and the permanent confrontation with the 1999 event, as well as the dramatization of the information by the media, the avalanche reaches a higher degree of memorability. This increases risk sensitivity.

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