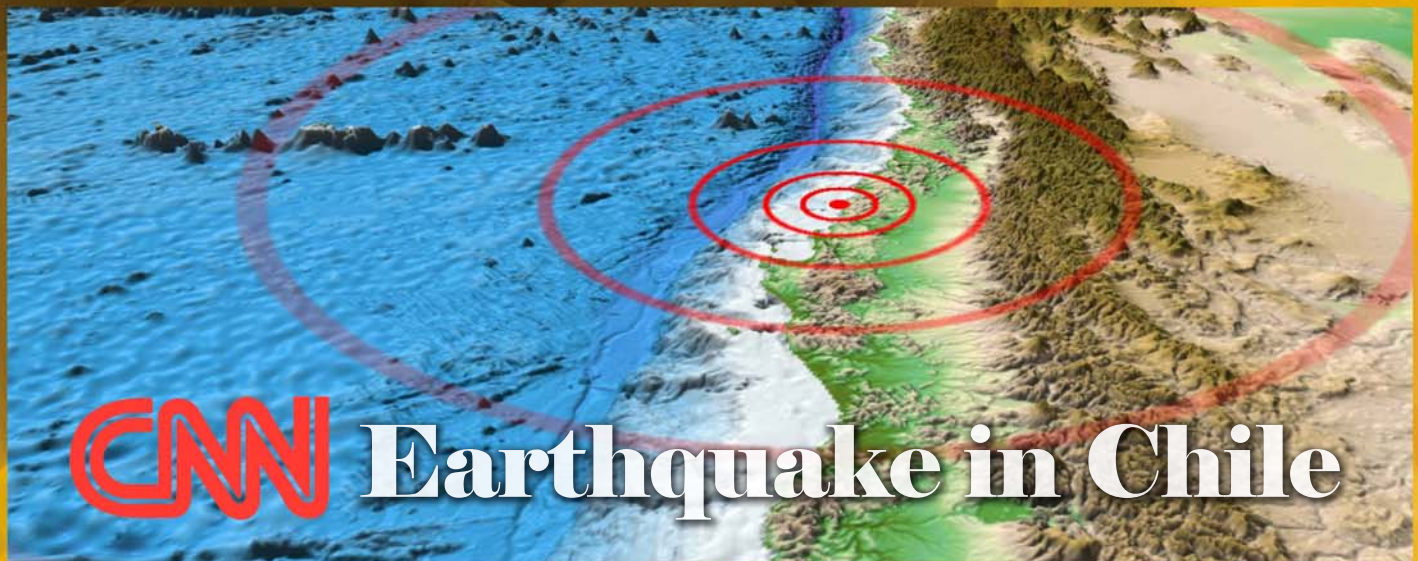


Disaster Risk Reduction Program

Latin American and Caribbean Center



The Illusion of a CNN Effect? The Effect of Stochastic Policy Environments on Foreign Disaster Assistance

Seminar with Douglas Van Belle

June 1, 2011 | 1 PM - 3 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus, SIPA 502/503

Many argue that an uncertain policy environment is a necessary condition for the media-driven response to complex humanitarian emergencies. While the logic appears compelling, the claim is contradicted by the empirical analyses of disaster assistance. Far from the media influence becoming predominant in a period of policy uncertainty, the longstanding correlation between media coverage and the global aid response to disasters disappeared with the end of the Cold War, just when proponents of the CNN Effect argued that it should have come to the forefront as a driver of policy. Detailed comparative analysis of disaster aid allocations provides some intriguing insights into how uncertainty in the structure of the international environment affects the influence of media coverage and the provision of foreign disaster assistance. Event is free and open to the public.

Douglas Van Belle is a Distinguished Visiting Professor from Victoria University of Wellington. He is the Editor-in-Chief of *International Studies Perspectives*, former Editor-in-Chief of *Foreign Policy Analysis*, and the series editor for Routledge's *Foreign Policy Analysis* book series. He has served as a consultant or advisor for several governments and NGOs including the World Bank, the OECD, the Council for International Development. His research focuses on the role of the media in foreign policy decision making and addresses topics including the politics of press freedom, bureaucratic responsiveness to the media, and the role of the media in international disaster response.