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Title: Commentary: *New Currents in Science: The Challenge of Quality*, examining the discrepancies and incongruities between Japanese techno-scientific policy and the citizens' science movement in post-3/11 Japan

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Highlights

- Is PNS a universal or global concept that can analyze and critically reflect on the relationships among science, technology and society? Or is PNS somehow restricted to specific locations, limited to a specific geopolitical/socio-cultural framework?
- It is also my immediate impression that the concept of 'the challenges of quality' is especially important in a difficult situation like post-3/11 (3/11 is a disaster that happened on the March 11th in 2011: a triple disaster of Earthquake, Tsunami and Fukushima melt-down accident of nuclear power plants) in Japan. There the conflict between techno-science and society is harsh and vivid, society is badly divided, and trust in techno-science is irretrievably broken.
- I therefore discuss The origins of Post-Normal Science in East Asia and The role of Post-normal science post 3/11.
- As for the citizens' sphere, since 3/11, Japanese society has been badly divided; in fact, the current division of Japanese society is as bad as that of the Trumpian United States. Like in the US, the Japanese public searched for strong leadership in the time of perceived crisis.
- I have applied several conceptual tools to analyze this post-3/11 situation of Japan, and I consider that it was created by a combination of 'disaster capitalism' and 'normalcy bias'. The new political climate in post-3/11 Japan results in part from the politics of emergency, and partly from the manipulation and distortion of democracy. 'Disaster capitalism' is a concept described by Naomi Klein (2008) in her book *The Shock Doctrine*; I thought Japan's situation deserves Klein's analysis, that it is operated within the set of policies elaborated by 'disaster capitalism'.

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