



CRC

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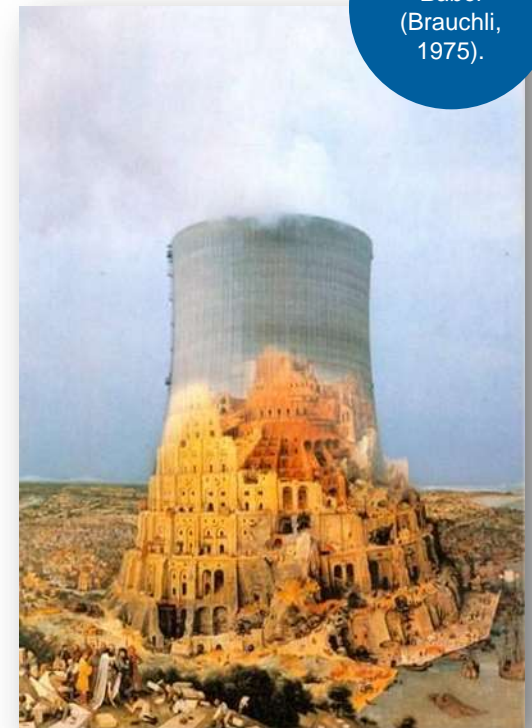
■ What cultural objects say about nuclear accidents and their way to depicting a controversial industry

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International Workshop on Nuclear Safety : From accident mitigation to resilient society facing extreme situations
France Berkeley Fund

- *The Tower of Babel* (Bruegel, 1563).
- Reproduction of this painting in a poster (Brauchli, 1975).
- A social fear which came true with the Chernobyl and Fukushima.
- What can cultural objects teach us in the way of representing nuclear accidents and the industry ?

*The Tower of
Babel
(Brauchli,
1975).*



Definition of the concepts

○ Social representation

- A sum of content and a process that can modify thinking and behavior.
- A study based on the analysis of interviews, questionnaires, texts or images.



The explosion of
reacteur 1 of
Fukushima (Le
Pomellec, 2012)

Definition of the concepts

○ Socio-technical controversy

- A public debate where opposing opinions are used to interpret a particular object or technical system.
- The anti-nuclear movement in France.
- Chernobyl marked a rupture.
- The debate was revived with Fukushima.



Antinuclear
manifestation
(Fayner, 2012).

Definition of the concepts

○ Cultural objects

- Productions that convey a reconstructed vision of the world.
- A dramatic angle.
- The distinction between nuclear power plant and nuclear weapon representation is not always clear.
- An American series: *The Simpsons*.



The explosion of the nuclear power plant of Springfield.

The interactions between objects and representations

○ Cultural object as product

- A product of social representation.
- The violence of the nuclear technology.
- A Japanese film: *Mount Fuji in Red* (Kurosawa, 1990).



*The Mount Fuji
in Red
(Kurosawa,
1990).*

The interactions between objects and representations

○ A representation crisis

- The reflection on the possibility of representing the « invisible evil ».
- The key role of color to represent the “impossible representation”.
- A Japanese film: *The Land of Hope* (Sion, 2012).



The fear of
contamination
(*The Land of
Hope*, 2012).

The interactions between objects and representations

○ The integration of the object in representations

- An agent which intervenes in the formation of social representation.
- Example: « *La Gaule sous occupation nucléaire* ».
- The diffusion of the ideas from anti-nuclear network.



La Gaule sous occupation nucléaire (RSN).

The representation of Fukushima in the documentaries

- The meaning given to the Japanese accident
 - An open ending and the illustration of the theory of society at risk.
 - A repetition of history.
 - Example: *Le monde après Fukushima* (Watanabe, 2012).



From Fukushima
to Hiroshima
(Watanabe,
2013).



- The representation of the actors of the nuclear crisis
 - The lack of reactivity and the incompetence of TEPCO and the Government.
 - The workers are subjected to extreme work conditions.
 - The social dimension of the crisis.
 - Example : *Fukushima, une population sacrifiée* (Zavaglia, 2012).



The use of the depth of field (Zavaglia, 2012).

○ A social rebirth in Japan

- Association of the Japanese nuclear industry with an autocratic form of governance.
- The progress of the antinuclear movement in Japan.
- In the representation, the safe nuclear energy is a fallacy.
- The mobilization of the Japanese population.



Anti Nuclear
Protest. Lebrun &
Barreyre, 2011.

- Interest of the documentaries.
- The figurative system of nuclear accidents is not disrupted.
- The end of the myth of soviet negligence.
- The reactivation of discursive elements of antinuclear movement in the public debate.



*Un printemps à
Tchernobyl
(Lepage, 2012).*