

Risk Society

Sociology

Beck: modern risks are manufactured, global and unevenly borne.

Beck's claim that late modern societies are organised around risks their own technology produces, which cross borders and resist calculation by insurers or states.

PROPOSED

Ulrich Beck, 1986

RISK TYPE

manufactured

- Manufactured risk, not natural hazard.
- Risks cross borders; institutions do not.
- Beck: smog is democratic, but only partly.
- Exposure still tracks wealth and location.
- Expert disagreement becomes a political problem.
- Organised irresponsibility: no one is accountable.

LOOK FOR IT

Emissions produced mainly in wealthy economies, with damage concentrated in states that emitted least.

Educational reference. Beck's claim that risk cuts across class is widely criticised: exposure and adaptation remain very unequal.