Radiation in Japanese Culture During and After Fukushima: a Research Proposal

Mark “Aaron” Miller

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**Abstract:** The 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami **###**

In March 2011, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactors released large amounts of radioactive isotopes into the environment of eastern Japan, as a consequence of the devastating Tohoku earthquake and tsunami; the amount of radioactive isotopes released was approximately one-tenth of that released by the Chernobyl event in 1986, and the contaminated area is also approximately one-tenth as large (von Hippel 2011). This environmental contamination has caused a cultural climate of fear and anxiety, as well as mistrust and anger directed at the government and nuclear regulatory agencies, who seem to be viewed as mismanaging the disaster and failing to keep the public informed (###CITE?). In search of information, many people turned to social media websites, such as Twitter, and traditional media outlets; in some cases, this provided useful information on the disaster, but in other cases, the media did not

Works Cited