

# D&SCRN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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## D&SCRN REPORT

**Murcia September 23-26,2003 D&SCRN Sessions.** After a year of preparation and hard work on the part of the Session Organizers, the D&SCRN has succeeded in organizing 8 sessions (two of which in Spanish), with 33 regular paper presentations, and one “Meet the European Authors” Session with two book presentations (See below). Three of the paper presentations (two in Session I and one in Session II) were accepted following the expiration of the official deadline. I would like to thank all the session organizers (Alison Rowlands, Juan de Dios Ruano Gomez, Andres Garcia Gomez, Susann Ullberg, Vera Vratusa, Murat Balamir) for their contribution in organizing the sessions and relaying practical information to their session participants

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January-June 2003*

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**Editor's Note:** All “signed” texts express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the D&SCRN or the Emergencies Research Center (ERC) of Athens.

I would especially like to thank Juan de Dios Ruano Gomez, our local contact in Spain, for organizing the two Spanish sessions and Susann Ullberg for her help in translating the Spanish abstracts into English and thus contributing to the better distribution of the papers. Thanks also to Eve Coles and Ben Aguirre for accepting the last minute to co-chair sessions and to share with us their valuable experience in the area of disasters and crises. Last, but not least, I would like to thank all those who responded to the D&SCRN call for papers and books and whose participation will broaden our sociological knowledge and practice of crises and disasters. Although the times are hard –and not just in economic terms- I am hopeful that all our chairs, paper contributors, authors and members will join us in Murcia Spain this September for live discussions, a partaking of beautiful local Spanish culture and an augmentation of our network links.

**Membership report.** Maureen Fordham informs me that 8 new members have joined our Network. They come from UK, US, Finland, Malaysia, Portugal, Israel and Morocco. However, at this time, we have the names and e-address of only two of these: Tal Arbel ([talarbel@zahav.net.il](mailto:talarbel@zahav.net.il)) and Hahou Yyoussef ([hahou@cnr.ac.ma](mailto:hahou@cnr.ac.ma)) We welcome the new members to our Network and we plan to have complete information on all the new members in the next E-newsletter.

**Search for a New Host for the D&SCRN Webpage.** During the past four years, since our founding meeting in Amsterdam in 1999, the Geography Department of Anglia Polytechnic University has been host for the D&SCRN webpage. Maureen Fordham, a member of the Coordinating Committee has been managing the Network's webpage during that time. However, in the past year, Maureen made a geographical and a professional move, to the University of Northumbria, where she occupies the post of Senior Lecturer in Disaster Management. Since August 2002, Maureen has also undertaken the crucial job of editing the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*. These new responsibilities, in addition to her family obligations, do not leave much time for the also important job of managing the D&SCRN webpage. We are therefore led to the search for alternative hosts of the Network's page. Minimum requirements are: (1) the host institution should be European-based (2) The webpage manager should be fluent in the English language (3) The hosting of the Network should not entail any financial burdens on the members of the Network. The Coordinating Committee is looking forward to proposals. During the transition period and until we have secured a new host, Maureen has re-assured us that members and interested readers will continue to have access to the Network's webpage either at the old address ([www.anglia.ac.uk/geography/d&scrn](http://www.anglia.ac.uk/geography/d&scrn)) or the new temporary web address ([http://www.online.northumbria.ac.uk/geography\\_research/dscrn](http://www.online.northumbria.ac.uk/geography_research/dscrn)). On behalf of the Coordinating Committee, I would like to thank once again the Anglia Polytechnic University Geography Department for hosting our webpage during the past four years and the University of Northumbria for hosting our webpage during the transitional period. Finally, a great thanks to Maureen Fordham for the excellent and efficient management of the Network's webpage during the past four years.

**Business meeting.** The business meeting of the D&SCRN will take place on Wednesday, September 24, 2003 at a place which will be designated by the Local Organizing Committee. The agenda of the business meeting will include (1) organizational matters (e.g. the possibility of developing some by-laws, setting more explicit criteria for regular and associate memberships, and holding more formal elections) (2) a consideration of more concrete ways of cooperating with the ISA Research Committee on Disasters and with other social science associations in Europe which also have Disaster or Crises Research Committees (3) the organization of an interim meeting (4) the affiliation with a professional European journal on crises and disasters (5) the securing of a new European host for the Network's webpage and (6) other items to be proposed by the members. Suggestions along these lines and for other agenda items are welcome by the Coordinating Committee before the Murcia meeting.

**Call for newsletter materials.** Readers of the D&SCRN are requested to submit relevant materials (e.g. conference reportage, book reviews, country disaster diaries, examples

of good practices, brief reports of research activities, announcements of future conferences etc.) for publication in the Network electronic newsletter. In this connection, our readers would be interested in professional reportage on such conferences as (a) The World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine held in Melbourne Australia, 6-10 May 2003 (<http://www.wcdem2003.com>), The 8<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Traumatic Stress (ECOTS) held in Berlin, 22-25 May 2003 (<http://www.trauma-conference-berlin.de>), the 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference of The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) held in Provence, France, 3-6 June 2003 ([www.tiems.org](http://www.tiems.org)) and the 13<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Disaster Management to be held in Toronto, 22-25 June 2003 (<http://www.wcdm.org>). The availability of these reports and materials will not only help in the more regular and timely publication of the newsletter, it will also hopefully increase collaborative efforts and contribute to an upgrading of civil protection. Contributors should also provide electronic addresses in case the readers would like further information.

Nicholas Petropoulos  
D&SCRN Coordinator  
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**6<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE-MURCIA,  
SPAIN, SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2003**

**Disaster and Social Crisis Research Network Sessions**

**FINAL PROGRAM**

**SESSION I. “Varieties of Terrorism: Psychosocial, Political and Economic Impacts”, *Tuesday, Sept. 23, 14:00 – 15:30.***

**Chairs:** **N. Petropoulos**, Pedagogical Institute ([nppsoc@pi-schools.gr](mailto:nppsoc@pi-schools.gr)) and Emergencies Research Center, Greece ([erc@otenet.gr](mailto:erc@otenet.gr)) and **Alison Rowlands**, Department of Psychology, University of Sheffield, UK, ([a.rowlands@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:a.rowlands@sheffield.ac.uk))

1. “The Psycho-social Symbolism of Terrorism and its Uses”, **Susanna M. Hoffman**, P. O. Box 119, 216 E. Galena, Telluride, Colorado, ([shoffman@rmi.net](mailto:shoffman@rmi.net))
2. “Risk Perceptions of Disasters: Their Impact on Actual Preparedness Behavior” **Alan Kirschenbaum**, Faculty of Industrial Engineering, Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa 32000, Israel, ([avik@tx.technion.ac.il](mailto:avik@tx.technion.ac.il))
3. “Psychological Aspects and the 11 September 2001”, **Henry W. Fischer**, Department of Sociology, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, Millersville, Pennsylvania, USA, ([hfischer@millersville.edu](mailto:hfischer@millersville.edu))
4. “A Sociological Profile of Greeks Arrested for Participation in the ‘17<sup>th</sup> of November Revolutionary Organization’” , **Nicholas Petropoulos**, Pedagogical Institute of Greece ([nppsoc@pi-schools.gr](mailto:nppsoc@pi-schools.gr)) and Emergencies Research Center, Athens, Greece ([erc@otenet.gr](mailto:erc@otenet.gr))
5. “Risk and post-September 11<sup>th</sup> Events”, **David Denney**, University of London, UK ([D.Denney@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:D.Denney@rhul.ac.uk))
6. “A Cognitive-Anthropology and Conceptual Approach to Terror and Terrorism” **Jose Rodrigues dos Santos**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Military Academy, ISCTE, Lisbon, Portugal ([jrds@megamail.pt](mailto:jrds@megamail.pt)).

**Discussant:** **Ben Aguirre**, Disaster Research Center, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, University of Delaware, Newark, USA ([Aguirre@Udel.edu](mailto:Aguirre@Udel.edu))

## **SESSION II. “Emergency Management: New Structures, Paradigms, Issues and Challenges”, *Wednesday, Sept. 24, 9:00-10:30.***

**Chairs:** **Murat Balamir** (Middle East Technical University, Turkey, ([balamir@arch.metu.edu.tr](mailto:balamir@arch.metu.edu.tr)) and **Ben Aguirre**, Disaster Research Center, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, University of Delaware, Newark, USA ([Aguirre@Udel.edu](mailto:Aguirre@Udel.edu))

1. “Resilient United Kingdom: Fact, Fiction or Fallacy?-An Examination of the Proposed New Emergency Management Structures for the UK”, **Eve Coles**, Center for Disaster Management, School of Science and the Environment, Coventry University, Coventry UK, ([e.coles@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:e.coles@coventry.ac.uk))

2. “Twenty Years of Disaster Recovery in Australia: From Ash Wednesday to Bali”, **Andrew Coghlan**, Disaster Recovery, Emergency Management Australia Institute, Mt. Macedon, Victoria, Australia ([acoghlan@bigpond.com](mailto:acoghlan@bigpond.com))

3. “The Role of International NGOs in Emergency Management-Issues and Challenges in the Context of South Asia”, **Rohit Jigyasu**, International Center for the Study of Restoration and Preservation of Cultural Property (ICCROM), Rome, Italy ([rohitjigyasu72@yahoo.com](mailto:rohitjigyasu72@yahoo.com))

4. “Developments in Disaster Management in Turkey: Institutional Learning or Institutional Survival Instinct?” **Murat Balamir** (Middle East Technical University, Turkey, ([balamir@arch.metu.edu.tr](mailto:balamir@arch.metu.edu.tr)))

5. “International Perspectives on Gender and Disaster: Differences and Possibilities” **Elaine Enarson**, Independent Scholar, Evergreen Colorado, USA ([eenarson@earthlink.net](mailto:eenarson@earthlink.net)) and **Lourdes Meyreles**, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Santa Domingo, DR ([lourdesmeyreles@hotmail.com](mailto:lourdesmeyreles@hotmail.com))

## **SESSION III. “Classical Social Theories and Modern Crises” *Wednesday, Sept. 24, 14:30-16:00***

**Chairs:**

**Vera Vratusa** Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, ([vvratusa@sezampro.yu](mailto:vvratusa@sezampro.yu)) and **Susann Ullberg** (Crisis Management Research and Training, Swedish National Defence College, Stockholm, Sweden ([susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se](mailto:susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se)))

1. “Social Inclusion and Crisis after Fordism”, **Max Koch**, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland ([m.koch@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:m.koch@ulster.ac.uk))

2.. “Unlocking Disaster Paradigms: An Actor Oriented Focus on Disaster Response”, **Dorothea Hilhorst**, Disaster Studies, Wageningen University, the Netherlands ([thea.hilhorst@wanadoo.nl](mailto:thea.hilhorst@wanadoo.nl))

3. “La Violencia Socialmente Soportada” (“Socially Tolerated Violence”), **Alejandrina Silva**, Universidad de los Andes, Merida, Venezuela ([alejandria10@cantv.net](mailto:alejandria10@cantv.net))

## **SESSION IV. “Classical Social Theories and Modern Crises”, (Session III Continued) *Wednesday, Sept. 24, 17:00-18:00***

### **Chairs:**

**Vera Vratosa**, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, ([vvratusa@sezampro.yu](mailto:vvratusa@sezampro.yu)) and **Susann Ullberg** Crisis Management, Research and Training, Swedish National Defense College, Stockholm, Sweden ([susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se](mailto:susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se))

1. “The Event as a Social Analyzer: Jerez, 8 Jan 1892 and the Bourgeoisie Order”, **Antonio Vallejos**, Department of Sociology, National University of Distance Education, Madrid, Spain, ([avallejos@poli.uned.es](mailto:avallejos@poli.uned.es))

2. “Berechenbarkeit and Risk: The Taming of Fate in Developing Societies”, **Elisio Macamo**, Development of Sociology, University of Bayreuth, ([elisio.macamo@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:elisio.macamo@uni-bayreuth.de))

3. “Sociology Classics and Actual War Complex Disaster Crises”, **Vera Vratosa**, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Belgrade Yugoslavia ([vvratusa@sezampro.yu](mailto:vvratusa@sezampro.yu))

## **SESSION V. “Personal, Local, Cultural and Ethnic Crises in Post-Soviet Russia” , *Thursday, Sept. 25, 9:00-10:30.***

### **Chairs:**

**Eve Coles**, Center for Disaster Management, School of Science and the Environment, Coventry University, Coventry UK, ([e.coles@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:e.coles@coventry.ac.uk)) and **Vera Vratosa**( Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia ([vvratusa@sezampro.yu](mailto:vvratusa@sezampro.yu))).

1. “Prevention and Resolving of Personal, Socio-Cultural Crises”, **Tatiana Korkhonen**, Department of Social work Altai State University, Baural, Russia ([tatvickor@mail.ru](mailto:tatvickor@mail.ru))

2. “Social Crisis and Leadership of Youth: The Future after the “End of Work”, **Elena S. Gvosdeva**, Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Science, Russia ([Elena@ieie.nsc.ru](mailto:Elena@ieie.nsc.ru))
3. “Russian Small Towns during Crisis: Changes in Social Attitudes among the ‘Common People’”, **Juri Plusnin**, Laboratory of Science Development Analysis, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia ([plusnin@philosophy.nsc.ru](mailto:plusnin@philosophy.nsc.ru))
4. “The Transformation of the Social Structure in the Conditions of an Armed Conflict”, **Musa Movlievich Yusupov**, The Center for Social Strategic Research, Chechnya, Russia ([musa\\_y17@hotmail.com](mailto:musa_y17@hotmail.com))

**SESSION VI. “The Economic and Social Consequences of Disasters: New Theoretical and Methodological Approaches”/ “Les Conséquences Économiques et Sociales des Catastrophes: Les Nouvelles Théories et Méthodologies”/ “Consecuencias Sociales y Economicas de los Desastres: Nuevas Teorias y Metodologias Aplicables”**  
**Thursday, Sept. 25, 14 :30-16 :00.\***

**Chair: Juan de Dios Ruano Gomez**, Facultad de Sociologia, Universidad de Coruna, Espana ([juande@udc.es](mailto:juande@udc.es))

1. “Las Representaciones Sociales del Riesgo” (“Social Representations of Risk”), **Antonio Canas Varela**, Universidad de A Coruna, Espana, ([ancava@ole.com](mailto:ancava@ole.com))
2. “Crisis y Simbología Colectiva en Argentina: La Conciliación del (Des)orden Vivido con el Orden Soñado (“Crisis and Collective Symbolism in Argentina: The Conciliation of the Experienced [Dis]order with the Desirable Order””, **Silvana Figueroa y Jochen Dreher**, Universidad de Konstanz, Alemania ([Silvana.Figueroa@uni-Konstanz.de](mailto:Silvana.Figueroa@uni-Konstanz.de)), ([Jochen.Dreher@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:Jochen.Dreher@uni-konstanz.de))
3. “El Casa de Muxia en la Crisis del Prestige” (“Muxia’s Case in the Prestige Crisis”), **Jose Manuel Alvarez Sanchez**, Departamento de Socioloxia e Ciencia Politica e da Administracion, Universidade da Coruna, Espana ([jmasociologia@yahoo.es](mailto:jmasociologia@yahoo.es))
4. “La ‘Sociedad del Riesgo’ y sus Implicaciones para el Análisis Social” (“ ‘Risk Society’ and its Implications for Social Analysis”), **Ana Huesca Gonzalez**, Universidad Pontificia Comillas de Madrid, España ([ahuesca@chs.upco.es](mailto:ahuesca@chs.upco.es))
5. “M/V Estonia: Desastre, Impacto y Memoria”, (“M/V Estonia: Disaster Impact and Memory”), **Susann Ullberg**, CRISMART (Center for Crisis Management, Research & Training), Colegio Nacional de Defensa de Suecia ([susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se](mailto:susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se))

*\*Discussion will be conducted in Spanish and /or French*

**SESSION VII. “The Role of the Mass Media in Disaster/Crisis Management and Mitigation”/ Le Rôle du Mass Media dans la Gestion et Mitigation des Crises et Désastres / “El Papel de los Medios de Comunicación de Masas en la Gestion y la Mitigación de Crisis y Desastres”  
*Friday, Sept. 26, 9 :00-10 :30\****

**Chairs :**

**Andrés García Gómez**, Centro Europeo de Investigación Social (CEISE), Dirección General de Protección Civil, Madrid, Spain, ([agarcia@procivil.mir.es](mailto:agarcia@procivil.mir.es)) and **Susann Ullberg** (Crisis Management, Research and Training, Swedish National Defense College, Stockholm, Sweden ([susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se](mailto:susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se)))

1. “Crisis Mediáticas y Percepción Social : El Caso Prestige y el ‘Mal de las Vacas Locas’” (“The Mass Media Crisis and Social Perception : The Case of the Prestige and the ‘Mad Cow Disease’”), **Lorena Rey Piñeiro**, Universidad de La Coruña, España ([lrrp@iespana.es](mailto:lrrp@iespana.es))

2. “La Dimensión Mediática en un Contexto de Catástrofe y Crisis: Opinión Pública, Acción Colectiva y Cambio Social - Análisis del Tratamiento Informativo sobre el Caso ‘Prestige’ en los Diarios ‘El País’, ‘ABC’ y ‘La Voz de Galicia’” (“The Mass Media Dimension in a Disaster and Crisis Context: Public Opinion, Collective Action and Social Change - An Analysis of the Information Treatment in the case of the ‘Prestige’ by the Newspapers ‘El País’, ‘ABC’ and ‘La Voz de Galicia’”), **Mar de Santiago Pérez**, Dpto. de Sociología, Ciencias Políticas e da Administración e Filosofía, Universidad de Vigo, España, ([marde@uvigo.es](mailto:marde@uvigo.es))

3. “Los Medios de Comunicación ante Situaciones de Riesgo” (“The Mass Media in the face of Risk Situations”), **Ariadna Rodríguez Teijeiro**, Universidade da Coruna, Espana ([solarto00@ucv.udc.es](mailto:solarto00@ucv.udc.es))

*\*Discussion will be conducted in Spanish and/or French.*

**SESSION VIII. “The Role of the Community, Volunteers and the Civil Society in Disaster/Crisis Prevention and Mitigation”, *Friday, Sept. 26, 14:00-15:30.***

**Chairs :**

**Susann Ullberg**, Crisis Management Research and Training, Swedish National Defence College, Stockholm, Sweden ([susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se](mailto:susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se)) and **Andrés García Gómez**, Centro Europeo de Investigación Social (CEISE), Dirección General de Protección Civil, Madrid, Spain ([agarcia@procivil.mir.es](mailto:agarcia@procivil.mir.es))

1. « Community Capability and Disaster Management » **Philip Buckle**, Cranfield Disaster Management Centre, UK, ([p.d.buckle@rmcs.cranfield.ac.uk](mailto:p.d.buckle@rmcs.cranfield.ac.uk)) **Graham Marsh**, The School of Social Science and Planning, RMIT University, Victoria, Australia ([graham.marsh@rmit.edu.au](mailto:graham.marsh@rmit.edu.au)) Rev **Syd Smale**, Victoria, Australia ([Sssmale@bigpond.com](mailto:Sssmale@bigpond.com))
2. “The Impact of State Failure on Civil Society Organizations in Turkey following the 1999 Earthquake: The Case of a Search and Rescue Voluntary Organization”, **Hande Paker**, Ph D Candidate, Department of Sociology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada ([hpaker@po-box.mcgill.ca](mailto:hpaker@po-box.mcgill.ca))
3. “Social Crisis and the Significance of ‘Community Building’ in Developing Local Resilience to Harmful Gambling”, **Erica Hallebone**, School of Management, RMIT University, Victoria, Australia ([Erica.hallebone@rmit.edu.au](mailto:Erica.hallebone@rmit.edu.au))
4. «Vulnerabilidad y Resistencia en Latinoamérica » ( “Vulnerability and Resilience in Latin America”), **Ben Aguirre**, Disaster Research Center, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, University of Delaware, Newark, USA ([Aguirre@Udel.edu](mailto:Aguirre@Udel.edu))

## **Session on “Meet the European Authors” of Books on Crises, Disasters and Mass Emergencies, Thursday, Sept. 25, 17:00-18:00.**

**Chairs:** **N. Petropoulos**, Pedagogical Institute ([nppsoc@pi-schools.gr](mailto:nppsoc@pi-schools.gr)) and Emergencies Research Center, Athens, Greece ([erc@otenet.gr](mailto:erc@otenet.gr)) and **Sorin Cheval**, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Romania, ([sorincheval@fulbrightweb.org](mailto:sorincheval@fulbrightweb.org))

1. *Managing Crises: Threats, Dilemmas, Opportunities*, (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Il., 2001) by Uriel Rosenthal, R.A. Boin & L. Comfort. The book will be presented by **R.A. Boin**, Department of Public Administration, Leiden University ([boin@fsw.Leidenuniv.nl](mailto:boin@fsw.Leidenuniv.nl))
2. *Il Rischio Ambientale* (Mulino, Bologna 2001, 212 pages) by Bruna De Marchi, Luigi Pellizoni & Daniele Ungaro. The book will be presented by **Luigi Pellizzoni**, Environmental Sociology, Department of Human Sciences, University of Trieste ([luigi.pellizzoni@uniud.it](mailto:luigi.pellizzoni@uniud.it))

**“Business Meeting” of the “Disaster and Social Crisis Research Network”, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 19:00-20:00.**

## **Is S.A.R.S. Virus Made in a Laboratory, What is its Social Function If It Is, and What Should Be Done About It?**

As soon as the first cases of "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome" (SARS) were announced, lay people began to question the official explanation that virus "mutated" in some animals, pigs and chickens, from which they "jumped" to people. They wondered how come that the illness first appeared and spread rapidly not in the country but in the cities (Bei Dzin, Hong-Kong, Toronto), where there are not so many domestic animals.

Professor Sergei Kolesnikov, Member of The Russian Academy of Sciences, was among the first experts to claim that SARS is manufactured in a laboratory by synthesis of one or more strains of known corona viruses which can not join under natural conditions. In the meantime, this assertion is confirmed by laboratories in 10 countries.

Leonard G. Horowitz, a Doctor of Medical Dentistry, a holder of Masters degrees in Public Health and in Health Education and an expert in the fields of emerging diseases, medical sociology and behavioral sciences, admonishes that the actual epidemics of the new pneumonia-like illness is not a naturally caused public health emergency.

Dr. Horowitz became famous through exposing the man-made origin of HIV/AIDS in his book *Emerging Viruses: AIDS & Ebola – Nature, Accident or Intentional?* (Tetrahedron Press, 1988, 1-888-508-4787) In this book, Horowitz printed for the first time U.S. Congressional Record of documents for the world to see the 1969-1970 contracts under which numerous AIDS-like and Ebola-like mutant viruses were "bioengineered by the U.S. Army's 6<sup>th</sup> leading biological weapons contractor - Litton Bionetics - a medical subsidiary of the mega-military weapons contractor called Litton Industries" (ibid, p. 452). In the period when Kissinger was at the head of the National Security Agency, influenza and para-influenza viruses were recombined with quick acting acute lymphocytic leukemia viruses, making it possible to spread cancer like the flu.

Horowitz argues, much like Michael Fumento in the article with the characteristic title "Super-bug or Super Scare" (*The National Post*, March 28, 2003, p.A16), that the danger of SARS is exaggerated in the mainstream media. He adds that SARS is just the latest premeditated man-made attack on humanity. He searches for the etiology of SARS in the realm of corporate profits of the "global military-medical-petrochemical-pharmaceutical cartel" which is the only one able to wield the power over "mostly well-meaning yet grossly ignorant 'authorities'", to carry out this campaign. SARS is according to him "an ingenious social experiment featuring institutionalized bioterrorism for widespread psycho-social control", a kind of "rehearsal" for the predicted and constantly announced flu pandemic.

The above assertion is also based on Dr. Horowitz's personal experience: intensive reporting by all the major media on SARS began strangely when Dr Horowitz arrived in Toronto to participate in a medical conference at the end of March 2003. Horowitz could witness how this propaganda campaign deeply frightened the entire population beyond reason, having in mind that the death rate was less than 4% (54 people died out

of 1,400 affected who demanded medical help, at the time of writing of the article). Horowitz also underlines the fact that SARS is much less transmissible than other forms of pneumonia, that kill more than 40,000 North Americans yearly. Together with malaria and tuberculosis that kill yearly around 6 million people, the "old" killing diseases do not attract the big headlines and money.

The aim of these panic inducing "psychological operations" (PSYOPS) within the "command and control warfare (C2W)" is, according to Dr. Horowitz, to condition the mass mind for the arrival of 'the Big One' - a biological agent that will facilitate elimination of approximately a third to one-half of the world's population. Induced phobia stimulates the expansion of a multi-billion dollar "health industry" that offers expensive and prolonged treatment to the victims of exposure to the "emerging infectious diseases", and dependence of the population in general on "preventive" along with anti-depressant drugs. Induced panic makes "a rambling mass of masked and quarantined 'sheeple'" out of the population. Alarmed by the mass media announcements of the arrival of a "super-plague" or some other engineered fright, people are conditioned to relinquish their civil rights and comply with and even support the restrictive rules like enforced "quarantine" or oppressive legislation like "Homeland Security Act" imposed by the authorities. Horowitz stresses that the less mobile and reduced population for instance is easier to control through propaganda conducted by mass media that are themselves controlled by a relatively small number of global industrial and financial multi-national corporations and intelligence agencies. In wane hope of ensuring the threatened health and security, people become enslaved without being aware of this fact. Horowitz concludes that the acronym SARS should be interpreted as "Sickening and Repulsive Scam".

Aware that most people would be disinclined to believe his interpretation and discard it as one more product of "conspiracy theory", he reminds his readers that great epidemics of autoimmune diseases and newer cancers were virtually non-existent 50 years ago. He also reminds them that these mysterious epidemics never evolved divorced from major socio-political upheavals. SARS for instance symptomatically "arrived virtually synchronously with the global war on terrorism and the Anglo-American War with Iraq". In the book *Death in the Air: Globalism, Terrorism and Toxic Warfare* (<http://www.healthyworldistributing.com/detail.aspx?ID=3>), Horowitz explains that these smaller and controlled state-sponsored "conflicts short of major war", including the use of immediately "non-lethal" but mortality-rate increasing biological weapons and toxic carcinogenic organophosphate pesticides, metallic, and electromagnetic agents, were recommended by a handful of cryptocratic cartel think tanks in the late 1960s. These ideologists of the world's wealthiest colonialists, stressed in the Malthusian manner the Third World population reduction "necessities" and propagated lucrative depopulation methods. While ordering and financing creation of bacteriological weapons of mass destruction, authorities have publicized America's alleged great vulnerability to biological weapons wielded by terrorists, and continually foretold the arrival of the deadly influenza virus that will kill billions of people.

This state -sponsored terrorization of the population has also the function to make the taxpayers accept the use of the budget not for social services but for "economic substitutes for standard militarization" like "Star Wars" in the name of "national security" and "world peace". Thus is assured the permanent reproduction of profit for the oligarchy through the cycle of induced complex disasters instigation, followed by

provision of expensive relief for the provoked calamity by the companies in the possession of the oligarchy. Meanwhile, on the losing side is the population and the economies, especially trade, transport and tourism, of the targeted countries, like the rivals in Asia, especially China, or insufficiently cooperative Canada.

Horowitz finishes by recommending what should be the direction of rational response. On the personal level he encourages detoxification, deacidification/alkalinization, lifting of the immunity, oxygenation and bioelectric/energetic methods of alternative natural medicine beyond the 3<sup>rd</sup> percentile necessary to survive pathogenic agents. On the social and political level he urges alerting family, friends and the wider public, in order to prevent their victimization and media manipulation.

Irrespective of the fact whether we are persuaded or not by Dr, Horowitz's conclusions about the genesis and function of SARS, it is hard not to agree with him that only through conscious effort people can re/appropriate their present and future from the financial oligarchy ready to commit genocide and ecocide for profit under the guise of "public health" and "security" policies.

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## Current Activity Report of the D&SCRN Coordinator, N. Petropoulos

The Coordinator of the Network is currently involved in three projects. The first of these, “The Attica 1999 Earthquake: Self-Evaluation and Proposals of Agencies for the Organization of Civil Protection”, involves a research project which is funded by the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization. The project is in the final Conclusions phase and the Report is expected to be submitted to EPPO at the end of June.

The Second is a joint program between the University of Athens/Emergencies Research Center (Athens, Greece) and the Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turkey) and is funded by the corresponding Research/Technology Organizations of Greece and Turkey. The objective of the program is to develop a guidebook for local governments that includes comprehensive methodologies for reducing earthquake vulnerability in large urban centers with special reference to Athens and Istanbul. The implementation of the program, that will involve internet and actual exchanges between the two teams has just begun and will be concluded on March 2005. The Scientific Co-directors of the Project are Murat Balamir (Turkey), N. Petropoulos (ERC, Greece) and N. Voulgaris (University of Athens, Greece).

The third project, “Seismopolis”, is a competitive consortium project, involves ten public and private organizations/agencies and is funded by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Framework Support Program. The basic aim of the project, which will be completed in two years ( July 2005), is the development of an Earthquake Information Center in an Athens municipality where visitors will learn about EQ safety measures by going through (a) a shake-table experience (b) a virtual reality room and (c) a room with conventional printed and electronic materials. The Coordinator is participating in the “Seismopolis” project in his capacity as a counselor of the Pedagogical Institute of Greece and is in charge of the assessment of the existent materials for various target groups (e.g. general adult population,, students at two age levels, senior citizens, women, persons with special needs, foreign residents) from a pedagogical/communication view, the proposing of standards for the development of new materials and the assessment of the new materials, using survey and experimental techniques.

The Coordinator, Mr. Petropoulos, welcomes suggestions and sharing of experiences with regard to any of the above three projects.

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## **Murat Balamir's Recent Activities and Agenda for the Near Future ( A Selection)**

### **Publications**

'Shaky Grounds for Architecture in Oblivion: Whose Agenda is Earthquake Anyway?', in *Oriental-Occidental: Geography, Identity, Space*, edited by M. A. Rinehart, Proceedings of 2001 Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) International Conference, ACSA Press, Washington, 297-302.

'Hazards Policy at Cross-Roads: Current State of Structuring Mitigation Efforts in Turkey', *Hazards 2002*, Ninth International Symposium on Natural and Human-Made Hazards, Natural Hazards Society, Antalya, Book of Abstracts, 29-30.

'Urban Planning and Seismic Risk Management', in *Integrated Disaster Risk Management: Megacity Vulnerability and Resilience*, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, IIASA Laxenburg, Austria, Book of Abstracts, p. 4.

'Painful Steps of Progress from Crisis Planning to Contingency Planning: Changes for Disaster Preparedness in Turkey', *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management* (10:1) 39-49.

'Legality and Legitimacy of Tenure in Turkey', in *Land, Rights and Innovation: Improving Tenure Security for the Urban Poor*, G. Payne ed., Department of Foreign Development, DFID, ITDG Publishing, London, 158-177.

### **Lectures, Conferences and other Activities**

May 22-25, 2003: Participation in a series of meetings at the General Directorate of Disaster Affairs (Ankara) to finalize reports of an international research funded by DEZA (Switzerland), focusing on how earth-science findings could be incorporated in local urban land-use planning. The research was based on two cases (Adapazari and Degirmendere settlements severely hit by the 1999 EQs). The expected final product is a technical manual and probably a Regulation attendant to the Development Law.

April 28 - May 2, 2003: Keynote Speaker, *The Role of Local Governments in Reducing the Risk of Disasters* International Conference, World Bank Institute, Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (forthcoming).

March 28 2003: 'Risk Management and Implementations in Turkey', talk given in the 2-day seminar of the Staff of Gendarmerie, Research and Rescue Command, Güvercinlik, Ankara.

March 27, 2003: 'Is Housing Administration Building up a New Policy?', in *Sufficient Housing for Everyone*, paper submitted at the 19. Anniversary Meeting of the Housing Administration, Bilkent, Ankara.

March 21, 2003: ‘Deficiencies Observed in the Local Administrations Draft Law’, discussion talks delivered at Restructuring the Local Administrations Panel, Chamber of Architects of Turkey, Contemporary Arts Center, Kavaklıdere, Ankara.

February 22, 2003: ‘Risk Management in City Planning: The Rise of a Scientific Discipline’, talk and show delivered in *EQ Research and Risk Management Conference* held at, METU Culture and Convention Center, Hall C.

**Membership Activities (meetings, presentations, reports at municipal, federal and international levels):**

Committee for Ideas and Project Competition on ‘Safe Urban Environments’ of the Chamber of Architects of Turkey

Individual Consultancy to MEER A3 Project, Prime Ministry Project Implementation Unit (PM PIU)

Member of Core Panel for ‘Vision 2023’ Construction Technologies, National Institute for Science and Technology (TUBİTAK)

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Earthquake Master Plan

National Earthquake Council

The Greco-Turkish Research on ‘Comparative Methodologies Development for Urban EQ Mitigation Intervention: The Cases of Istanbul and Athens’

**Agenda for near future**

1. 3-6 June: Participation and a keynote address in UNDP meeting in Tirana, Albania (Title of the Seminar: “Moving from Risk Assessment to Disaster Planning”) (See Concept Paper below)

2. 11-13 June: Presentations in National EQ Council Workshop on National EQ Strategy.

3. 16-17 June: Presentations in the Workshop for “The Istanbul EQ Master Plan”, focusing on city planning and risk management, legal and administrative issues.

## **Concept Paper: Seminar on “Moving from Risk Assessments to Disaster Planning” ( Hotel “Sheraton Tirana”, Tirana, Albania June 04-June 06, 2003)**

### **Organizers/ supporters:**

Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization, Albania; UNDP Albania, Stability Pact, Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative, (DPPI); Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP/BCPR)

### **Background**

In the past decade, while going through fundamental political, social and economic transformation processes, South Eastern European Countries have also reassessed disaster risks and reformed their civil protection policies and structures. While countries are at different stages in the disaster planning process and have chosen different approaches and methodologies much progress has been made in modernizing overall civil protection and disaster management. Interesting solutions to complex problems have emerged from the region and there is ample opportunity for a fruitful exchange of opinion and experience that is based on expertise within the region.

In 2002 Albania embarked upon a comprehensive risk assessment process that has quantified likely impact from six different natural hazards. In 2003 Albania moves into the second stage of the disaster planning process: the drafting of a national disaster plan. Experience from many countries clearly demonstrates that this is not an easy task, especially the coordination of the inputs from different line-ministries and the integration of civil society, academia and the private sector into the planning process. The planning process requires both political will and support as well as sustained efforts at the technical or working level.

### **Purpose of the seminar**

Together with the DPPI Stability Pact Albania invites its colleagues from Civil Protection and Disaster Management structures in South Eastern Europe to share their experience with the disaster planning process. The seminar will provide opportunities for disaster management professionals to identify ways to draft a living national disaster plan at both national and local levels. Participants will be asked to prepare case studies of their countries' experience. Outlines for these case studies providing a basic structure for the narrative will be sent out. These will be discussed in both plenary and parallel working sessions.

For more information regarding the proceedings of the Seminar and Emergency Planning in Albania, please contact: Republic of Albania, Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization, Albania.

## Eduardo F. Augusto Runte's Recent and Current Activities

In November, 2002, I attended an emergency simulation coordinated by the APELL program. It took place in Duque de Caxias, Rio de Janeiro State and more than two thousand people were involved, including those who evacuated their homes.

December was a busy month. I presented the outline of my monograph at the Federal University of Juiz de fora. With the outline approved, I was allowed to actually start my research. The monograph is scheduled for presentation in June 1, 2003.

Also in December, I attended another simulation, this time in the town of São Sebastião, São Paulo State. Some 700 people participated. Eight blocks were evacuated in 21 minutes, which the local Civil Defence called "excellent".

I headed back to São Paulo State once more, for the First APELL In Port Zones Seminar, in the town of Santos, where Brazil's biggest maritime port is located. The Seminar took place at the Universidade Católica de Santos. Representatives from the local communities and government, the Port Authority, the Civil Defence and the United Nation's Environmental Programme were present, among others. They intend to have APELL functioning before the end of 2003.

In January, I had the opportunity to present a paper at the Projeto Ágora, in which students give voluntary lectures on subjects of their interest. Follows the paper's abstract:

"This presentation seeks to analyze some of the possibilities in which Foucault's theories on power and institutions can be applied to the study of disasters. Firstly, Foucault's main methodological tools, i.e. the archeology of knowledge and the genealogy of power, are introduced. The presentation then proceeds to use those tools in an attempt to identify how disasters were understood and reacted to throughout history. August Comte's theory of the three states comes into play as the biblical plagues are explained through religion, the Middle Age plagues are explained metaphysically, and modern day technological disasters, such as Chernobyl, are explained through positivism (scientifically proven, assessed). Focusing on modern society, it is argued that a number of institutions, be they new (such as Civil Defence) or old (such as police forces) claim to possess knowledge about disastrous situations, to gain legitimacy to act in such events, thus exercising power - in a foucaultian perspective. The main objective of the presentation is not to come to a final conclusion on the subject, but rather to stimulate a debate among the present audience."

In April, 2003 – another busy month - I was awarded a grant from the University to help me complete my monograph. This grant covers the expenses with books and with the survey I am presently conducting. Also in April, I started working as an internee at Transpetro SA, Brazil's leading company on oil and gas transportation and storage. Moreover, I was informed that I had been selected for Sweden's Linköping's University International Master's Program on Science, Technology and Society, starting in September this year. Right now, I am waiting for the outcome of the selection for scholarships from the Swedish Institute.

In this month of May, I attended a course offered by Paracambi Police Department on Rescue at Difficult Access Areas. It focused on first aid, climbing and rappeling techniques.

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## Vulnerability Assessment Workshop

A workshop was held at Coventry University's disaster management centre on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May to consider the current state of research and practice in vulnerability and capacity assessment. The three foci of discussion were:

- The application of a Human Rights approach to vulnerability assessment;
- The relevance of methods and concepts from other assessment protocols – particularly environmental management
- Whether standards can be applied to vulnerability assessment.

This was in recognition of recent developments in vulnerability and capacity assessment – often driven by policy and operational priorities – that reflected changed thinking about the methods and priority of vulnerability, resilience and capacity assessment in the context of disasters.

This workshop was organised by Philip Buckle, currently at the Cranfield Disaster Management Centre, in conjunction with Eve Coles and Les Moseley from Coventry University. This workshop follows a similar meeting at Middlesex University in September 2001 that looked generally at the state of vulnerability research.

This workshop included researchers from Australia, the United States, Austria and the United Kingdom. Agencies included Geoscience Australia, Liverpool University, Northumbria University, Proventium Consortium, the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at East Anglia University, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, the Stockholm Environment Institute and the Risk and Community Safety Initiative at RMIT University in Melbourne Australia.

Key themes that emerged included:

- the need to simultaneously consider VCA at different spatial and temporal scales
- the difficulty of agreeing on standards for assessment but agreeing that standards or protocols are necessary
- the need to “deprofessionalise” VCA and to include local assessment
- the need to link positively all interested parties from community based organisations through local government to international agencies and donors.

The proposed outcome of this meeting will be a joint paper setting out the participants views on the priorities of vulnerability and capacity assessment for the future.

Further details are available from Philip Buckle at [pbuckle@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pbuckle@bigpond.net.au)

## **A Brief Profile of the Purpose, the Partners and Recent Publications of CRISMART**

**CRISMART** is the National Center for Crisis Management Research and Training of the Swedish National Defence College in Stockholm. The centre develops competence and fosters knowledge about national and international crisis management. The ambition of the centre is to accomplish an excellent academic level of research, as well as to build bridges between practitioners and researchers in an effort to strengthen the national and European crisis management capability.

CRISMART consists of a core group of more than a dozen researchers at the Swedish National Defence College as well as an international network of around 100 analysts in over ten countries. Professor Bengt Sundelius and Doctor Eric Stern lead this centre of competence. Among the partners can be mentioned **The European Crisis Management Academy (ECMA)** [www.ecm-academy.nl](http://www.ecm-academy.nl), **The Swedish Institute of International Affairs** [www.ui.se](http://www.ui.se), **The Swedish Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)** [www.krisberedskapsmyndigheten.se/english](http://www.krisberedskapsmyndigheten.se/english), **Cranfield University** [www.cranfield.ac.uk/](http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/), **Syracuse University, USA** [www.syr.edu](http://www.syr.edu), **The Finnish Institute of International Affairs** [www.upi-fia.fi](http://www.upi-fia.fi), **Leiden University**, The Netherlands, [www.leiden.edu](http://www.leiden.edu), **University of Latvia**, [www.lu.lv/eng/](http://www.lu.lv/eng/), **University of Ljubljana**, Slovenia [www.uni-lj.si](http://www.uni-lj.si), **Warsaw University**, Poland [www.uw.edu.pl](http://www.uw.edu.pl).

**CRISMART** engages in training and crisis simulations for crisis managers and decision-makers at all levels throughout society. The Center develops training and simulation methods and its initiatives foster dialogue between researchers and practitioners with experience in managing crises. Among the recent training partners can be mentioned **The County Administration of Uppsala, Sweden** and **the Swedish Post Office**.

Among **CRISMART's** new publications on crisis management is *Volume 22, Crisis Management in a Crowded Humanitarian Space: The Politics of Hosting Refugee Influxes* by Peter L. J. Bos. The volume is Peter L.J. Bos's dissertation. This study examines the politics of refugee crisis management during the 1999 Kosovo refugee crisis in Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The management of the two refugee crises turned into a political issue involving a mixture of humanitarian, military, organisational and host-nation interests. The central question is how the governments of Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia interacted with UNHCR in the management and how similarities and differences in the nature of refugee crisis management in the two instances can be identified and explained.

The latest **CRISMART** publication is *Volume 24, Vad styr ledaren? Om beslutsfattare och policyförändring i säkerhetspolitiska kriser [What guides the leader? How does the leader guide? On decision-makers and policy change in security policy crises]* by Karin Lindgren. The volume is Karin Lindgren's dissertation at the Department of Government, Uppsala University.

Also the dissertation of Fredrik Bynander, *The rise and fall of the submarine threat. Threat politics and submarine intrusions in Sweden 1980-2002*, publicly defended at the Department of Government, Uppsala University, on June 5, 2003, is due to be published within this publication series.

**Susann Ullberg**

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## **International Conference on Communications and Disaster Resilience**

The European Telecommunications Recovery and Resilience Association\*\* in collaboration with the Disaster Management and Sustainable Development Programme (forthcoming Disaster and Development Centre), and One North East are hosting a Conference at St. James' Park, Newcastle upon Tyne and Northumbria University on communications and disaster resilience. This will take place June 11th to 13th 2003 in Newcastle upon Tyne, England.

Key Topics Are:

- Financial implications of resilience and recovery to businesses
- Communications resilience
- Business Continuity Planning
- Alternative communication methods and emerging technology
- Information and E-security
- Disaster preparedness and response
  
- Managing risks and hazards

\*\*The European Telecommunications Resilience and Recovery Association (ETR2A) is a European Forum for discussion, debate and information. Based in the UK it aims to extend understanding of the relationship between telecommunications, information, security, disaster management and governance

Further details can be found at the following web address: <http://www.etr2a.org>

## Urban Vulnerability and Network Failure: Constructions and Experiences of Emergencies, Crises and Collapse

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

An ESRC-Sponsored International Seminar jointly hosted by SURF, University of Salford and GURU, University of Newcastle, Manchester, United Kingdom, 29-30 April 2004

#### **Rationale**

In these times of 'globalisation' cities are being powerfully shaped by their relationships with socio-technical networks and infrastructures. These organise, and mediate, the distribution of people, goods, services, information, wastes, capital, and energy between multiple scales within and between urban regions. The contemporary urban process, and contemporary social power, thus, more than ever, involve complex 'cyborg' liaisons and multiple, distanced connections. These straddle many scales and link bodies, places, and institutions continuously with more or less distant elsewhere. By making possible a myriad of mobilities such infrastructures remake the spaces and times of urban life in the process.

On the one hand, the everyday life and ideology of the modern city is dependent on the seamless and continuous functioning, together, of a vast array of functioning technical systems (although, for vast numbers of urbanites in the global South, the reality is often of little connectivity and worse reliability). On the other hand, large swathes of contemporary corporate, state, and military power centres on the construction, maintenance, legitimation and protection of vast arrays of extended technological systems. Strung out across the world, and configured carefully to support the 'glocal' geographies of power and connectivity of contemporary capitalism, these network spaces - fibre optic networks, airport and airline spaces, Just-in-Time logistics systems, E-commerce and transactional flows, transnational energy systems, and so on -- are critical strategic supports to neoliberal globalisation. Linking up, and mediating, key spaces and divisions of labour reliably, quickly and seamlessly, the physical, energy, water and informational infrastructures that sustain contemporary capitalism are perhaps the most critical strategic supports of contemporary global capitalism.

A widening range of iconic infrastructure collapses serve as opportunities to learn about the cultural, political, social and material dimensions

of the importance of infrastructural connection in contemporary urban, and geopolitical, life. Since the early 1990s, to name but a few, iconic collapses and failures have included the Montreal ice storm, the Auckland power blackout, the gas attack on the Tokyo underground, the Sydney drought, the California energy crisis, the Chicago heat wave, the failure of Hong Kong airport's freight system, the September 11th attacks, and the 'Lovebug' virus. The infrastructural devastation of countless urban wars also needs to be considered here.

As seamless and 24 hour flows and connections become ever-more critical for capitalist urbanism, however, so massive political, discursive and material resources are being devoted to try and reduce the supposed vulnerabilities that these systems exhibit to collapse, malfunctioning, or attack. This is especially so when the September 11th and Anthrax attacks, in particular, demonstrated that mobility systems, themselves, can be appropriated as 'terrorist' weapons. 'Resilience', and 'critical infrastructure protection', are ubiquitous buzz words in these times of politically constructed moral panic, continuous states of emergency, and the ongoing Bush-led 'war on terror'. Huge resources and efforts are now being devoted by States, infrastructure corporations, the military, urban infrastructure agencies, and corporate capital to reducing the supposed vulnerability of telecommunications, transport, logistics, transaction, electricity, and utilities systems to technical failure, sabotage, natural disasters or the failures caused by the reduced built in back-up that often comes with liberalised markets. The glaring fragility, and low reliability, of many computer-mediated communications and infrastructure systems is a particular focus of concern here. Examples include government programmes to protect critical infrastructure, commercial services for network back up, and military (and terrorist groups') interest in the disrupting of adversaries' infrastructure networks. Civil defence programmes designed to increase cities' resilience to attack and targeting, and so on, are also reaching unprecedented levels.

As Tim Luke has observed, networked connections and collapses also form a critical focus of cultural politics. Narratives and discourses of failed flow and connection stalk many underground and dystopian scenes and genres of culture. Contemporary urban culture is full of accounts which reveal a fascination with such moments of what he calls 'decyborgisation'. This is because they reveal, however fleetingly, the utter reliance of modern urban life on distanced flow and interaction. The cultural narratives and representations that surround the failure and collapse of networked infrastructures are a key aspect of their social importance.

### **Conference Aim and Objective**

The core aim of this conference is to explore the ways in which

reactions to, and experiences of, the collapse of technical and networked infrastructures within and between cities are constructed, experienced, imagined, represented, and contested. We seek in particular to explore these themes under conditions of growing infrastructural stress, re-regulation, globalisation, increasing concerns with failure, the changing geopolitical situation surrounding the 'war on terror', and the strong fascination for infrastructural collapse within contemporary culture. By bringing together researchers representing a range of disciplines, including geography, history, sociology, critical theory, development studies, political economy, geopolitics, surveillance and defence studies, the objective is to stimulate interdisciplinary discussion and collaboration that examines the meaning of connectivity and collapse in contemporary urban life, politics, governance, and culture.

### **Seminar Themes**

(1) Conceptualising 'Cyborg' Urbanisation: How can urban, social and critical theory conceptualise the socio-technologies of connection, resilience, mobility, and collapse in contemporary cities ?

(2) Urban Vulnerability and Network Failures: Constructions and Experiences of Emergencies, Crises and Collapse How do different disciplines construct concepts of urban vulnerability and network failure ? How does network stress and failure operate materially and how is it represented politically and culturally? Why, how and where do technical networks collapse? What can be learnt about the discursive, economic or material role of technical connections in a globalised context by studying what happens when connections fail? How does the governance of cities, spaces and networked infrastructure intersect in various contexts to address (and exploit?) perceptions of stress and risk. How are such politics shaped by broader political economies of globalisation, mobility, flow and re-regulation? How are corporate and popular fears of, and vulnerabilities to, the failure of connectivity addressed in such processes of governance ?

(3) Networked Collapses as States of Emergency : What can be learnt from in-depth case studies of instances of network failures or collapse ? What happens when the normalisation of flow, mobility and connection breaks down? What social, economic, and cultural coping mechanisms and innovations are developed to deal with the collapse ? How do political and governance coalitions at various scales, in states, cities and network spaces, respond to failure ? What are the longer term political, economic or cultural consequences of network failure ? How are crises and collapse in infrastructures, and wider processes of 'de-cyborgisation,' represented in contemporary culture ?

(4) Networked Collapse, Security, and Organised Violence How do various state and non-state militaries and target and destroy adversaries' infrastructure networks? In what ways are national, homeland and urban 'security' strategies, and critical infrastructure protection policies, being reformed to address, or exploit, fears of networked collapse? What political economic transitions do such strategies support? What discursive, and linguistic constructions do such political strategies rely on? Beyond the hype what is the real scope of 'cyberwar'? What strategies and techniques are used? How effective, or widespread, is such 'network-based' warfare? How does it relate to the current geopolitical position (dominated by a single 'hyperpower' pursuing a 'war on terror' without apparent end to further its geopolitical interests in the Middle East and Central Asia)?

### **Abstract Submission**

Please submit a 250 words abstract to Steve Graham [s.d.n.graham@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:s.d.n.graham@ncl.ac.uk) and Simon Marvin [S.Marvin@salford.ac.uk](mailto:S.Marvin@salford.ac.uk) before September 1st 2003.

Papers will be required for pre-circulation before the seminar that will be hosted in central Manchester, United Kingdom in April 2004.

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## Three Excerpts from *Disaster Mitigation in Asia* (Issue No. 4, 30 May 2003)

### 1. School Earthquake Safety (SES)

The earthquake that shook Bingol, Turkey on 1 May 2003 claimed 177 lives and 521 injuries. The fact that half of the deaths was a result of the collapse of a primary boarding school killing 85 children and one teacher raised the issues of "why again" and who is responsible. Governments for lack of building standards, enforcement system and quality control, construction companies for non-compliance and corruption, and/or society for poverty and ignorance.

The Bingol Earthquake has generated much discussion on the RADIX e-mail discussion list which can be viewed at ([http://online.northumbria.ac.uk/geography\\_research/radix/latest.htm](http://online.northumbria.ac.uk/geography_research/radix/latest.htm)) Many organizations worldwide do recognize the importance of schools pre-, during and post disaster. Schools house the community's future. Schools can promote earthquake preparedness and mitigation in community. Schools that are still standing and are safe can be used as refuge during and after a disaster.

There have been a number of initiatives to make schools safer and, at the same time use schools as the place to promote awareness on earthquake safety:

\* In India, SEEDS is starting the Earthquake Safety Initiative <http://seedsindia.org>.

\* In Bandung, Indonesia, the Institute of Technology Bandung have led the process of incorporating earthquake safety in schools through teachers training, now institutionalized within the Ministry of National Education [harkunti@si.itb.ac.id](mailto:harkunti@si.itb.ac.id).

\* In Kathmandu, Nepal, the National Society for Earthquake Technology pioneered a comprehensive School Earthquake Safety (SES) Program that includes school retrofitting and reconstruction, masons training and earthquake preparedness planning through the SES program committee represented by teachers, students, parents, masons and government officials <http://www.nset.org.np>.

\* United Nations<sup>1</sup> Centre for Regional Development is supporting a number of SES initiatives in India, Japan, Nepal and Turkey (<http://www.uncrd.org>).

\* Geo Hazards International (<http://www.geohaz.org>) and many other US-based organizations are also very active in promoting SES.

Are you involved in or aware of similar initiatives? Please share it by writing to ([audmp@adpc.net](mailto:audmp@adpc.net))

## **2. UN ISDR's 2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign**

In keeping with the International Year of Freshwater, ISDR's 2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign looks at how we can cope with water-related hazards. Hydrometeorological hazards (such as floods, droughts, landslides, tropical cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons) are noticeably on the rise, affecting more communities than ever due to human activities that increase vulnerability and change the natural balance of ecosystems.

"Turning the Tide" the slogan for this year's campaign aims at changing our perceptions and attitudes towards the impact of hydrometeorological disasters on communities, the importance of incorporating disaster reduction as part of sustainable development and the involvement of as many sectors as possible in this process.

In preparation for the June release of campaign materials, contributions are being sought that exemplify turning the tide. Stories, examples from local, national or transborder integrated management of floods or water-related emergencies are welcome (500 words or less). Contributions to be included in the information kit must be received by 20 June 2003.

For more information visit (<http://www.unisdr.org>) or e-mail Ms. Nicole Rencoret ([rencoret@un.org](mailto:rencoret@un.org))

## **3. Humanitarian Supply Management System (SUMA)**

When a major disaster strikes a country, local and international communities respond with an outpouring of assistance. Disaster managers must be prepared to receive large quantities of unsolicited donations that may not meet the needs of the affected population. The process of sorting through tons of supplies and ensuring that urgently needed items reach the disaster victims can overwhelm relief workers.

SUMA, the Supply Management System developed by the Pan American Health Organization's Program on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief, is an information management tool that helps national authorities coordinate humanitarian assistance. SUMA uses simple software to track items from the moment donors commit to sending supplies until they are distributed effectively to the affected population.

SUMA's website has been updated recently. The new website is more

interactive, and allows for better and quicker service. Here you can download free software, have access to manuals, publications, videos and information on training. You can also subscribe to their mailing list and receive regular updates.

For more information visit (<http://www.disaster-info.net/SUMA>) or e-mail ([suma@paho.org](mailto:suma@paho.org))

For additional Information concerning *Disaster Mitigation in Asia*, please contact the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) at P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang, Parthumthani 12120, Thailand, Tel.: (66-2) 516-5900 to 10, FAX: (66-2) 5245-5350, 524-5360. E-mail: [audmp@adpc.net](mailto:audmp@adpc.net). URL: <http://www.adpc.net>.

## ***METHODS OF DISASTER RESEARCH***

Robert Stallings (ed) 524 Pages Philadelphia: Xlibris Publisher. 2002.

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17. Butler. Selected internet resources on natural hazards and disasters.

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