

D&SCRN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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A quarterly publication of the Disaster and Social Crisis Research Network of the European Sociological Association
Athens, Greece, erc@otenet.gr

D&SCRN REPORT

Murcia September 23-26, 2003 D&SCRN Sessions-A Briefing. Our Network had planned 8 sessions and 32 regular paper presentations for the 6th ESA conference in Murcia. Of the 32 programmed sessions, 20 actually took place. On behalf of the Coordinating Committee, I would like to thank Alan Kirschenbaum (Israel), Hanc Fischer (USA), David Denney (UK), Jose Rodriguez dos Santos (Portugal), Eve Coles (UK), Max Koch (Northern Ireland), Dorothea Hilhorst (The Netherlands), Vera Vratusa (Yugoslavia), Elena Gvozdeva (Russia), Juri Plusnin (Russia), Jochen Dreher (Germany), Silvana Figuera (Germany), Jose Manuel Alvarez Sanchez (Spain), Ana Huesca Gonzalez (Spain), Susann Ullberg (Sweden), Ariadna Rodriguez

*D&SCRN Newsletter NOs.15-16,
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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.

Teijeiro (Spain), Graham Marsh (UK-Australia), Hande Paker (Canada), Erica Hallebone (Australia) and Ben Aguirre (USA) for their participation and contributions

I would also like to thank Linda Stafford (USA) and Winni Johansen/Finn Frandsen(Denmark), who were added to the program during the last month before the conference, for their contributions.

Thanks is also due to Prof. R.A. Boin (the Netherlands) and Luigi Pellizzoni (Italy) for the excellent book presentations.

Quantitatively, our success rate with regard to regular paper presentations was about 70%. Undoubtedly, funding continues to play a significant negative role in conference participation. This notwithstanding, the sessions and book presentations were accompanied by intensive, in-depth discussion, and qualitatively went very well.

In this connection, I would like to extend a special thanks to Vera Vratosa (Yugoslavia), Susann Ullberg (Sweden), Ben Aguirre (USA), Andres Garcia Gomez (Spain) and Juan de Dios Ruano Gomez (Spain) for their contribution to the organization and the coordination of the sessions.

Finally, a separate special thanks to Susann Ullberg whose versatility in Spanish and English made possible the summarization of the Spanish presentations in English and broadened participation of the audience in our bilingual sessions.

Murcia Business meeting-recent developments. The agenda included (a) Search for a new webpage host (b) elections of a new Coordinating Committee, (c) a division of labor between the members of the Coordinating Committee (d) membership fees (e) publication of the session papers and (e) publication of university reader on crises and disasters.

- **New webpage host.** Jose Rodrigues dos Santos, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Military Academy, ISCTE, (Portugal) undertook the responsibility to explore the possibilities of his institution hosting our webpage. In the meanwhile, the Coordinator is also exploring the possibilities of collaboration with the Department of Sociology of the National School of Public Health of Greece in Athens. The latter came up during the participation of the Coordinator in a training seminar for emergency personnel. We need to explore both of these possibilities and come to a decision soon. 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) or the new temporary web address (http://www.online.northumbria.ac.uk/geography_research/dscrm).
- **Elections of new Coordinating Committee.** The Coordinator proposed a renewal both in the leadership and the composition of the CC. As there were no candidates for the position of Coordinator, the members present decided to renew the mandate of the present coordinator for another two years. The Coordinator consented to accept the responsibility and the honor for two more years, but hopes that there will be candidates for a new Coordinator during our next meeting in Poland. The Network also decided to make a minor renewal in the composition of the CC. We welcome Jose Rodrigues dos Santos (Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Military Academy, ISCTE, Portugal), Susann Ullberg (CRISMART, Sweden) and Dorothea Hilhorst (Disaster Studies, Wageningen University, the Netherlands) to the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee now includes: (1). Murat Balamir (Turkey), (2). Maureen Fordham (UK), (3). Dorothea Hilhorst (the Netherlands), (4). Nicholas Petropoulos (Greece), Coordinator, (5). Boris Porfiriev (Russia), (6). Jose Rodrigues dos Santos (Portugal), (7). Robert Stallings (USA), (8.) Susann Ullberg (Sweden) and (9). Vera Vratosa (Yugoslavia).
- **Division of Labor between members of the CC.** To expedite the succession and transition, the members of the Network decided to delegate some of the responsibilities to other members of the CC. The responsibility for the managing the webpage was delegated to Jose Rodrigues dos Santos, on the proviso that his institution will consent to the hosting of our webpage, while the responsibility for the electronic newsletter management will be transferred to

Susann Ullberg starting with the next issue (17th). Policy and strategy with regard to the Webpage and the Newsletter will remain the responsibility of the Coordinating Committee.

- **Membership issues.** The Coordinator suggested that a membership fee may help in the partial subsidization of the Webpage and the Newsletter. The members present decided once again to uphold the no-membership fee policy. However, they felt there was a need to clarify the financial status of our members with regard to their ESA membership. Our members should be asked to choose between regular and associate status. And for those who declare regular status, they need to be members of ESA in good standing.
- **By Laws for the Network.** The Coordinator also raised the issue of Network by-laws but no decision was taken, in view of the fact that most if not all of the ESA networks continue to operate on an informal basis. Nonetheless, the Coordinator promised to attempt an adaptation of the ISA by-laws to ESA conditions and bring up again a proposal for discussion at a later date.
- **Publication of Murcia Session Papers.** With regard to publication of the Murcia Network proceedings, the Network members present decided to give the participants until the end of November 2003 (but definitely before Christmas) to complete their papers. Priority was to be given to publication in the Network webpage, though interest was also expressed in our presentations by Prof. Boin for possible publication in the *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*. It was also decided to publish in the webpage all papers that had been submitted, whether or not the authors had shown up at the conference. At the time of the Newsletter publication, the Coordinator had received revised papers from Kirschenbaum, Aguirre, Denney, Hallebone, Huesca, Koch and Petropoulos. We have completed papers but in the original version from Marsh, Enarson, Fischer, Gvozdeva, Hilhorst, Hoffman, Macamo, Paker, Silva, Teijeiro, Ullberg and Vratasa. My intention is to publish in our webpage, when we secure it, both revised and original versions, unless any of the colleagues have an objection. It is understood that a footnote will accompany those papers published elsewhere.
- **Publication of a Reader on Crises and Disasters.** Finally, and during the Conference, the Coordinator had a meeting with Mark Barrat, Commissioning Editor for Open University Press/McGraw Hill and responsible for the Sociology and Psychology List. Mr. Barrat approached the Network for possible collaboration in publishing a text on crises and disasters. We decided to explore the possibility of our Network coordinating the publication of a third-year university level reader on crisis and disasters which will reflect both cumulated research and practice. Soon, and before I correspond with Mr. Barrat, I plan to make a relevant proposal to the Coordinating Committee, taking into consideration the scope of interest of our Network and the types of crises and disasters confronting the European countries.

2005 ESA Conference Venue. The 7th ESA conference will take place at the Nicholas Copernicus University in Torun, Poland. Details regarding the dates, theme of the conference and the organization of sessions by D&SCRN will be forthcoming.

Nicholas Petropoulos,
D&SCRN Coordinator, erc@otenet.gr

Brief Activity Report of the Coordinator, Dr. N. Petropoulos, (September-December 2003)

1. Research project. During December he completed and submitted to the Funding Organization, the National Earthquake and Planning Organization the final report (754 pages) of a research project on “The 1999 Parnitha Earthquake: Self-Evaluation and Proposals of Agencies for the Organization of Civil Protection”. The report, which is in Greek, is based on a questionnaire survey of reactions and proposals of various groups (e.g. local and federal government officials, members of rescue groups, scientists, journalists, members of NGOs). It contains chapters on restoration/reconstruction measures, rescue techniques, post-traumatic impact on rescue workers, management of earthquake predictions/information, organization of civil protection and impact of 1999 Athens/Marmara earthquakes on Greco-turkish relations. The author intends to publish findings in English fora in the near future

2. Public Information Project. He is participating, in his capacity as a sociology counselor at the Pedagogical Institute of Greece, in a multi-agency (public and private) pilot project (2003-2005) subsidized by the EU Third Framework Support Program. The purpose of project is to develop a multidynamic public information center in one of the Athens municipalities for protection against earthquakes. The Center will feature (a) an earthquake shake table (b) a virtual reality room for various earthquake scenarios and (c) a room for conventional and electronic information materials/activities. The role of the Pedagogical Institute scientific team which is to assess the pedagogical and communication effectiveness of current public information materials, for schools and the public, through a series of empirical surveys in the Athens area. Target groups include student groups at various grade levels, students with special needs, teachers and educational counselors/administrators, households (men and women), immigrant groups, the aged and adults with special needs.

3. Bilateral Greek-Turkish Project. In his capacity as Director of the Emergencies Research Center, a non-profit scientific organization, he is co-director of a Greco-turkish bilateral project, which is subsidized by the corresponding national research organizations of the two countries. The project was conceived during the Network’s business meeting at the 5th ESA conference in Helsinki by Greek (N. Petropoulos) and Turkish (M. Balamir) members of the Coordinating Committee and has as a purpose the development of a “Guide” for the protection of large urban centers from earthquakes. It is being implemented by the University of Athens Geology Department (Project Director: Dr. N. Voulgaris), the Middle East Technical University City and Regional Planning Department (Project Director: Dr. M. Balamir) and the Emergencies Research Center of Athens (Project Co-Director: N. Petropoulos). The first meeting of the bilateral project will take place in Athens, Feb. 4-8, 2004 and will include visits to an area stricken by the 1999 earthquake, visits to civil protection agencies, a visit to the anti-earthquake technology laboratory of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), presentations of the state of the art in the two countries with regard to EQ protection following the 1999 earthquakes and a discussion on urban vulnerability/resilience methods.

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Disaster Research Center's (DRC) 40th Anniversary Conference

The Disaster Research Center (DRC) at the University of Delaware would like to invite you to attend a two-day conference that will allow us to focus on: 1) the growth and development of the field of disasters, from a social science perspective; 2) the theoretical, methodological, and public policy contributions of the field of disasters at the national and international level; 3) lessons learned and best practices that have emerged in the field; and 4) trajectories or opportunities for social science research in disasters.

The conference will take place on April 30th - May 1st, 2004. We anticipate that this will be a two-day event, starting Friday morning and ending Saturday, after a full day of conference activities. The meeting will take place at the University of Delaware.

During this occasion, we will also be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the DRC. Please join us in this festive occasion to commemorate this date and pay tribute to two of the founding fathers of the DRC and the study of disasters from a social science perspective, Drs. Enrico Quarantelli and Russell Dynes.

This conference will allow us to generate an in-depth discussion on how social science research has and will continue to enhance our understanding of the human and social dimensions of disasters. We will bring together leading scholars, researchers, practitioners, and students to discuss issues that are at the forefront in the field of disasters. The conference will also count with the participation of representatives from funding agencies thus allowing us to focus on their funding priorities, needs, and interests. This conference will provide a stimulating and unique environment to generate a discussion that will lead to the development of disaster research initiatives and projects in the near future.

Additional details regarding the meeting agenda, lodging, and other conference details will be sent out during the following months.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope that you will be able to join us in this important meeting.

Sincerely,

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Kayafest: Big Young Hearts in a Small Town in Turkey¹

By Serdard Degirmencioglu

Once there was a small town in southwestern Anatolia, called Livissi. Like many other towns and villages in Anatolia, the local Greek community in Livissi and nearby Makre, and the Turkish community co-existed peacefully for centuries. Even in days of war, there was no hostility or conflict in this area. Then came a decree: Local Greeks were to pack and leave in three days. This was 80 years ago. Two governments decided that nation states were not supposed to be ethnically mixed and it was an acceptable idea to exchange the unwanted ethnic populations, and signed the infamous Population Exchange Treaty. No one asked the locals – Greek or Turkish – their opinion: The “others” had to leave. The Greeks left in agony words cannot describe – the official who had to announce the decree to the Greeks cried as he was reading.

Years later, a handful of young people, members of AEGEE-Ankara (AEGEE is a Pan-European student association) visited this ghost town, now known as Kayaköy (“rock village” in Turkish after stone houses of Livissi) and decided to turn this village into a setting for a festival of peace and friendship. And so they did about 10 days ago, on July 28 through August 3. With funding from the European Commission, they brought together young people (more than 300 from Greece, many more from all over Turkey), members of NGOs, folk dancers, and artists from both countries, and local rock stars. This mixture, they called Kayafest, a festival of youth and culture.

The festival felt right from the very start. People were relaxed. One could hear Greek spoken all around. Young people were everywhere. The locals, young and old, were there. And Livissi was there every moment of the festival. The main stage was right at the skirts of the hill where the vacant stone houses stood: It was as if Livissi and the Population Exchange were part of each and every activity.

The opening speeches by the young organizers were followed by speeches of sponsors and government officials from both sides of the Aegean – even the governor of the Twelve Islands was present. The village mayor, or muhtar, was on stage, too. He spoke confidently on behalf of the villagers and welcomed the festival participants. His speech was a sure sign of what was to come: Locals attended almost every event. This was perhaps the most unexpected success of the festival but perhaps it was not surprising after all: The locals, just like their grand grandparents, liked Greeks and were true to the heritage of this land of co-existence.

The first night closed with a fascinating concert by Baba Zula, an avant-garde band from Istanbul. Just like the festival, their music was unexpected, non-traditional and yet so familiar and warm. Once the concert ended, the open air party began and lasted for hours. As we were walking back to our pension next to the tent village where most festival participants stayed, Yorgo called out to another participant and asked a question in Greek. Soon they started chatting on a Kayaköy street, as if they were home. We felt, at that very moment, the festival was going to be a sure success.

Beginning on the second day of the festival, many participants spent half of the day in a workshop. I ran one of these five-day workshops on behalf of the Turkish Psychological Association. My workshop focused on the twin earthquakes that hit the

¹ The brief article touches upon both “natural ” (1999 Eqs) and “complex” (early 1920s conflict between Greece and Turkey) disasters(Coordinator’s Note).

Marmara region in August and Athens in September of 1999, and how these earthquakes changed public opinion in Turkey and Greece. The workshop participants, six from Greece and seven from Turkey, first discovered that even in this small group there were people with grandparents from the other side of the Aegean. Next they discovered what was obvious: Once the Population Exchange was over and the borders were sealed tight, the next generations did not have any contact with the “other”. Instead they learned from books and the official discourse that the “other” people were simply enemies.

The workshop shed light on group dynamics and conflict between groups. We studied research that showed how easily animosity between groups can be produced and how groups often sustain themselves with such animosities and myths of sorts. We then examined how meaningful contact, like the rescue efforts after the twin earthquakes, reduces stereotypes and hostilities. Participants remembered how they responded to the earthquakes and how their mothers cried watching the events in Turkey. The participants soon drew their conclusion: Disasters were not the only way for meaningful contact to happen. Such contact was happening in the workshop, in the village, and it was good.

Part of the workshop focused on commonalities, the common words in particular, which we discovered socially. We used three languages whenever possible. One of the participants from Istanbul grew up as part of the Greek community in a Greek-Turkish neighborhood. She knew the “other” from within and spoke some Greek with a pleasant old accent. She helped other participants discover the daily co-existence and harmony she breathed growing up. When she said “kalo mina” on August 1, the participants from Greece were pleasantly surprised: Yes, she was just like one of them. And yes, contact mattered.

The fourth day of the workshop was the highlight of the festival. We had lunch in a local home, in the garden with homemade bread, trahanas soup (or tarhana), tzatziki (or cacik), dolmades (or dolma) and karpuzi (or karpuz). Soon someone asked about locals who might have seen the days before the Exchange and we were told to visit Lutfiye Kaya. “Grandma” Lutfiye was ninety and she was delighted to have visitors from Greece. Yes, she remembered the good old days before the Exchange. The local Greeks were good, very hard-working people. There was no conflict in this land. She looked at Yorgo from Hydra, and said “he looks like my son-in-law”. The workshop participants were moved as she spoke of the land and the people of this land, some of whom were Greek. She did not talk about religions, borders, flags, or nations. When she said, “You are all children of this land”, everyone knew what she meant – and everyone knew that “Grandma” Lutfiye spoke words governments did not want them to even hear.

As we left her home and turned the corner, we heard beautiful tunes – folk songs from Greece – coming from the local open air coffee house. Musicians from both countries were playing and two local men were dancing, at times alone and at times with young women from Greece. They kept on dancing with great joy. Soon the women in my workshop made their way to middle and started dancing the Greek version of halay. This was like a dream come true: This land of co-existence and its people were embracing young people from Greece and Turkey, no matter how different they looked, no matter how little they knew each other. As Grandma Lutfiye said, “They were all children of this land”.

Once there was a small town, called Livissi. Small and peaceful it was until big powers, big armies, big ideologies and a big treaty came. The big treaty these big entities

created did a big injustice to the people of Livissi, Makre and their Turkish brothers and sisters. Now, eighty years later, young people with big hearts and a big dream helped others better understand the big agony of this land. And they also helped them grasp why modern ethnic categories and over-used ethnic adjectives “Greek” and “Turkish” can never capture the complex and the rich cultures that still exist in this region.

As the festival closed, once again there were tears in Livissi, just like eighty years ago, but this time these tears were signs of future contact and better days to come.

About the author: Serdar M. Degirmencioglu is a professor of psychology at Istanbul Bilgi University. He lived in Komotini when he was eight and attended the minority primary school until his father, a teacher at the minority high school, was declared persona-non-grata by the military government of Greece. He visits Greece frequently. His e-mail is serdard@bilgi.edu.tr

Chaos Organization and Disaster Management **by Alan Kirschenbaum**

New York Basel, Marcel Dekker Publishers

Public Administration and Public Policy Series 105. Pp328

ISBN: 0—8247—4715—1

<http://www.dekker.com>

[about the book...](#)

With a unique longitudinal field study of the Israeli experience circa the Gulf War as its centerpiece, this remarkable book offers an extremely well written scholarly survey of disaster behavior and management in the face of global conventional and non-conventional disasters. Analyses of definitions of preparedness, conditions for effective organizational outcomes, estimations of risk, and built-in structural conflicts show the great divide between individual responses to disaster and the functioning of disaster management organizations.

Exposes the fundamental flaws of disaster management agencies, viewing disasters from the perspectives of organizations and potential victims.

Formulating an alternative approach to disaster management that draws on the advantages of privatization, ***Chaos Organization and Disaster Management*** appraises methods of measuring disaster agency effectiveness, maintaining the value of the constituency and stakeholder-based evaluations...outlines the intrinsic bureaucratic constraints impeding disaster management efficacy...reveals the disconnect between organizational and victim perceptions of disaster...dissects the faulty conceptual origin of preparedness underlying organizational operations...contrasts agency and individual assessments of risk on disaster preparation and reaction...demonstrates the influence of social traditions on individual disaster behavior...stresses the importance of family, and particularly mothers, in disaster readiness and survival...and examines the notion of the disaster community, locating survival mechanisms at the family, micro-, and macro-neighborhood levels.

Chaos Organization and Disaster Management

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6. The Mother Hen Effect

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7. Disaster Communities as Survival Mechanisms
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[about the author...](#)

ALAN KIRSCHENBAUM is Professor of Organizational Studies in the Industrial Engineering and Management Faculty at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel. The author or coauthor of numerous journal articles is a member of the the European Sociological Association, the American Sociological Association, the Population Association of America, and the Academy of Management. Professor Kirschenbaum received the Ph.D. (1970) degree from Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York.

Megaprojects and Risk: An Anatomy of Ambition

I thought you would be interested to know that the book *Megaprojects and Risk: An Anatomy of Ambition* by Nils Bruzelius, Werner Rothengatter, and myself was recently published by Cambridge University Press.

The book offers a detailed political and economic sociology of megaprojects. I include the Table of Contents below for your information. First chapter, etc. may be found at:UK: <http://uk.cambridge.org/sociology/megaprojects/> US: <http://us.cambridge.org/features/megaprojects/>

Our research is ongoing and we would appreciate any information you may have on megaprojects we could include in future research.

I hope this is useful. Please feel free to forward this message to any relevant person or listserv. If this mail is of no interest to you, I apologise for the inconvenience. Also apologies for any cross posting.

Best wishes,

Bent Flyvbjerg, Professor

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US: Lourina McQuilkin at lmcquilkin@cup.org

The International Institute of Sociology Congress in Beijing, China, July 7-11, 2004

The International Institute of Sociology Congress in Beijing, China in 2003 was postponed because of the SARS problem. I had organized two sessions on the Sociology of Disasters. The Congress will now be July 7-11 in Beijing. While I do not need any more papers I am still looking for a discussant for one of the sessions. Information about the Congress and details about hotels, fees, etc. can be found at its web site at: <http://www.iis2003beijing.com.cn> Anyone interested in being a discussant should contact me at elqdr@udel.edu If more than one person expresses an interest in being a discussant I will pick the one with the most relevant background for the papers to be discussed.

Henry Quarantelli
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International Conference on Crisis Management

“CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE – PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES”

Poljče (near Bled), Slovenia, March 11-14, 2004

With **Sessions** on (1) Theoretical and methodological approaches to crisis research (2) Decision making, leadership and coordination in crisis.. (3) Crisis Management in Europe, (4) Crisis management at National and International levels, (5) Sociological and psychological dimensions of a crisis and crisis management and (6) Crisis communication and information management.

Concurrent **workshops** on (1) Crisis management in Slovenia, (2) Disaster management in South-Eastern Europe and (3) Crisis management in Sweden and the Baltic Sea Area

Concurrent **roundtables** on (1) Understanding of crisis and crisis management at different levels and (2) Earthquakes (Cross-national experiences).

Co-Organized by the University of Ljubljana (Faculty of Social Sciences), the Republic of Slovenia and CRISMART (Crisis Management Research and Training)

For more information contact: Julij Jeraj, Senior Adviser, City of Ljubljana, Disaster Management Department. E-mail: julij.jeraj@ljubljana.si

4th International Symposium on Aviation Emergencies : Managing Credible Threats

March 29 - April 1, 2004 Weehawken, New Jersey

In less than 4 months the 4th International Symposium on Aviation Emergencies will take place in Weehawken, New Jersey. This small town is located on the Hudson River directly across from New York City and less than 2 miles from Times Square. A passenger water ferry stops in front of the hotel and connects to Manhattan every 15 minutes; however, you will find within walking distance to the Symposium's waterfront hotel many pleasant places and excellent restaurants.

We have again organized the Symposium into a 4-day event with each day devoted to a different concern in the aviation industry. As before, we will deliver vanguard presentations and workshops, outstanding networking opportunities, and the overall value that our attendees have experienced in the past and come to expect.

TOPICS:

On Day 1, Monday, March 29, the topic will be AVIATION TERRORISM. The scheduled presentations will include acts of terrorism & ultraviolence - effective prevention, mitigation, and response strategies; vulnerability analysis and risk assessment; counterterrorism and security measures, technologies, and regulations; explosives - recognition and blast results; bomb threat management; workplace violence and air rage; evidence preservation.

On Day 2, Tuesday, March 30, the topic will be RESPONSE TO AIRPORT EMERGENCIAS & AIRPLANE ACCIDENTS. Presentations will include emergency services and operations; adequacy of rules and standards; safety and security in large passenger terminals; water rescue programs; survival factors; capabilities, equipment, technologies.

Day 3, Wednesday, March 31, will be devoted to EMERGENCY MEDICAL - AMBULANCE SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH & BIOLOGICAL AGENTS. Presentations will include safety & injury prevention strategies; on-site airport EMS response; biological agents from SARS to smallpox and the spread of contagious diseases; airplane disinfection; ambulance/EMS Systems and equipment throughout the globe.

On Day 4, Thursday, April 1, the topic is AIRLINE / AIRPORT / COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING & CRISIS MANAGEMENT. Presentations will cover laws & regulations, i.e., family assistance; logistics & resource management; crisis communication & media management; business impact; cooperation & coordination; training and competency.

For more and regularly updated information, please visit the Symposium Web page at www.edmus.info. It contains links to the hotel (Sheraton Suites Hotel), online registration, and other helpful information.

With warm regards and best wishes for a peaceful holiday season,

Gunnar J. Kuepper,
Chair
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News from Graduate Students in Latin America and Europe Working on the Sociology of Disasters

Current Activities of Eduardo F. Augusto Runte, Brazil

1. Graduated from university, degree awarded: Bachelor's Degree on Social Sciences – Sociology
- 2- Finished my internship at Transpetro - Petrobras Transporte SA in July and in September I was hired to work for the same company at its contingency coordination office
- 3- Accepted to the Master's Degree on Sociology at the University of New Brunswick (Canada), however waiting to hear about scholarships to decide whether or not I am going
- 4- Current research interests: design and use of disaster databases, awareness and preparedness programs, measurement of community awareness and preparedness, use of high-tech for planning evacuation strategies (such as mathematical algorithms and GIS). The recent event in Iran also got me to think about how communities deal with orphans in such situations, both on the short and long terms.

Eduardo F. Augusto Runte
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**Current Activities of Manolis Rozakis. Graduate Student at the University of
Leiceswter/Scarman Center**

{Mr. Rozakis sent us the following abstract of his research in progress, "Cultural and Ethical Issues on the Socio-technical Organisation of Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations in Metropolitan Areas: Learning from Earthquake Disasters in Greece", leading to MSc. in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management at the University of Leicester/Scarman Centre-Coordinator's note}

Taking under consideration that metropolitan areas are vulnerable to destructive earthquakes, due to urbanisation and the development of complex technological systems, the scientific research on techniques related to disaster mitigation is self-evident. As countries embrace disaster mitigation policies into their socio-economic development plans, the value of effective emergency response to earthquakes is obvious.

While search and rescue (SAR) operations following earthquakes demonstrated considerable courage by organisations and personnel, the fact that earthquakes occurred and people died, points to the need of further research on this subject area.

The purpose of this study concerns a sociological perspective on disaster management techniques following destructive earthquakes in metropolitan areas. This research focuses on the socio-technical organisation of formal SAR operations, along with lessons learnt, through a brief review on earthquakes in Greek urban areas, and a case study analysis on the Athens earthquake, of September 7, 1999. Furthermore, the social context of SAR operations is examined, considering the issues of information, communication and co-ordination; the disaster triad.

Besides, the theoretical concept of this study draws upon systems theory, wherein organisations interact as socio-technical systems to produce phenomena to be studied. The use of case studies, within the context of isomorphic learning from the past, illustrates the potential on the similar characteristics of SAR operations that may well be displayed, in respect to common failures and to the propensity of a failure recurring in another system, and examines whether lessons from previous operations are applicable to future emergencies. Within such a complex system, the cultural differences among organisations – regarding issues on training, authority, secrecy and blame - affect interagency communication, and explain why certain barriers may exist that limit the learning process and prevent an holistic approach to SAR operations.

As a result, this research offers lessons that may serve as a blueprint towards improving operational effectiveness of SAR efforts in countries displaying similar features, regarding the institutional structure of a state in "a state of disaster". Furthermore, SAR operations raise several questions on ethical issues, concerning the media involvement, the efficiency of SAR actions taken "by the book", and the boundaries of technology.

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Calls for Papers, Courses and Useful Resources for Disaster Reduction ²

1. Call for Papers for Special Journal Issue

The "International Journal of Water Resources Development" (IJWRD) is seeking paper submissions for a special issue on water and disasters. Contributions could be empirical studies, case histories, conceptual-theoretical investigations, policy perspectives, institutional analysis, and risk analysis, among others. All papers selected for consideration will be peer-reviewed. The issue will be released in June 2005.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to, integrated disaster risk management's application to floods and famines, institutional dimensions of flood risk management, case histories of major flood disasters or famines, public-private partnerships, water impacts on earthquakes, hurricanes, and typhoons, human and societal hazards of floods and famines, information dissemination, and the cultural context of floods and famines. The deadline for submission is June 1, 2004. For more information, please contact Chennat Gopalakrishnan, e-mail <chennat@hawaii.edu>.

2. FEMA Curriculum for Community-Based Disaster Mitigation

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announces a new, on-line curriculum. The community-based pre-disaster mitigation curriculum is designed to involve emergency management and community and faith-based organizations (CBOs/FBOs) in pre-disaster mitigation activities at the local level. The goals of the curricula are to enable participants to discover the role that CBOs/FBOs can play in mitigation activities, determine possible mitigation projects in which they might engage, and better understand ways that CBOs/FBOs and emergency managers can work together. The curriculum can be seen at <http://www.fema.gov/tab_education.shtm>.

3. Natural Disasters in 2002: An analytical Overview

This publication, which is also available online, is an initiative of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADDRC), Tokyo, Japan. It attempts to analyze the trends in the occurrence of natural disasters in the year 2002 with the aim of accelerating and strengthening global and regional socio-economic frameworks for addressing the consequences of natural disasters and designing effective disaster reduction mechanisms. This publication has been designed not only for policy planners, researchers and academics but also to grassroots level participants in development initiatives. To view the document, visit

² **Source for Excerpts 1-7:** Reprinted from Rajesh Sharma, *Disaster Mitigation in Asia*, Issues 7-9, October-December 2003, The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center).

http://www.adrc.or.jp/publications/databook/databook_2002_eng/Databook_e.htm

4. World Disasters Report, Focus on Ethics in Aid

In this eleventh annual edition, the World Disaster Report examines the ethical challenges faced by those working on the front line in post-conflict situation, chronic food crises and natural disasters. It questions the capacity of the humanitarian system to assess the needs of vulnerable people and challenges the aid community to promote and practise the overriding principle of saving life with dignity, wherever it is under threat. To view/order the publication, please visit <<http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2003/>>.

5. Contingency Planning for Emergencies, a Manual for Local Government Units

This manual is intended to assist disaster management practitioners and organizations to use contingency planning to address the typical issues of time constraint, enormous needs and complex coordination that hamper effective emergency and disaster management. This manual provides recommendations on how to engage in the contingency planning process in order to develop common strategies and approaches to potential emergencies, as well as to translate the deliberations and results of this process in the form of contingency plans. Available online at <<http://www.ndcc.gov.ph/>>.

6. New CD-ROMs for disaster reduction

A CD ROM incorporating UN documents related to disaster reduction (Volume 1: 1987-1999 and Volume 2: 2000-2002) are now available from UN/ISDR. To receive a copy, please contact <isdr@un.org>.

The Regional Disaster Information Center (CRID) has produced 2 CD ROMs comprising information resources on early warning, as well as on water and disasters. To receive a copy of either/both, please contact <crid@crid.or.cr>.

To access the contents of both CD ROMs, please refer to <http://www.crid.or.cr/crid/ing/index_ing.html>.

7. Background Paper on Information Systems and Disaster Risk Reduction

UN/ISDR has prepared a background paper contributing to the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva (10-12 December 2003) entitled Information Systems and Disaster Risk Reduction. To download the

background paper, please refer to <<http://www.unisdr.org>> For further information on the WSIS, please refer to <<http://www.itu.int/wsis/>>