



DISASTER & SOCIAL CRISIS RESEARCH NETWORK

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

January-March 2004 No. 17

A quarterly publication of the Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network of
the European Sociological Association

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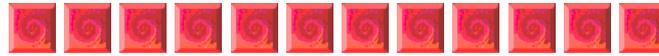
This is the quarterly electronic newsletter of the Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network. The purpose of the D&SCRN is to promote the study, research and analysis of “natural”, “technological” and “social” disasters with a view to contributing to the development of disaster resilient European communities, and preventing or mitigating the human, economic, social, cultural and psychological effects of crises and disasters.

The D&SCRN Electronic Newsletter is published four times a year (March, June, September and December). The previously published newsletters are downloadable at the network’s new webpage www.erc.gr/d&scrn.

Announcements of conferences, book, film, and CD-ROM reviews, reportage on conferences, disaster diaries, brief articles on best or worst practices in disaster prevention and recovery, commentaries on disasters and crises, human interest stories relevant to disasters, etc. should be sent electronically to the editor, Susann Ullberg (susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se) no later than the first of the month of publication.

Relevant contributions from the field of disaster and crisis research, as well as from applied disaster and crisis management practice, are most welcome!

*Nicholas Petropoulos,
D&SCRN Coordinator
Susann Ullberg,*



No. 17, January - March 2004

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- ➔ New book: *Mapping vulnerability: disasters, development and people*. Edited by Greg Bankoff, Georg Frerks and Dorothea Hilhorst. London: Earthscan
- ➔ Publication of the report "*La actuación de las Fuerzas Armadas: Actitudes y opiniones de la población afectada por el Prestige*" on the effects of the oil tanker accident in Galicia, Spain, headed by Prof. Juan de Dios Ruano Gómez, University of A Coruña (Spain).

4) Conferences

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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 those of CRISMART (Crisis Management Research & Training) in Stockholm.

↔ D&SCRN Coordinator's report

Transfer of D&SCRN E-Newsletter to Sweden.

In accordance with the decision that we made at the 6th ESA conference in Murcia (September 23rd-26th, 2003), the responsibility for the production of the Network's E-Newsletter was transferred to Susann Ullberg, a member of the Coordinating Committee, starting with 2004 and the 17th issue. I would like to thank Susann for undertaking this professional responsibility for our Network. We wish her a lot of success in her new endeavor. I am confident that she will bring new ideas to the E-Newsletter and will also achieve the regularity of publication. I would also like to urge all our members and colleagues who are working in the area of disasters, crises and mass emergencies to send Susann news about their professional activities.

D&SCRN Webpage Address. Following Maureen Fordham's professional relocation and request that another organization undertake the responsibility for the management of the webpage, and upon a decision at the Murcia meeting, I explored various host alternatives, both in Greece and abroad, but there was no definite commitment from any of the institutions. The Network's webpage will be hosted by the Emergencies Research Center's webpage, now under construction. The Emergencies Research Center (ERC) has secured a domain name (www.erc.gr) and the new Disaster and Social Crisis Research Network webpage address is www.erc.gr/d&scrn. The back-up materials of our Network have already been transferred from Anglia and Northumbria

Universities to the new webpage address, which is operational. The new host administrator, Infodomi: Computer Integrated Services (ICIS), a private company, will be responsible for the technical aspects of webpage hosting and design. However, the management of materials and content for the Network's webpage will be under my coordination. Only materials that represent proceedings and/or activities of the D&SCRN will be published in the Network's webpage, which means that they will have to have the approval of the Coordinating Committee. These materials will be sent to me in **word-document format**, and I will forward them to ICIS for loading. We are now in the process of updating the webpage, and soon we will be loading the Murcia Session Papers, at least all those that have been sent to us. If any of these have been published, in the meantime, I request of the authors to inform me, in order to note it. At this point, and on behalf of the Coordinating Committee, I would like to thank Maureen Fordham, the Anglia Polytechnic and the Northumbria Universities for hosting our webpage during the last 5 years and for providing continuity until the new D&SCRN webpage becomes operational.

Greek-Turkish Bilateral Project Meeting on protection of large urban centers (e.g. Istanbul and Athens). The first meeting of the bilateral project, which was conceived during the Network's Helsinki meeting (5th ESA Conference) by two members of the D&SCRN Coordinating Committee, took place in Athens, February 4th-8th, 2004. The meeting was attended by six

Turkish scientists from Middle East Technical University (METU) and 7 Greek scientists from the University of Athens, the National Technical University of Athens, the Xarokopeion University of Athens, the European Center on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes, the Ministry of Education and the Emergencies Research Center. The composition of the joint group was interdisciplinary, and included Geologists (Ali Kocyigit and Nicholas Voulgaris), Civil Engineers (Panayotis Karydis, Haluk Sucuoglu, Miranda Dandoulaki, Polat Gulcan), Urban and Regional Planners (Murat Balamir), Geographers (Pavlos Deladetsimas), Psychiatrists (Nadia Bergiannaki), Psychologists (Nuray Karanci), Educationists (George Zafeiropoulos) and Sociologists (Bahattin Aksit and Nicholas Petropoulos). Besides the two state-of-the art in the two countries panels on the engineering/geological, the social psychological and planning aspects of earthquakes and the presentation of a Greek CD-ROM on the protection of children from earthquakes, the meeting was also accompanied by visits to (1) a municipality stricken by the 1999 Athens earthquake (2) the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization (3) the General Secretariat for Civil Protection (4) the Laboratory of Earthquake Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens and (5) the National Operation Center for Civil Protection. The next meeting of the bilateral group has been scheduled for September 2004 in Istanbul and will be occupied, among other things, with the development of guidelines, using an integrated interdisciplinary model, for the protection of large urban centers.

The Greek-Turkish Civic Dialogue Workshop and the Microproject Collaboration. The D&SCRN in Southern-Eastern Europe seems to be expanding. Serdar M. Degirmencioglu, Prof. of Psychology at Istanbul Bilgi University and a member of our Network, informed Rana Birden Gunes, project coordinator of the Greek Turkish Civic Dialogue (part of the EU Civil Society Development Program), of the existence of our Network and our Newsletter. Learning this, Rana Birden invited me to participate in the second of a number of NGO workshops on Greek-Turkish Dialogue, held in Athens, March 12th-13th, 2004. Participants in the two-day workshop included representatives from women's organizations, the

academia, the media, youth organizations, human rights groups, environmental organizations, the arts and culture field and disaster preparedness organizations. Besides lecture presentations on communication problems between the two countries and exercises/discussions on inter-ethnic stereotypes, there were intra-group workshops on barriers/difficulties between the two peoples as well as cross-national thematic workshops, including a workshop on "disaster preparedness". During the [workshop on disaster preparedness](#) the D&SCRN Coordinator, as director of the Emergencies Research Center, and one of the Turkish Participants (Cem Baytok, member of the ORDOS rescue organization) decided to explore the possibility of submitting a proposal to the Representation of the European Commission to Turkey for the Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue Micro-Project Program that is part of the EU's Civil Society Development Program. Despite the pressing deadlines (April 5th, 2004), ERC and ORDOS managed to submit a proposal on disaster preparedness, that would involve several NGOs (research, rescue, medical, psychology, adult education) and academic experts as well as exchanges of information/knowledge/skills etc. in four thematic domains: organization of civil protection, rescue activities, disaster medicine and psycho-social dimensions.

The EU Psycho-Social Response Workshop in Athens. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Belgium (Geert Senynaeve), the University of Sheffield (Alison Rowlands) the Hellenic Center for Emergency Care (Anastasia Zigoura), the University Mental Health Research Institute (Nadia Bergiannaki) and the National School of Public Health (Anna Maina), the Emergencies Research Center organized a three-day workshop (March 19th-21st, 2004) on Psycho-Social Response in Situations of Mass Emergences. The workshop was sponsored by the General Directorate of Environment, Civil Protection Unit, of the European Commission. It was the first of a series of workshops to be held in Southern and Eastern European Countries on psycho-social response; these workshops have as a goal to train psycho-social workers and to contribute to the better organization of such a response to disasters, following a working model

which had been developed during two previous conferences in Brussels. The workshop included (1) presentation of the working psycho-social response model, (2) presentation of cases of psycho-social response for primary disaster victims and for emergency workers in “natural” and “technological” disasters both in Greece and other EU countries (e.g. 1999 Athens earthquake, the Goteborg fire in Sweden, the café fire in Voledam, Netherlands, the Caprun train fire in Austria and the Tempí bus accident in Greece) and (3) the organization of two workshops, one on the relevance of the model in the Greek context and the other on the future development of psycho-social response in Greece. In addition to the experts from Belgium (Geert Seynaeve), Austria (Brigitte Lueger-Schuster), UK (Alison Rowlands), Sweden (Per Hassling), the Netherlands (Magda Rooze) and Greece (Nadia Bergiannaki and N.Petropoulos) and the case presenters from Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden and Greece, the workshop was attended by 14 Greek “trainer trainees” from various civil protection services and NGOs. At the end of the workshop, a Greek Working Group, consisting of representatives of the Emergencies Research Center, governmental civil protection services, mental health centers and

NGOs, was set up to further promote the development of psycho-social response organization in Greece.

The 40th Anniversary Disasters Research Center Conference (April 30th – May 2nd, 2004)

(see also announcement below) The D&SCRN Coordinator as well as other members of the Coordinating Committee (Boris Porfiriev, Susann Ullberg) and of our Network are expected to participate in the anniversary conference, that will also honor the two co-founders, Professors Russell R. Dynes and Enrico Quarantelli, who have been pacesetters in disaster social research. The Conference promises to be a milestone and a watershed in disaster and mass emergencies social research. Boris and I will participate in a panel on “developing an international disaster research agenda: opportunities, challenges and potential for growth and leadership”. At the conference, I plan to explore the prospects for the collaborative writing of a European college reader on crises and disasters that was announced in our previous E-Newsletter. I expect that we shall have a lot to report in next Newsletter following this significant international conference.

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↑ Update

Centre for Disaster Management

Graham Marsh and Philip Buckle, both previously from RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, have recently joined the academic staff at the **Coventry Centre for Disaster Management at Coventry University in the UK.**

They have brought with them a continuing interest in community based disaster management, vulnerability

and resilience assessment and community capability development. They are developing a research programme to further these areas and are interested in research collaboration and in comparative studies.

Coventry University is committed to developing and strengthening research in the field of disaster management. Both Graham and Philip, who with Syd Smale in Victoria, have prepared a number of reports and papers on community, vulnerability and disaster, are keen to continue working collaboratively.

Comparative studies are an area of interest, though the distance to Australia makes Australian/European studies time consuming (at least in terms of the flights, but they are both becoming used to this).

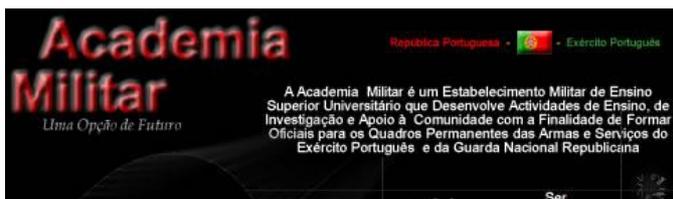
They are in an exploratory phase at Coventry and one line of thinking at the moment is that it would be useful to develop research links across Europe, being anxious to see if a network of researchers into floods could be established in Europe. Similar research networks could be established in other disaster/emergency management fields.

This was discussed at past ESA and ISA meetings and there are plans on an exploratory workshop to be held at Coventry later this year. Graham & Philip welcome any enquiries, discussions and suggestions!

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↑ Update



Academia Militar in Lisbon (Portugal) is organising a master course called 'European Master in Security and Defence' **Total duration one (1) year**, divided into three quarters - 60 ECTS (from October to December; from February to April; from June to September); or **two (2) years** divided into six quarters – 120 ECTS (depending on the credits earned in former studies).

The «European Master on Security and Defence» comes from a special concern about new knowledge and new learning modalities, which the above-mentioned realities of nowadays call for. It can be described, in a synthesis, as follows:

- Its **international** character, since the first step of its conception, so as to benefit from the possible synergies among the different and best centres of specialization inside the European Union.

- Its **European** character, intending to understand the lessons learned in the process of building up European Union, a concertation of societies, associated in a completely new historical pattern, while having as a common project to give an answer to the novel needs of a European Politics of Security and Defence.
- Its **transdisciplinary** character, as we recognize the necessity of appealing to different and very often isolated sciences according to our traditional curricula, to build a tight integration of approaches.
- Its vertical **integration**, too, drawing from these diverse sources, concepts and methodologies, trying to include in the treatment of the problems, the fundamental as well as the applied levels, joining together the general concepts and the final, user-oriented solutions.
- **Its appealing** character, opening the program to different audiences, including future researchers and professionals (initial education) as well as professionally working people (life-long learning) and deliberately associating civilian and military candidates.

Within the overall conception of the European Master on Security and Defence, has been taken into consideration the special problem of academic accreditation of professional skills acquired in working contexts, which are not recognized as formal academic knowledge. This is, for one, the relevant case of the military professions, given their particular vocation to deal with the issues concerning security and defence. And these are, as we know, integral parts of their training curricula, without having a suitable academic recognizance.

For additional information contact:

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↑ **Update**



University of Kuopio

Risk, Emergency, Safety and Security Program
 International Emergency Management – Prof. (visiting) E. Dykstra, MD
 Department of Health Policy and Management
 Faculty of Social Sciences – Prof. J. Kinnunen, Dean
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1. Master Class Program (MC)

Master Classes in Emergency Management are part of the RESS/ICC program and geared to building awareness and facilitate planning and consensus. They are short, advanced, interactive, non-credit courses that have been successfully piloted in Finland, Indonesia and the U.S.A. More information on the Master Classes is attached and/or already in your possession.

The current focus is on the development of different versions for:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| a.) Government | (MC-GOV) |
| b.) Humanitarian Assistance, Relief and Development | (MC-HARD) |
| c.) Health and Human Asset Management | (MC-HHAM) |
| d.) Private Sector and Business Continuity | (MC-PSBC) |
| e.) Information- and Communication Technology. | (MC-ICT) |

Master Classes are available in traditional (classroom) format but will be increasingly converted to e-learning modules. Contract negotiations for this conversion are close to completion with the Public Entity Risk Institute (www.riskinstitute.org) for MC-GOV. Negotiations with other institutions and consortia for the other versions are underway.

The Master Class program consists not only of training but includes an Assessment track. These are so-called “Rapid Assessment Studies” that focus on design, monitoring and evaluation (D, M&E) of emergency management systems and critical infrastructure protection.

Anticipated growth of the Master Class program – both in traditional and e-learning format – has created the need for one, or more, central locations. This/these location(s) will serve as (regional) points to house and coordinate program development and a pool of instructors, e-tutors and qualified assessors. An international Scientific and Education Advisory Committee (SAEC) will guide the conversion process and further development of the various Master Classes, including the award of academic credits.

The Master Class Program Director is Eelco H. Dykstra, MD, who has twenty years of international emergency management experience in a wide variety of healthcare and non-healthcare settings.

With a proven ability to balance European, US and other approaches to emergency management systems and their respective stakeholders, Dr. Dykstra is involved with the University of Kuopio as visiting professor in International Emergency Management since February 2001. An acclaimed presenter, particularly for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural audiences, he has developed new methodologies and innovative approaches to strategic planning, project management, adult education and organizational development. Worldwide travel and project assignments have resulted in a considerable experience with design, monitoring & evaluation (D, M&E) of emergency related systems, programs and projects. Proven ability to access and mobilize a global network of emergency experts from the public domains and private sector.

2. ISMP-1 Research Project

The project is an initial assessment of the barriers and opportunities for the development of a common framework or system model in Emergency Management. Comprised of desk research, surveys and interviews, the first phase of this qualitative evaluation research project is nearing completion. (Closing date: March 31, 2004)

Preliminary review of data indicates that many spin-off and follow-up research projects will come out of this first assessment. With a consortium of research partners and multipliers already in place, we anticipate

making this project an ongoing concern and “mesh” the participants in the Master Class program and the ISMP-1 research project together in a network described below (GEM-C).

3. Global Emergency Management Consort (GEM-C)

The research, education and project networks will become institutionalized in an international centre, GEM-C, as a “private entity for the public good”. With individual and institutional membership and sponsorship options available, this centre will be a financially independent entity and serve as a platform for the exchange of information, experiences and projects. An annual conference and other meetings are envisioned. Recognition in the form of ‘centre-of-excellence’ and ‘collaborating centre’ status with international entities such as the United Nations will be pursued.

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↑ Update

EUROPEAN CRISIS MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

ecMa

The European Crisis Management Academy (ECMA) is a network for crisis managers and academics that are interested to share their experiences, link their research projects or in any other way seek avenues of cooperation. ECMA facilitates the exchange of ideas and best practices between practitioners and academics. The Academy does so by providing a platform for information exchange, which is available to all members (membership is free). The website address: www.ecm-academy.nl

↑ Update



International conference

***Crisis Management in Europe – Problems and Perspectives,* Poljče, Slovenia, March 11th-14th, 2004**

The conference marked the end of a five-year long collaboration between Swedish CRISMART, Crisis Management Research and Training at the Swedish National Defence College, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia and the Slovenian Ministry of Defence. In connection to the conference a book was released: ***Crisis Management in Slovenia: Comparative Perspectives***, edited by Annika Brändström and Marjan Malesic. The volume provides an institutional overview of Slovenian crisis management and detailed studies of ten national crises: the war for independence in 1991, the Kosovo crisis in 1999, the 1999/2000 Y2K problem, fires at the Gorenje and DAR factories in 2000, the 1999 gas explosion in Maribor, the Kolizej building collapse in 1995, an oil spill in Ortnek in 1998, the November 1998 floods, and the 1998 earthquake in Posocje.

Each case study is written by local experts and is structured according to the cognitive-institutional research approach developed in this multi-year, cross-national study program. Contributors to the volume are scholars in political science, social work and psychology as well as experts working in the field of civil protection in Slovenia. Several of the authors also made presentations of their studies in a workshop dedicated at Slovenian crisis management. There were also two other concurrent workshops on crisis management in Sweden and the Baltic Sea area and disaster management in South-Eastern Europe.

Participants with interest in crisis management related issues came from all over Europe. Representatives from NATO, Red Cross and other international organizations had the opportunity to discuss different matters with academics and practitioners on local and regional levels of society.

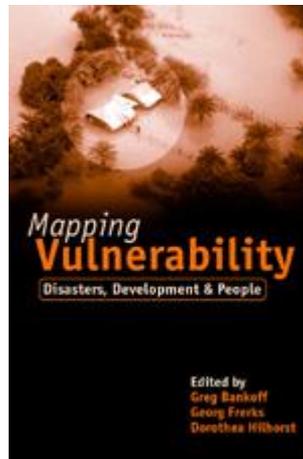
The first day of the conference mainly focused on crisis management on different levels of society; local, regional, national, and international and how these levels are all intertwined. The second day, practitioners shared their views on crisis management and experiences from the field. Firemen, psychiatrists, police and other practitioners spoke on the hard task of preparing for all contingencies and making the right assessment before entering a disaster area. Psychiatrists talked about the importance of the mental health in disasters and accidents. People who have been through disasters and accidents need to be empowered, to prevent them from becoming traumatized later on.

The need for further research on crisis management and its consequences was brought up in many of the panels. There is no possible way to be prepared for every disaster that may occur, the explosions in Madrid in March are only one example of this. However, every layer and dimension of crisis management needs to be thoroughly examined, from the prevention phase to the aftermath. Many speakers and participants emphasized the importance of training as a means to be better prepared for accidents and disasters that may strike society without notice.

For further information, please visit www.crismart.org

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➔ Recently published



MAPPING VULNERABILITY: DISASTERS, DEVELOPMENT AND PEOPLE

Edited by Greg Bankoff, Georg Frerks and Dorothea Hilhorst

December 2003

Raging floods, massive storms and cataclysmic earthquakes. Every year up to 340 million people are affected by these and other disasters, which cause loss of life and damage to personal property, agriculture and infrastructure.

The key to understanding the causes of disasters and mitigating their impacts is the concept of 'vulnerability'. ***Mapping Vulnerability* analyses 'vulnerability' as a concept central to the way we understand disasters and their magnitude and impact.**

Through the notion of vulnerability, the authors stress the importance of social processes and human–environmental interactions as causal agents in the making of disasters. They critically examine what renders communities unsafe – a condition, they argue, that depends primarily on the relative position of advantage or disadvantage that a particular group occupies within a society's social order. The book also looks at vulnerability in terms of its relationship to development and its impact on policy and people's lives, through consideration of selected case studies drawn from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

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→ **Recently published**



HOW DID THE ARMED FORCES PERFORM? ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS FROM THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE PRESTIGE DISASTER, SPAIN, 2003*

By Prof. Dr. D. Juan de Dios Ruano Gómez, D^a. Ariadna Rodriguez Teijeiro, D. José Manuel Álvarez Sanchez, D^a Verónica López López, D. Gonzalo Mora do Campo, University of A Coruña, Spain.

This report is the outcome of a research project constituted by a twofold area of analysis.

First, the public opinion as published in the national (El País) and regional (La Voz de Galicia) press has been documented and contrasted, in order to analyse the social representations of the disaster that are produced in these publications.

The second area has been to analyse the social perception of the disaster among the affected people on the Morte coast, for which a discourse analysis has been employed. For this has been used qualitative methodology such as participant observation, open interviews and discussion groups.

Within these areas of research, the first aim has been to explore which are the cultural notions within the affected communities regarding the role of the armed forces in the Prestige crisis. That is, to what extent did people support the intervention of the armed forces in the mitigative actions from the Prestige disaster, and to what extent did people disapprove? This issue is discussed in light of the current role of the military in a democratic society.

The second aim has been to establish the intensity with which this intervention was demanded on part of the affected communities, that is, to what extent was the intervention a demand from the very communities, and to what extent was it an "imposed" idea from political and mass media representations.

The final and third aim of the research project has been to determine how people assessed the mitigative performance of the armed forces in fighting the environmental disaster. Of particular interest has been to

* The report is originally written in Spanish with the title: *La actuación de las Fuerzas Armadas: Actitudes y opiniones de la población afectada por el Prestige*. For the purposes of this newsletter, the editor is responsible of the translation of the authors' abstract to English.

identify notions on the results of the cooperation between the armed forces and NGO's, volunteers, and state authorities.

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➤ **Upcoming conference**



**Disaster Research and the Social Sciences:
Lessons Learned and Future Trajectories**
April 30th - May 1st 2004

The **Disaster Research Center** (DRC) at the University of Delaware is pleased to announce a two-day conference that will allow 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**. The meeting will take place at the **University of Delaware**.

During this occasion, the **40th anniversary of the DRC** will be celebrated. The Organising Committee invites all scholars in the field of disaster research to join 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 generating 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. Leading scholars, researchers, practitioners, and students will be brought together to discuss issues from an interdisciplinary international perspective that are at the forefront in the field of disasters. The conference will also include 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.

 **Et cetera**

WANTED!

The International Journal of Contemporary Sociology wants you to review books in sociology. Are you interested, please get in touch with Max Koch at University of Ulster.

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EU RESEARCH FUNDING?

Does anyone have information on the types of research funds available from one or more of the EU research funding sources? I would be very interested in joining interested colleagues in trying to put together a proposal that would focus on either family or community level disaster behaviours.

Best Regards,

Avi Kirschenbaum
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BIBLIOGRAPHY RECOMMENDATIONS?

May I take this opportunity to ask for references to theoretical work on emergency planning for extreme catastrophes such as near earth object impact. Colleagues in the policy-planning arena requested this information.

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