



DISASTER & SOCIAL CRISIS RESEARCH NETWORK *ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER*

July-September 2004 No.19

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

www.erc.gr/english/d&scrn

susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se

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/english/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. Contributions to the newsletter should preferably be written in a concise format (½-1 page long maximum) in order to make reading comprehensive albeit focused.

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,
E-Newsletter Editor



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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

The 7th ESA conference in Torun Poland. Following our first open call for papers (See *D&SCRN E-Newsletter*, No. 18) a second call has been prepared, that includes four proposed sessions (see below). The response to our first call, which essentially went only to our members, was not the anticipated, but this can be attributed partly to the intervention of summer vacation and to some extent to the fact that our webpage was not fully operational. Now that the summer is over (at least for us in the Northern Hemisphere) and that our webpage is operational (see below), we are looking forward to a greater responsiveness. We also plan to publicize the second call for papers in the ESA webpage, in the space allotted to the Research Networks.

However, we also know that these are hard times and that people cannot make commitments if they have not secured their travel and other funds. In this regard, I have requested of the Vice President for Networks (Dr. Ilona Ostner) from the Executive Committee, to reaffirm the ESA policy with regard to discount rates for colleagues from soft-currency countries, during the next meeting of the Executive Committee which will take place in Paris (Oct. 22-24, 2004), and during which they will also decide on specific procedures for the conference with regard to number of sessions, deadlines for abstracts and submission of full papers. In any case, we hope that the conditions are favourable so that all our colleagues can attend the conference in the historical city of Torun. By the way, for more information about the conference and the venue, our members can consult the latest issue of the *European Sociologist* (www.valt.helsinki.fi/esa/).

Updating of D&SCRN Webpage: New address, New Members and Murcia Conference. Since our last communication, there has been a change in the Network's webpage address. As I

indicated in the last issue of the Network's E-Newsletter, our webpage is being hosted by the Emergencies Research Center website (www.erc.gr), which is being continuously developed. At this time, the most developed component of the Emergencies Research Center website is the webpage of the D&SCRN. Our members can access directly the D&SCRN network by entering the following address: www.erc.gr/english/d&scrn.

In addition to the address change, we have also updated the content of the Network's webpage. We have updated the membership list, by updating the statistics for three of our older members (E. F. Augusto Runte, Dr. Juergen Weichselgartner and Ahamd Kamal) and by adding five new members to our ranks (Max Koch of Ireland, Fauza of Malaysia, Steve Tippit of the USA, Andrea NG Wai Yee of Honk Kong and K.C. Monnappa of India). We welcome our new members. However, we should note that we have incomplete information on Fauza (need full name and perhaps e-mail?) and that we do not have an e-mail for Steve Tippit. Any tips are appreciated! We also understand that for some time, our on-line membership registration was not working. Now that our on-line registration is working, we hope to improve our communication and enlarge our membership.

Finally, I would like to announce to our members that we have also updated our conference materials. Opening up the Network's webpage (www.erc.gr/english/d&scrn) and going to "ESA 2003, Murcia Spain" will take you to the Network's Murcia Spain program. This in turn will take you to the abstracts and then to the full papers, if they were submitted. We have managed to collect all the paper abstracts (33), the two "Meet the Author" book summaries, and 19 full papers. Abstracts and papers were published on the webpage, whether or not the participants finally made their

presentations at the conference. We do not yet have full papers from Jose Rodrigues dos Santos, Eve Coles, Andrew Coghlan, Rohit Jigyasu, Murat Balamir, Antonio Vallejos, Tatiana Korkhonen, Juri Plusnin, Musa Yusupov, Antonio Varela, Silvana Figueroa and Jochen Dreher, Jose Manuel Alvarez Sanchez, Lorena Rey Piñeiro, and Mar de Santiago Pérez. We would gladly publish any of these papers that are submitted to us even at this time, regardless of their actual presence at the conference.

The latest on the ISA World Congress of Sociology, 23-29 July 2006 in Durban. The coordinator is in continuous communication with Joe Scanlon, who has been designated by the President of ISA research Committee on Disasters (RC-39) to organize the RC-39 Sessions in Durban. Our Network has submitted to him three session proposals, one on "epidemics disasters" (e.g. SARS, AIDS, BSE etc) to be convened by the Coordinator, one on the "role of science in the mitigation /instigation of disasters/complex disasters" to be organized by Vera Vratusa and one on "response and preparedness in climate-related disasters" convened by Dorothea Hilhorst and Susann Ullberg. Joe has informed me that a panel on "The Environment and Disaster", with Wolf Dombrowsky as coordinator, is being co-organized with the RC-24 Research Committee on the Environment; he has requested and I have sent him Dorothea's e-mail to explore the possibilities of integrating the Hilhorst/Ullberg proposal in the Dombrowsky session. With regard to the other two panels (Epidemics Disasters and the Role of Science in mitigation/instigation), there are strong possibilities that they will be convened; however, Joe is in the process of doing a viability assessment with regard to all the proposed sessions. We shall inform our members with respect to the outcome of this assessment and if there are vacancies for paper contributions. There is room for one or two more contributors in the proposed epidemics panel. Those interested should communicate with me

(erc@otenet.gr). Joe has also informed me that there have been commitments from 14 persons to organize Durban sessions, although RC 39 is allotted a maximum of 10 sessions, according to its membership size. The number of sessions allotted to RC-39 could be increased if the membership increases. According to Joe, RC 39 has some funds available to subsidize membership in ISA and RC-39 from Category B and C countries and especially from students. Those interested should contact Joe Scanlon (jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca).

Coordinator's relevant professional activities. The coordinator completed a paper, "*Some Contributions of Sociology to the Conceptualization and Management of Mass Emergencies, with Special References to Medical Responses*" (25pp), that will comprise part of a "White Paper" which in turn will constitute background material for a conference on the development of "international standards regarding education and training for the multi-disciplinary health response to major incidents and disasters." The conference is organized by the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) and will take place on October 29-31, 2004 in Brussels. Aside from this, work is continuing on the ongoing projects: (a) the two bilateral projects with Turkey (developing guidelines for reducing urban vulnerability to earthquakes, a microproject between NGOs on disaster preparedness) and (b) the multi-dynamic EQ Information Center that will include a shake table, a virtual reality room and a room for conventional, electronic and interactive materials. Finally, for the next issue of the E-Newsletter, I plan to give our readers a brief report on the "Athens 2004" (Olympic Games) and the impacts of an anticipated disaster that never materialized.

N. Petropoulos
D&SCRN Coordinator
erc@otenet.gr

7th ESA Conference of the European Sociological Association
“Rethinking Inequalities”
9-13 September 2005
Torun, Poland

Disaster and Social Crisis Research Network (D&SCRN)

SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS

Directions: Sociologists and other social scientists are invited to submit papers on any of the following sessions, by sending an abstract of 200-250 words to the convenors, with a copy to the Coordinator of the D&SCRN, Dr. Nicholas Petropoulos (erc@otenet.gr), no later than February 1, 2005. The D&SCRN is also open to suggestions for organizing other sessions not covered by the present topics. There will be subsequent calls for papers, and some of the sessions may be split, depending upon the response (N.P.).

1. “Disasters, Crises and Mass Emergencies: Issues pertaining to Distribution of Impacts and Access to Civil Protection Services.”

Convenors: Nicholas Petropoulos, Pedagogical Institute of Greece and Emergencies Research Center of Athens and other colleagues to be designated (erc@otenet.gr)

The purpose of the session is to attract papers, which assess the distribution of disaster impacts (structural, economic, psychosocial etc.) on various social classes; genders; ethnic, racial and minority groups; dependent groups such as children and the aged; individuals with special needs as well as institutionalised populations. Concurrently, the organizers look for papers evaluating the access of these various groups to emergency planning and recovery services, taking into account the entire emergency cycle, from planning to reconstruction (e.g. provisions in emergency planning, access to risk information, to rescue, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction services, etc.). Access to services covers the whole gamut of services, including access to structural, economic and psycho-social assistance.

2. “Media Representations of Disasters and their Impacts”

Convenors: Dorothea Hilhorst, Wageningen University, the Netherlands (thea.hilhorst@wanadoo.nl) and Susann Ullberg, Stockholm University, Sweden (susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se)

This panel focuses on the representation of disasters in the media, and in particular how this relates to victimization and accountability processes in disasters/crises. The way media report on disasters has an often-cited effect on disaster response and preparedness. The panel is also open to contributions about representations in fiction and the impact of such representations, such as the recently launched “Day after Tomorrow” film. Contributions that look at the distribution of these impacts among various audiences/spectators/readers are also welcome by the convenors.

3. “Disasters and Memory”

Convenors: Susann Ullberg, Stockholm University, Sweden (susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se) and Dorothea Hilhorst, Wageningen University, the Netherlands (thea.hilhorst@wanadoo.nl)

This panel will focus on the role of memory in and after disasters/crises. Those are times to be remembered, but also times to be forgotten, by victims and managers alike. How are disaster memories constructed socially and how are events at times erased from history? What do these memories and oblivions mean for affected communities in a short and/or a long-term perspective?

Do representations of past crises have any impact on processes of social change? How do relations of social inequity in the affected society—in terms of class, gender, age and ethnicity—affect the processes of remembering? What and whose memories become prevailing at local, national and transnational levels.

4. "Transnational corporations' profit motive as a factor in social crises and complex disasters".

Convenors: Vera Vratusa and other colleagues to be announced (vvratusa@sezampro.yu)

The session proposes to investigate the role of profit driven accumulation of transnational capital in the aetiology of social crises and complex disasters in general and specifically in the European so-called "transition countries", including the most successful new EU member states. Is there just a correlation, or causal connection as well, between increased social inequality, joblessness, incidence of poverty diseases and contamination of food and environment in these countries, and transnational corporations' taking over the control of their human and natural resources since 1989 through privatisation at rock bottom prices and deregulation? Is Europe progressing toward integration, or toward revival of (neo) colonial divisions, crises and disasters?

➔ Conference Coming Up



Annual Conference:

Fire Related Research and Developments (RE04)

Moreton-in-Marsh (UK) 24-25 November, 2004

This annual event brings together delegates from a range of backgrounds including brigades, senior policy-makers, universities, consultancies and international organisations interested in fire-related research and best practice. We warmly invite you to join us and spread news of this event to others who may be interested in attending. This year we are delighted to include two special pre-conference events on Tuesday November 23 (with no attendance cost): a presentation by the Fire and Rescue Statistics User Group and an evening presentation by Captain Brenda Berkman of the New York Fire Department who will speak on Women in the Fire Service.

Conference themes include:

- Developments in Structural Fire Engineering
- Equality and Diversity
- Safe Operations and Working Practices
- Aspects of Disaster Management
- Understanding & Responding to Communities
- Current Issues in Fire Law & Regulatory Reform
- Community Violence & the Fire Service
- Fitness for Duty: Physical and Psychological Health in the Fire Service
- Communication, Knowledge Management & Leadership
- Control Rooms and Call Management

Details of the pre-conference and conference programmes as well as booking forms are available at <http://www.firecollege.ac.uk/research/re04/re04.htm>

For any queries please contact the Event Co-ordinator
Dr Anne Eyre
Trauma Training, P O Box 2590, Leamington Spa, Warks CV31 1GQ.
anne.eyre@traumatraining.com.
Tel: +44(0)1926-427939 or 0777-389



Dutch-Swedish research on Crisis Management in the European Union

The Leiden University Crisis Research Center (CRC) and the Swedish National Defence College's Forum for Security Studies (EUROSEC/CRISMART) have initiated a 6-months research project on Crisis Management in the European Union. The project is funded by the Swedish Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

Given the prominence of the challenges to European security, notably after the recent terrorist attacks in Spain, it is surprising that few practitioners and researchers have given serious attention to the role of the European Union in crisis management in a new security setting. Preparations for European wide crisis management remain limited, fragmented, and largely uncoordinated. From an academic perspective, crisis and security researchers are only now taking up the question of what capacities the EU possesses with regard to the new security and safety challenges and what role the EU can and should play in managing crises.

Several questions structure this research project: Should the EU play a part in organizing crisis management capacity for new security threats on the European continent? If so, what should that role be? Is the EU ready to play such a role? What mechanisms and governance structures are available for European crisis management, emergency actions and vulnerability reduction?

The aim of the project is to lay the foundations for a multi-year and international research effort that should provide answers to this important question and provide a conceptual framework that can guide analysis of EU capacities in crisis management. It brings together the rich findings of the crisis and disaster research community, the international relations and security field, and the scholarship on European Union studies. The benefits of cross fertilization will enrich work currently conducted in these fields, and will lead to considerable synergies as the research agenda moves into new territory.

For more information, please contact
Dr. Arjen Boin at the Leiden University Crisis Research Center (boin@fsw.leidenuniv.nl)
Dr. Magnus Ekengren at the Swedish National Defence College (magnus.ekengren@fhs.mil.se)



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Safer Communities and Sustainable Development through Disaster Reduction

The Sixth Regional Training Course on Flood Disaster Risk Management (FDRM-6) Bangkok (Thailand) 11-22 October 2004

The need to combat the perennial problem of floods and the resultant destruction has been at the forefront of concern of most Asian nations. The Sixth Flood Risk Management Course offers an

integrated approach for dealing with this situation. The course will also expose the learners to globally acknowledged practices for dealing with Flood Disaster Risk Management. Experts from a number of different countries and organizations will complement the ADPC faculty in conducting the course.

The FDRM-6 has four modules that impart information and skills in flood problem analysis, understanding and appreciation of the various approaches to flood risk reduction, determination of appropriateness of strategies and measures to achieve the desired goal of flood risk reduction. The training methodology includes interactive lectures, workshops, individual work, case studies, plenary sessions, panel discussions and field visit activities.

The course brochure can be downloaded at

http://www.adpc.net/Training/Images/FDRM_Bro_Jul04.pdf

and the application form at <http://www.adpc.net/Training/downloadapplicationform.pdf>

Deadline for application/nomination is on October 6, 2004.

For further information, please contact: **Rajesh Sharma**
The Director of Training and Education
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
PO Box 4, Klong Luang,
Pathumthani 12120, Thailand
Email: tedadpc@adpc.net or vicky@adpc.net
Tel: (662) 516-5900-10 ext 328
Fax: (662) 524-5350/524-5360

↑ News & Updates



News from Turkey

On September 29th - October 1st, the 3-day EQ Council meeting of the Ministry of Public Works and Resettlement will take place in Istanbul. The Council is organized in several sub-committees with almost 350 of its members, which reflect Ministry's points of interest:

- Reorganization of the Administrative Structure
- Legal Changes (sub-divided into 3; I chair the Development Law group; the two other minor groups are the Building Regulations; Geological Regulations)
- Disaster Information Systems
- Investigation of Existing Buildings
- Construction Materials
- Resources and Insurance
- Training and Public Education

The 3-day workshop is likely to conclude with propositions to the Turkish Government, which may then be activated by a number of legal and organizational changes. All the high level officials are likely to attend including the Prime Minister and ministers and mayors. I will have to introduce here the substantial changes we propose in the Development Law which were outlined in a 50 pages report.

For further information please contact Murat Balamir balamir@arch.metu.edu.tr

➔ Recently Published



Overseas Development Institute

THE CHANGING ROLES OF AGRICULTURAL REHABILITATION: LINKING RELIEF, DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT TO RURAL LIVELIHOODS

By: Christoplos, Ian, Kate Longle & Tom Slaymaker, ICRISAT Working Paper
http://www.odi.org.uk/hpg/papers/agricultural_rehabilitation.pdf

For further information please contact:
Ian Christoplos, Head of Department
Department of Rural Development and Agroecology
SLU
Box 7005
SE-75007 Uppsala
Sweden

↪ Et Cetera



INTERESTED IN COMPARATIVE RESEARCH?

A major research project on defining and measuring the construct "social resilience" is being sponsored by the Samuel Neaman Institute at the Technion, Israel. As part of this research project, graduate students will be involved in designing a survey of a national representative sample of households that will, along with a series of theoretical relevant variables, study the adaptive behaviour of individuals due to terror acts since the year 2000. The survey will be conducted sometime in the fall of 2004. Anyone who might be interested in participating in a comparable study to generate cross-national comparisons, should write to: Prof. Avi Kirschenbaum (avik@tx.technion.ac.il)

↪ Et Cetera

FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN RELATION TO COASTAL DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH:

CDP

E-Newsletter: August, 2004.

3rd year Issue 27



To get the newsletter contact the Publisher Ashraf-ul-Alam Tutu, Coordinator, CDP
Executive Editor: Anwar Firoze, Documents Development Coordinator, CDP.
Upokulio Unnayan Shahojogy (Coastal Development Partnership - CDP)
55/2 Islampur Road, Khulna-9100, Bangladesh, Phone : 0088-041-810573
E-mails: cdp@khulna.bangla.net OR cdpbd@cdp.org
<http://www.cdp.20m.com/>

↪ Et Cetera

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Max Koch, Dr. phil. habil.
University of Ulster
Magee Campus
School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies
m.koch@ulster.ac.uk

↪ Et Cetera

REPORT ON PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES...

...by Kathleen Hollingsworth, District Director, U.S. Congressional District 46-CA:

- *'The U.S. Homeland Security Budget: All-Hazards and anti-terrorism funding'* Emergency Management, 2003 (held February 04 because of the California wildfires), Long Beach, California
- *'Natural Hazards Mitigation - Community partnerships and in-service training'* Annual Natural Hazards Workshop, University of Colorado, Boulder, Natural Hazards Center
- *'Maritime Safety Culture in the Asia Pacific Region'* Democratic Pacific Assembly 2004, Taipei, Taiwan

For those interested in hearing more about these topics please contact Kathleen.Hollingsworth@mail.house.gov

↪ Et Cetera

CRISMART
Crisis Management Research and Training

NEW DIRECTOR

Dr Eric Stern, acting Professor of Government at the Swedish National Defence College as well as Associate Professor of Government at Uppsala University has recently been nominated to Director of the Centre for Crisis Management Research & Training (www.crismart.org), taking over from Prof. Bengt Sundelius who is currently on leave as Research Director at the Swedish Emergency Management Agency (www.krisberedskapsmyndigheten.se). We wish both good luck in their new positions!