



DISASTER & SOCIAL CRISIS RESEARCH NETWORK *ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER*

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www.erc.gr/english/d&scrn

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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/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 editor, the D&SCRN or those of CRISMART (Crisis Management Research & Training) in Stockholm.

⇔ D&SCRN Coordinator's Report

[The latest news for the 7th ESA conference in Torun Poland \(9-12 September 2005\)](#). Following our request to the Executive Committee of ESA for clarification concerning the ESA conference, the Vice President for Research Networks (RNs), Ilona Ostner sent us the guidelines for organizing sessions. Each Research Network can organize a maximum of 8 two-hour sessions, with four or five paper contributions in each session. So it was considered wise to start out with 8 proposed sessions. In order to accomplish this, we split the first session of our Second Call for Papers into four independent sessions (Sessions 1, 2, 4, 5). We also added two other sessions, one session on the demands and impact of emergent types of disaster (Session 7) and an "Open Session" (Session 8) for topics on disaster, crises and mass emergencies which are not covered by the seven session themes and the general theme of the conference. The other two Sessions (3, 6) remained the same as they were in the Second Call for Papers. One of the original sessions, "Memory and Disasters", was withdrawn, upon Susann Ullberg's (the convenor's) request, as she will be doing her dissertation field work in Latin America and, unfortunately, will not be able to attend the conference. (The Final D&SCRN Call for Papers as well as instructions for submission of abstracts to the Convenors, deadlines, letters of acceptance and registration details, follow immediately after the Coordinator's Report).

[ESA Guidelines for ESA Research Networks and Proposal for Revision of Statutes concerning the Functioning of RNs](#). We are sending to our RN members (1) the guidelines proposed by the RN subcommittee (Ilona Ostner, Chair, Sara Arber, Eva Barlosius and Tuula Gordon) and (2) the proposed amendment to the statutes, agreed upon by the ESA Executive Committee during their Meeting in Paris 22-23 October 2004. The guidelines can constitute a basis for the formulation of by-laws by the Networks, an issue that we shall discuss during our Business Meeting in the 7th ESA conference in Torun, Poland.

1. ESA Guidelines Research Networks:

"Research Networks perform essential roles within the ESA. They provide the main forum for sociological advancement and debate within the various specialist areas within European sociology. Research Networks provide a key role in organising a programme of paper sessions in the biannual ESA conference, and organise other Network activities between conferences. The following Guidelines are intended to assist the work of Research Network Co-ordinators.

(1) *Structure and organisation.*

- a. Each Research Network should have a Co-ordinator and one or two additional named officer(s), these could be Deputy Co-ordinator(s), and/or Secretary/Treasurer.
- b. A Business Meeting should be held at each biannual ESA conference.
- c. The Network Co-ordinator and named officers are elected at the Business Meeting held at the biannual ESA conference to serve for a 2 year term.
- d. The Network Co-ordinator and named officer(s) should not normally occupy the same position within the Research Network for more than two consecutive terms of two years.

(2) *Biannual reports to the ESA*

The Research Network must send a report on their activities to the Vice President (Research Networks) every two years. The report should be received within two months of the biannual conference, and include:

- (i) A list of the names and contact details of the Co-ordinator and other named officer(s) that were elected at the Business Meeting, and who were in post over the preceding 2 years.
- (ii) A brief report on RN paper sessions and other activities undertaken at the conference.
- (iii) A brief report on RN activities undertaken over the two years preceding the ESA conference, e.g. any RN midterm conferences or seminars held, publishing or other dissemination activities, number of issues of newsletters produced, etc.

(3) *Activities of RN Co-ordinators relating to the ESA Conference*

The Research Network Co-ordinator should develop a programme of paper sessions for each ESA conference. This will involve:

- (i) Sending out requests for abstracts, and receiving abstracts.
- (ii) Selection of abstracts and notifying acceptance (or not) of abstracts.
- (iii) Organising the accepted abstracts into a thematically organised programme of paper sessions, and submitting this RN programme to the Local Conference Organiser.
- (iv) Assigning Chairs to each paper session and notifying the Local Conference Organiser.
- (v) Liaising with the Local Conference Organiser about all aspects of the RN programme of paper sessions.
- (vi) Keeping in regular contact with papergivers, and trying to ensure that all accepted paper are presented. NB. It is essential to notify the Local Conference Organiser as soon as possible if any papergiver is unable to attend the conference.

NB. RNs are encouraged to organise joint paper sessions with other RNs. The RN should organise a Business meeting at the ESA Conference.

(4) *Activities of RNs between Conferences*

It is recommended that Research Networks develop mechanisms for facilitating continuing contact and intellectual interchange between members of their RN between conferences, for example:

- (i) Establishing an email discussion list of Research Network members, and circulating relevant information through the email list.
- (ii) Establishing an RN website, which is linked to the main ESA website.
- (iii) Establishing an RN Newsletter, which could be a print or email Newsletter.
- (iv) Organising a midterm RN Conference or Seminar.
- (v) Publishing an edited book or Special Issue of a journal, e.g. based on papers presented at an ESA conference or midterm Conference.

(5) *Financial support by ESA for Research Network Activities*

The ESA Executive have agreed to consider requests for financial support for RN activities (see ESA Newsletter Winter 03/04, p 6):

- (i) To support a midterm conference, i.e. which should not be held within 6 months of an ESA conference (maximum e700)
 - (ii) To support other RN activities, e.g. establishment of website or newsletter (maximum e300).
- To apply for funding, the Research Network should send a proposal (including a budget for the use of the requested funds) to the Vice President (Research Networks). Requests to support an RN midterm conference must be sent at least 6 months prior to a planned conference. Because of limited ESA funds, not all Research Networks making a request are likely to receive financial support from the ESA between any two ESA conferences.
 - A report on the use of ESA financial support must be included in the biannual RN report to the ESA. This should include a budget showing the use of the ESA financial support, and if any funding is not spent it should be returned to the ESA.

(6) *Research Networks that are no longer active*

Where a Research Network does not organise any paper sessions at an ESA biannual conference, it will be deemed inactive. Research Network members will be encouraged to be active at the following ESA conference and to elect a new Co-ordinator and other officer(s). If a Research Network does not organise any paper sessions for two consecutive ESA conferences, the Research Network will normally be considered to have ceased to exist by the ESA.

2. Proposed Statute Amendment for the Research Networks

“(1) *Existing Statute relating to Research Networks*

In the ESA Statutes, article 11 states: ‘Research Networks are proposed by a minimum of 10 members from at least three different countries and approved by the Executive Committee. They may decide

their own by-laws in accordance with the general principles of the ESA statutes. Each Research Network elects its own co-ordinator.'

(2). *Proposed revision to Statute relating to Research Networks, agreed by ESA Executive Committee, 23 October 2004, which will be proposed to AGM at Torun.*

Article 11 to be revised to state: 'Research Networks are proposed by a minimum of 10 members from at least three different countries and approved by the Executive Committee. They may decide their own by-laws in accordance with the general principles of the ESA statutes. Each Research Network elects its own Co-ordinator, *at a Business Meeting held at the biannual ESA conference, which shall normally serve for a maximum period of two consecutive terms of two years. The Research Network Co-ordinator shall submit a report to the Vice President (Research Networks) within two months of each ESA Conference outlining RN activities over the preceding two years.*'

Membership Status Considerations and New D&SCRN Members. According to our Murcia Business meeting (2003), there is a need to clarify the membership status of our members with relation to ESA membership. To be regular members in the Network, the Network members must also be paid members of the ESA. Soon, a list of our members will be sent to the ESA Secretariat to determine how many of our members are paid ESA members and can qualify for regular status. I plan to give a membership status report to the members by the next edition of our E-Newsletter (March 2005).

There is also a need to discuss, during our next Business Meeting in Torun, the rights and obligations of "regular" and "associate" members. Along these lines, we need to discuss if all the prospective paper contributors to the conferences should pay from the sort the membership fee or if there should be two categories of registration fees, one for members and another one for non-member paper presenters. The registration fee of regular members should also include the membership, while the registration fee of non-members should not include the membership fee. In any case, the latter may require discussion at the General Meeting and a change of ESA statutes.

Since our last Newsletter, six people have become members of our Network. We would like to welcome to our Network: **Naim Kapucu**, Asst. Professor at the University of Florida, USA; **Usuf Sahin**, Asst. Professor at Karadeniz Technical University of Turkey with interests in disaster planning and management; **Dee Britton**, Visiting Professor at Hamilton College, New York, USA, with interests in memory and disasters and mass violence; **Berna Baradan**, a doctoral candidate working on her dissertation on post-disaster housing at the Izmir Institute of Technology; **Resmi Krishan Theckethil**, a doctoral candidate at Cornell University, USA, with interests on the dynamics of decision-making during the onset of disasters; and **Manolis Rozakis**, Athens, Greece with interests in disaster sociology, emergency response systems and politics of risk and hazards.

Finally, we would like to urge all prospective members of the network, when they complete the on-line membership application, to complete all the questions, including specification of their disaster interests. We have some information gaps in our Website membership list with respect to the members' "disaster interests"; the RN Coordinator is in the process of corresponding with these colleagues to eliminate the information gap—since the presence of this information will increase cooperation among the members of our Network and will also help RN coordinators in selecting convenors and chairpersons for conferences.

The latest on the ISA World Congress of Sociology, 23-29 July 2006 in Durban. Collaboration is continuing between the D&SCRN Coordinator and Professor Joseph Scanlon (RC-39) of Carleton University, Canada (jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca) with regard to the 2006 World Congress of Sociology and the organization of RC-39 Sessions. The way things look up to now, our Network will organize two sessions, one on "Social Science in the Service of Re/Neo/Colonization Reproducing Complex Disasters or of Participatory Governance Transforming Dominant Social Relations" convened by Vera Vratusa of Belgrade University (vvratusa@sezampro.yu) and the other, "Epidemic Disasters: Populations Affected, Social Impacts and Mitigation Measures" convened by N. Petropoulos, Emergencies Research Center (erc@otenet.gr), and D. Agrafiotis, National School of Public Health of

Greece (dagrafiotis@nsph.gr). Contributions on the social aspects of AIDS from colleagues in Africa are especially welcome by the convenors of the epidemics session (see also last minute notice from Sessions Organizer on page....

Coordinator's relevant professional activities—September-December 2004. Three activities occupied the Coordinator during the past three months. The **first activity** was his participation in the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine Conference (WADEM) that took place in Brussels (29-31 October 2004) and where he presented a paper on "The Athens 1999 Earthquake: Some Key Findings and Proposals with Regard to Search and Rescue Activities". The focus of the conference was on the development of "international standards and guidelines on education and training for the multi-disciplinary health response to major events that threaten the health status of the community". A consensus of the standards and guidelines will be sought during the 14th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine that will be convened in Edinburgh in May 2005 (For more information, readers may communicate with Geert Seynaeve, Geert.Seynaeve@health.fgov.be).

The **second activity** involved the submission of a proposal by the Working Group on Psycho-social Response (of which Dr. Petropoulos is the coordinator) to the General Secretariat of Civil Protection of Greece for the development of a more organized but decentralized public system of Psycho-Social Response in the event of disasters and mass emergencies in order to secure prompt intervention and also to counteract private exploitation of disaster victims.

The **final activity** involved contributions of the Pedagogical Institute's Research Team, which the RN coordinator is heading, to the project on the development of a multi-dynamic EQ information center in Athens that will include a shake table, a virtual reality room and an information room. Specifically, the team contributed to the development of content for (a) a CD targeting the general public (e.g. management of psycho-social stress) and (b) a virtual reality scenario for a child's room before, during and after an earthquake. Virtual reality scenarios are being developed by other teams for other rooms in a house, as well as for "city" before, during and after an earthquake. Next on the program is the development of print-materials.

A note by the Coordinator on the SE Asia earthquake-tsunami disaster. While the dimensions of this global, compound disaster are not yet known, there is certitude in one thing: the disaster was preventable since both high- and low-tech tsunami warning systems are available. The failure to install and take advantage of these systems is a good example of bad practice in international emergency planning. Primarily accountable for these failures and global tragedies are the developed countries and the international organizations that could have financed the distribution and installation of the warning systems (See the webpage of the International Action Center, www.iacenter.org for the available technologies). However, accountable are also local government officials of the developing countries who minimize the impacts of low probability hazards and do not heed the warnings of scientists and international organizations. Let's hope that lessons will be learned and that the deaths of so many people will not have been in vain. The Coordinator welcomes relevant contributions to the upcoming 7th ESA conference by SE Asian and other colleagues (See Final Call of Papers below).

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D&SCRN FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE 7TH ESA CONFERENCE
IN TORUN, POLAND, 9-12 SEPT. 2005

Session 1. "The Role of Race, Class, and Ethnicity in Disasters, Crises and Mass Emergencies"

Conveners: Nicholas Petropoulos, Emergencies Research Center of Athens, Greece, (erc@otenet.gr), and Juergen Weichselgartner, Institute of Environmental Studies, The University of Tokyo, Japan (jw@nenv.k.u-tokyo.ac.jp)

The increasing mobility and multicultural diversity characteristic of modern societies presents a new challenge on the civil protection and emergency planners. The present panel invites theoretical and empirical papers dealing with the impact of race, class and ethnicity on disaster preparedness, access to risk information, rescue operations, recovery and reconstruction activities. Questions of differential reactions of these groups, differential impacts on them, and differential/discriminatory response on part of the state emergency services based on these factors during the various stages of disaster and crisis, are relevant for consideration. Prospective contributors may focus on any or a combination of these social factors. Also welcome are papers dealing with best practices and the effective integration of these factors in emergency planning.

Session 2. "The Role of Gender in European Disaster Preparedness, Impact, Recovery and Reconstruction"

Conveners: Maureen Fordham, Northumbria University, UK (maureen.fordham@northumbria.ac.uk) and another colleague to be announced.

Significant research has been completed, especially during the last decade, on the differential vulnerabilities and capacities of women during the various phases of a disaster and crises. However, despite significant contributions from the US and Australia, much of this work has focused on developing countries (by researchers from the South or by researchers examining the South). The panel invites papers on the differential victimization as well as on the differential capacities of women to respond to disasters and mass emergencies *in the European context*, which is an under-researched area. Papers focusing on the role of women's empowerment in European disaster planning and organization are especially welcome. Consideration may also be given to the intersection of gender with other factors such as class, race, ethnic and minority status. All papers however should have an explicitly European focus.

Session 3. "Media Representations of Disasters and their Impacts"

Conveners: Thea Hilhorst, Wageningen University, the Netherlands (thea.hilhorst@wanadoo.nl) and another colleague to be announced.

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 conveners.

Session 4. Disasters, Crises, Mass Emergencies and Dependent Populations

Conveners: Murat Balamir, Middle East Technical University, Turkey (balamir@arch.metu.edu.tr) and Joseph Scanlon, Carleton University, Canada (jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca).

All societies, whether developed or developing, have in their midst high-risk, dependent populations, whether these are children, the aged, the hospitalized, the incarcerated, or citizens with special needs (mental and physical handicaps). Humanitarian and equalitarian principles dictate that these special dependent categories should be integrated in the mainstream of social life and also be incorporated in disaster and emergency planning. This panel invites contributions

on reactions, impacts of disasters and mass emergencies on these special categories of population, and on what can be done from the perspective of disaster preparedness and planning to mitigate the impacts of disasters, crises and mass emergencies on them.

Session 5. Disasters, Crises and Mass Emergencies: Comparative Societal Impacts and Responses.

Convenors: Philip Buckle, Disaster Management Center, Coventry University, UK (p.buckle@coventry.ac.uk), and Alan (Avi) Kirshenbaum, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Israel (avik@tx.technion.ac.il)

Much has been said and written by social scientists about the differential vulnerability, impact and victimization rates (with regard to socioeconomic costs and loss of lives), caused by disasters, crises and mass emergencies, in the developed and the developing countries. Contributions documenting or challenging these differential vulnerability and impacts are welcome. Also welcome are contributions describing indigenous and international best practice initiatives, by national governments, NGOs and international organizations, to increase the developing country's resilience to disasters/crises/mass emergencies and to mitigate their negative impacts.

Session 6. "Transnational corporations' profit motive as a factor in social crises and complex disasters".

Convenors: Vera Vratusa, University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia (vvratusa@sezampro.yu) and another colleague to be announced.

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 privatization at rock bottom prices and deregulation? Is Europe progressing toward integration, or toward revival of (neo) colonial divisions, crises and disasters?

Session 7. Emergent Types of Disasters, Crises and Mass Emergencies and Civil Protection Organization

Convenors: N. Petropoulos Emergencies Research Center of Athens, Greece (erc@otenet.gr), and Boris Porfiriev, Risk and Crisis Research Center, Institute for International Economic and Political Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia (b_porfiriev@hotmail.com).

During the last 10 to 20 years, new types of disasters, crises, and mass emergencies, e.g. bio-terrorism, computer electronic epidemics, food chain disasters, bio-epidemics, suicide commando attacks etc., have become more prevalent and prominent. The panel welcomes papers on the specification, classification, and documentation of these emergent types of disasters, their social etiologies, their differential impacts and forms of victimization, as well as on the types of emergency preparedness, planning and civil protection to mitigate their impacts.

Session 8. Open Session. Will feature paper contributions, not directly related to the general theme of the conference or to any of the above thematic sessions, but which are relevant to the disasters, crises or mass emergencies field. Proposed abstracts should be sent to the D&SCRN Coordinator, Nicholas Petropoulos (erc@otenet.gr). Depending upon the response, more than one session may be constituted. Chairperson (s) to be announced after February 15, 2005, the deadline for the submission of abstracts.

PROCEDURES FOR ABSTRACTS, LETTERS OF ACCEPTANCE, FULL PAPERS AND REGISTRATION

Instructions for Submission of Abstracts. Abstracts should be a maximum of 200 words and should be submitted electronically to the Session Convenors by 15th February 2005. Abstracts should not be submitted by the contributors to the Local Conference Organizers. Abstracts must also include:

- Name(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of the author(s)
- Contact details of presenting author (postal address, telephone, fax and email address)
- Title of proposed presentation

Types of session contributions and limitations on participation: There will be two types of contributions. Regular oral presentations and contributed papers. The latter will be listed in the program but will be presented only if there is sufficient time in the session. Papers with a cross-national, comparative focus are particularly welcome. Individuals should not be the first author (i.e. the presenter) of more than one paper at the ESA conference.

Acceptance of abstracts, notification of contributors and submission of abstracts to the Local Conference Organizers. The decision on the acceptance or rejection of abstracts will be made by the Session Convenors who will in turn notify the authors of the status of their participation by 31 March 2005. Following the acceptance of the abstracts, the Convenors will send the final session program along with the abstracts to the RN Coordinator (N. Petropoulos) who in turn will send them to the Local Conference Organizers in Torun Poland by April 30, 2005.

Letters of acceptance. Contributors whose paper proposals have been accepted by the convenors and who need to request financial support from their institutions may request letters of acceptance either from the Coordinator of the Network, Dr. Nicholas Petropoulos (erc@otenet.gr) (after 31 March 2005) or from the Local Conference Organizers, Monika Kwiecinska (Monika.Kwiecinska@umk.pl). (After April 30, 2005).

Submission of Full Papers to the Session Convenors/Chairpersons. It is strongly urged that participants –with either oral presentations or contributed papers—submit their full papers to the Convenors/Chairpersons of the Sessions not later than 20 August 2005. The accepted full papers will in turn be published in the Network's webpage (www.erc.gr/english/d&scrn).

Working language of the Sessions. The working language for the abstracts, the full papers and the sessions will be English. Authors are exclusively responsible for the editing of their papers.

Dates and Time of Commencement and Closing of the ESA conference. The conference commences at 3:00 pm on Friday, 9th of September and ends at 8:00 pm on Monday 12th of September 2005.

Registration Information. Earlybird conference registration, with a discount, ends on 31 May 2005. The final date for registration is 15 July 2005. Paper contributors who have not registered by 15 July 2005 will be withdrawn from the Conference Program. For more information concerning on-line registration, prospective participants can consult the conference homepage at the following address: <http://www.7thesaconference.umk.pl>.

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➤ Conference Coming Up

Leiden University Crisis Research Center



SWEDISH
NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE

Crisis Management in Europe: What Role for the European Union?

International Working Conference Stockholm,
17-18 February 2005

Organized by
Forum for Security Studies, Swedish National Defence College, and
Crisis Research Center, Leiden University, The Netherlands

Conflict in the Balkans, transport infrastructure disasters, the Madrid train bombings, floods in Eastern Europe, and 'mad cow' disease: what appears to be a growing number of crises on the European continent has cast a powerful spotlight on the crisis management capacities of the European Union. This raises some challenging questions:

Should the EU be involved in all aspects of crisis management in Europe? What makes a particular crisis situation 'European' rather than national? Is the EU equipped with the necessary resources to take a guiding role in European crisis management, or even to participate in such ventures? What are the EU's opportunities and limitations in future crisis management operations in Europe? Are expectations of crisis management at the supranational level too high?

This two-day working conference brings together an international group of preeminent scholars, policymakers, and crisis experts to address these urgent questions. The event will take a broad view of what constitutes a European crisis, spanning the categories of military/security and civilian protection to include any urgent threat to the territory, infrastructure, and people of Europe that requires a comprehensive response. As such, European Union scholars, international relations experts, and crisis researchers will join with political officials and policy advisors for a much needed dialogue.

The conference builds on the "European Union Crisis Management" research project conducted by the Forum for Security Studies (EUROSEC) at the Swedish National Defense College and the Crisis Research Center (CRC) at Leiden University, The Netherlands. Project funding is provided by the Swedish Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). Please contact Dr. Arjen Boin (boin@fsw.leidenuniv.nl) at CRC or Dr. Magnus Ekengren (magnus.ekengren@fhs.mil.se) at EUROSEC for more information.

➤ Conference Coming Up

Last minute from the organizer of the International Research Committee on Disasters for the World Congress of Sociology in Durban, South Africa, July 23-29, 2006. The Committee organizer, Joe Scanlon, informs that the Committee is finalizing its program, but nevertheless there is still time to sign up and take part. Scanlon says the program will include sessions on the impact of 9/11 on emergency planning, race, social justice and disaster, the impact of culture on emergency planning and a special session devoted entirely to African scholarship. Proposals for open papers should go to Kathleen Tierney at the University of Colorado, Boulder. They should be brief and should be sent in only from persons who intend to go to Durban. Dr. Tierney can be reached at tierneyk@colorado.edu. Anyone wishing further information should contact the organizer Joe Scanlon at jscanlon@ccs.carlerton.ca (see also D&SCRN Coordinator's Report, p.4)

➤ Conference Coming Up



Preparations for the 12th TIEMS Annual Conference in the Faroe Islands during May 24-27 2005 are now well under way and again we are hopeful of a successful and innovative event. We already have a number of excellent keynote speakers and proposed papers and look forward to issuing a preliminary program early in the New Year. However there is still time for you to be part of this event and are happy to announce that the deadline for abstracts has been extended to 31st January 2005. Further instructions for authors can be found on the website www.tiems.org

↑ News & Updates



**Directorate B – Structuring the European Research Area
Anticipation of scientific and technological needs (NEST)**

New and Emerging Science and Technology (NEST) NEST INSIGHT

EU Funding for Research on "New Hazards and Emerging Risks"

The NEST activity has published a new call for proposals on **New and Emerging Science and Technology (NEST)** on 10th December 2004 amounting to € 65 Mio. The deadline for the submission of proposals is **April 13, 2005**.

Especially, NEST is calling for **INSIGHT** proposals. The **INSIGHT** scheme aims at research to investigate new discoveries, or newly observed phenomena, which may indicate new hazards, emerging risks or problems of high importance to European society, and identify appropriate responses to them.

INSIGHT projects are science-driven investigations with an anticipatory function. They are evaluated and selected only according to the scientific quality in their envisaged approach, and the novelty or emergence of the problems or hazards addressed. Political considerations are not taken into account in the selection of proposals. Nevertheless, **INSIGHT** projects should aim to develop scientific understanding that enables actors concerned (e.g. policy makers, regulatory authorities, industry, interest groups representing civil society) to frame strategic choices about necessary future actions.

For any additional information or clarification, please consult the NEST website at <http://www.cordis.lu/nest> or contact us by email to rtd-nest-evaluations@cec.eu.int.

Editor's Note: Members of the D&SCRN who are interested in exploring the possibility of submitting a joint proposal should get in touch with the Network Coordinator: Dr. N. Petropoulos (erc@otenet.gr) / *Susann Ullberg*.

➡ Recently Published



SMALL-STATE CRISIS MANAGEMENT: THE ICELANDIC WAY
(2004) by Bernharðsdóttir, Ásthildur Elva & Lina Svedin. Crisis Management Europe Research Program. Vol. 25. Stockholm: CRISMART/Swedish National Defence College

This volume provides an institutional overview of Icelandic crisis management and detailed studies of three national crisis cases: the 2000 earthquakes in southern Iceland, the response by Iceland to a proposal by the European Commission to ban fishmeal in animal feed in 2000, and the 2000 stranding of the cargo vessel Vikartindur on the south shore of Iceland. Each case study is written by two local experts and is structured according to the cognitive-institutional research approach developed in CRISMART's multi-year, cross-national study program. The volume's concluding chapter highlights prominent themes such as crisis communication, public and private crisis cooperation, and learning. This chapter also provides comparative insights from the CRISMART casebank. Contributors to the volume are scholars of political science, social work, psychology, and environmental affairs.

www.crismart.org/update.htm

↑ Links & Updates



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Safer Communities and Sustainable Development through Disaster Reduction

ADPC UPDATE December 2004 Issue No. 3

The year 2004 has been a very eventful year for ADPC and I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all ADPC's supporters and partners. I thank you for your interest in our activities and projects; and will keep you informed in the coming year. My staff and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very good Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year.

Suvit Yodmani
Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
<http://www.adpc.net/>



Ahmad Kamal is a member of the D&SCRN Network and as a Research Associate at the National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs (Government of India) he is responsible for the preparation and electronic distribution of "Disasters Update from NIDM". Feel welcome to visit NIDM's site at <http://www.nidm.net/>. For any additional information, please contact kamal@nidm.net.

↪ Et Cetera

NEW RESEARCH PROJECT

Philip Buckle, Graham Marsh and Eve Coles have received a small grant from Coventry University to study the floods of August 2004 that occurred at Boscastle in Cornwall, UK. These floods followed, almost 52 years to the day, floods at Lynmouth in Devon, just along the coast. Both small villages had an almost identical topography and we will be looking at these two events, along with a similar site if we can find one, to discern what, if anything, has been learned about social responses to disaster, policy and planning implications and responses and local emergency management. Already indications are that at Lynmouth and Boscastle there was strong local response that was unplanned, that is it did not figure in the district, county and national plans. We hope to draw out lessons for more effective planning and capacity building in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

For further information please contact Philip Buckle: apx316@coventry.ac.uk

↪ Et Cetera

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

This is a research project that is currently being developing in Melbourne Australia, called *"Establishing guidelines for an understanding of the cultures, strengths and needs of non-Christian faith communities and the contribution they can make to programs of community Recovery and community building when dealing with disasters and emergencies."*

Faith communities are highly diverse in their theologies, values and organizations and as a consequence can bring a variety of contributions to the other social networks that already exist within a community. Sadly, this contribution is often either ignored or vigorously opposed. Engagement with faith communities makes demands upon official leaders and members of other non-religious networks, demanding an understanding for religious literacy, tolerance and close encounters for which they are either ill equipped or bound by perceived stereotypes.

Engaging faith communities in community building and how to achieve that involvement is a neglected dimension of study. The commitments, interests, organizations, places of worship and the social networks that originate from these groups and, in turn, relate to peoples religious beliefs and identities, have an important contribution to make to any community building initiatives.

For those interested in knowing more about this research proposal, please contact Syd Smale. Syd would also welcome comments especially from any who are also interested in this field of study and research. Contact him at sssmale@bigpond.com.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR A NEW RESEARCH AND ACTION RESOURCE

An international group of researchers, project led by Elaine Enarson and Cheryl Anderson, are currently compiling THE GENDER AND DISASTER SOURCEBOOK - a user-friendly tool kit for practitioners, researchers, policy makers, educators, media, and organizers. It will contain items such as the following from across the world:

- Good practices and areas of concern;
- Planning and practice tools;
- Training resources for increasing gender awareness;
- Gender equality and disaster risk reduction projects;
- Communication strategies - guidelines and resources for media;
- Academic studies.

The final product will be made available in hard copy, CD and at no cost through the GDN Website http://online.northumbria.ac.uk/geography_research/gdn/ in late 2005. The project has been supported by the Public Entity Risk Institute and the East-West Center, Hawaii, and others. A draft version (CD) of the Sourcebook will be piloted at the JANUARY 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan.

Each member of the writing team has responsibility for a particular region and I share that role with Nuray Kuranci of the Middle East Technical University, Turkey. Preliminary searches indicate there is actually very little gender and disaster material available on Europe (European researchers work on gender and disasters in other parts of the world but not in their own region). I am sending out a call to all of you to ask for suggestions of materials that might be useful for this project. Please send any information to me at the email address below. Thank you.

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PUBLICATIONS LIST...

...from Prof. Benigno Aguirre, DRC, University of Delaware (USA) aguirre@udel.edu:

- 2004 Santos, Gabriel and B. E. Aguirre. "A Critical Review of Emergency Evacuation Simulation Models." in *National Institute of Standards and Technology, Proceeding of Conference "Building Occupant Movement During Fire Emergencies,"* June 10-11 (forthcoming).
- 2004 Aguirre, B. E. "Homeland Security Warnings: Lessons Learned and Unlearned." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*. Vol. 22, No. 2, pp. 103-115.
- 2004 Aguirre, B. E. "Los Desastres en Latinoamérica: Vulnerabilidad y Resistencia." *Revista Mexicana de Sociología*. Vol. 66, No. 3, pp. 485-510.
- 2004 Aguirre, B. E. "Emergency Evacuations, Panic, and Social Psychology." *Psychiatry* (invited commentary, forthcoming).
- 2004. Aguirre, B. E. "Disasters in Cuba." *Unpublished manuscript*

LATE CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Prof. Virginia García Acosta, who has written extensively on disasters from a historical anthropological perspective, and who in the course of 2004 was named Director General of CIESAS (Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social) in Mexico. ¡Felicitaciones, Virginia, (y más vale tarde que nunca)!