



DISASTER & SOCIAL CRISIS RESEARCH NETWORK *ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER*

July-September 2005 No.23

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

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.

1) D&SCRN Coordinator's Report

 **Report on the 7th ESA Conference in Torun, Poland.** The conference took place from Sept. 9 to Sept. 12, 2005 in the historical city of Torun. More than 1000 social scientists participated in the conference. The conference featured two plenary, six semi-plenary, 268 research network and research stream sessions and about 30 ad hoc, meet the author and workshop sessions. Our own Disaster and Social Crisis Research Network organized eight sessions. All of our sessions materialized. However, 16 of the 28 panelists (57%) eventually showed up for presentation, and some of our sessions (Sessions 3 and 8) had only one participant. It seems that once again economics took a heavy toll of our panelists. The new Executive Committee of ESA must take this into consideration and take measures (e.g. exempting colleagues from soft currency countries from registration fees, etc.). I also suggest that the new Coordinating Committee of the D&SCRN (see below) adopt more austere measures with regard to participation in the network sessions - such as making the submission of the full paper (and not just an abstract) a requirement for the appearance in the session program. This would not only strengthen commitment and encourage participation, but more important it could guarantee more genuine discussions and exchange of ideas between colleagues.

 **Publication of full papers in the D&SCRN webpage.** In accordance with the recommendation of the Network plenary session during the Torun business meeting, we shall start loading the presentations (either as full papers or just as power-point presentations) as they arrive. Up to now, I have 12 out of 28 presentations in my hands and will start loading them as soon as possible. I hope to have loaded them before the end of the month, but not later than November 15, 2005. In case there is a need for editorial changes, I will communicate with the authors for consultation before loading their papers on the Network's webpage. In the meanwhile, I am looking forward to receiving the full papers from the rest of the colleagues who made presentations at Torun.

 **Business meeting at the ESA meeting in Torun—New Coordinating Committee for the D&SCRN and new Coordinators.** The D&SCRN business meeting was held on Sunday, Sept. 11, 14:00-15:50. During the business meeting the plenary session elected a new Coordinating Committee, consisting of the following officers and members:

1. Philip Buckle, Coventry University, UK, **Coordinator**
2. Graham Marsh, Coventry University, UK, **Deputy Coordinator**
3. Murat Balamir, Middle Eastern Technical University, Turkey, Member
4. Maureen Fordham, Northumbria University, UK, Member
5. Marek Glogoczowski, Poland, Member
6. Alan (Avi) Kirschenbaum, Technion, Israel, Member
7. Nicholas Petropoulos, Emergencies Research Center, Greece
8. Joseph Scanlon, Carleton University, Canada, Member
9. Susann Ullberg, CRISMART, Sweden, Member

While the Coordination of the D&SCRN relocates to Coventry University, the plenary decided not to make any changes with regard to the E-Newsletter and the Webpage address. Susann Ullberg will continue to be Editor of the Network's Electronic Newsletter and the Emergencies Research Center will continue to host the Network's webpage under N. Petropoulos's management. The next update of the D&SCRN webpage will also reflect the changes in the composition of the Coordinating Committee. At this point I would like to also thank Susann for the excellent cooperation and for her invaluable contribution to the professional and esthetic upgrading of our E-Newsletter.

On behalf of the D&SCRN members, I would like to thank Philip Buckle and Graham Marsh for taking over the coordination of the network for the next two years. The previous administration set the foundations for the Network, they established a webpage, they published an E-Newsletter and they organized sessions in three successive biannual conventions. They did not manage to organize interim meetings or succeed in publishing a collection of sociological readings on strengthening the resilience of European communities. We hope the new administration will fill some of the gaps and will make further contributions to the organization and qualitative performance of the D&SCRN.

 **News Briefs on the European Sociological Association.** During the bi-annual General Assembly, the body approved statute changes that affect the future operation of the Research Networks and also completed the elections for the new Executive Committee of the Association. With regard to the statute changes, the General Assembly approved the following amendment: Coordinators of Research Networks shall normally serve for a maximum of two consecutive two-year terms and will also be required to submit a report to the Vice-President of Research Networks within two months of each ESA conference outlining RN activities over the preceding two years. This amendment will go into effect as of the next conference which incidentally will be held two years from now (2007) in Scotland. With regard to the ESA elections, **Giovana Procacci**, Professor of Sociology, University of Milan, Italy, was elected as the new President of the Association. Our congratulations to the new ESA President and Executive Committee!

 **New Members of the D&SCRN.** Since the last Coordinator's report (E-Newsletter No. 22), the Network has acquired three new members: (1) **Ibirinde Folu Francis**, Executive Director, Humanitarian and Empowerment League Project, Lagos, Nigeria (2) **Patrick Chaskiel**, Professor, University Pauls Sabatier-Toulouse III, Toulouse, France and (3) **Alinawaz Murtuzaali Nanjee**, student of Post-graduate Diploma in Disaster Management, Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India. We welcome the new members to our Network and we look forward to their active participation. Their names, affiliation, interests and contact details will be entered on the Network webpage membership list (www.erc.gr/english/d&scrn) along with the publication of the E-newsletter.

 **Coordinator's relevant professional activities (July-September 2005).** During this past quarter, the coordinator occupied himself mostly with the preparation of the D&SCRN sessions at the 7th ESA conference in Torun Poland. In addition he continued his work on the "Seismopolis" project, which he has described in his previous reports. The new developments in this project include the installment of the 3 X 6 meters shake table and the pilot operation of the Seismopolis Center at one of the Athens municipalities, sometime in mid-November 2005. Besides the shake table, the Seismopolis Center will feature virtual reality EQ scenarios for the house and the city contexts as well as other types of conventional and electronic information materials (CDs and print materials for various target audience, interactive table games, webpage etc.). Various groups (e.g. students, teachers, educational counselors, adults from the general population, the aged, the migrants in Athens, individuals with special needs) are scheduled to visit the Center during the pilot operation. The task of the Coordinator and his research team during the pilot phase of the project will be to assess the various groups' reactions and to make recommendations for corrective interventions.

 **A Note on Katrina and its impacts.** Besides the human tragedy dimensions, that should not be underestimated, hurricane Katrina raises a series of sociological and political questions, to which sociologists of disaster should attend. **First**, there is a need to assess the role of civil protection organization, e.g. whether the priority given by US civil protection agencies to terrorism relegated to second category the planning and protection from "natural" disasters. **Second**, sociologists should study the role that socioeconomic and minority status played in the warning and evacuation phases of the disaster. **Third**, crucial is also the question regarding the role of the media and whether looting was a fact reflecting genuine social conditions or a figment of the journalist's imagination. **Fourth**, social scientists might study the social and political significance of the transformation of a superpower from a donor to a recipient country and its impact on various social groups within the American society. **Finally**, the increasingly catastrophic impact of hurricanes (and of other meteorological phenomena) also raises questions as to the role of the human factor in "natural" disasters; Katrina provides a "window of opportunity" for disaster diplomats and ecology activists to pressure the US governments for a re-orientation of environmental policies.

Nicholas Petropoulos
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2) A Note of Thanks, New Proposals and the Professional Activities of the New D&SCRN Coordinators

As indicated in Nick Petropoulos' report (see above), Philip Buckle and Graham Marsh, both of Coventry University (UK) were elected Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator of the D&SCRN respectively for the next two years. We would like to express our gratitude to the members of Network at the Torun business meeting for their trust. Our aim will be to continue the good work of Nick Petropoulos who has developed and sustained the network. Both of them are very grateful to Nick and hope that he will continue to act as a mentor. The network owes him a lot.

Philip and Graham welcome comments about what else the network might do. We feel that we should be encouraging more young researchers to join and participate and also establishing stronger links with the US (the IJMED group) and with Australia and New Zealand. However, this reflects our background and we are open to ideas, particularly how we can engage with the developing world. Also up for discussion is the view that we also need to attract more participants from across the 'old EU' countries as well. For some reason the European Sociological Association's conferences and working groups fail to attract the more established academics as well as the younger researchers.

Philip Buckle and Graham Marsh have recently moderated an online dialogue for the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction on indicators of disaster risk reduction. More than 500 people from over 90 countries contributed to the debate. All the contributions, the background documents and the summary reports are available on UNISDR's website at www.unisdr.org.

Measuring how well we are doing is difficult but a very necessary task and we regard this as one of the pressing issues in disaster management. What are our priorities? How do we justify these? How do we measure and monitor failure and success? These are crucial issues in improving the support we provide to disaster affected communities. The dialogue did not resolve these issues definitively but did provide UNISDR with a validation of the approach they are using under the Hyogo Framework for Action.

We urge you to look at the dialogue.



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Graham Marsh, Deputy Coordinator
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3) News & Updates



The International School for Community Emergency Management

Avi Kirschenbaum writes:

" I and some colleagues in Israel have recently formed a group, which is called the International School for Community Emergency Management. Below is a short text outlining its format. The idea came about as the result of all the experience we have accumulated in dealing with every imaginable type of emergency over the past 30 years in Israel and our experiences abroad. When we sat down together to catalogue what we had, we were amazed to find that the basic knowledge and practical experience was really quite unique. Rather than a strictly organizational perspective, we found that what worked best was a community based perspective where formal disaster management organizations were taught to maximize their emergency resources by utilizing the social capital of community members. In short, promote community preparedness. We applied this in preparing municipal emergency plans, training employees in human services and showing medical or first responders how they can use community in preparing and resolving various emergencies and disasters. The usual format for this has been on applied research based seminars and/or hands-on training courses. These guidelines are in fact being used today by Israel's Homeland Command as well as social and emergency service providers. The recent pullout of Gaza was accompanied by these guidelines as well as international work in Kosova, Singapore and most recently Sri Lanka.

For those of you who might be interested in joining us or obtaining more details, contact me directly through my email address avik@tx.technion.ac.il "



A Call For Collaboration

Today's increasing threat of terrorism and mega-terrorism across the globe, the proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction, and the devastation by natural, technological, ecological and human-made disasters calls for an international framework where individuals from all over the world can obtain knowledge, learn skills and receive training to help reduce losses of lives and property due to emergencies.

The Israel based **International School of Community Emergency Management** is being established for this purpose. It represents a wealth of knowledge based on 30 years of actual field-experience, international consulting and long-term research gained in Israel and other nations. Its community-based approach to disaster management reflects this accumulated knowledge and experience and is intended to fill the increasing need of professionals worldwide for training in their field.

The **ISCEM** seeks to forge collaboration with universities and research institutes based on mutual commitment and dedication to the development of community emergency management programs.

The **ISCEM** program reflects the uniqueness of Israel as a living laboratory to learn and explore ongoing emergencies from wars and terror to natural and technological disasters.

The **ISCEM** is dedicated to the training of emergency professionals and experts in the fields of preparedness and management of community crises at local and national levels

The **ISCEM** distinctive approach toward integrating strategic, logistic and behavioral components of emergencies has proven itself as a catalyst encouraging best practices and a facilitator for research based policy decisions.

The **ISCEM** provides a wide range of educational programs and specific course studies with academic and certificate tracks for professionals in their relevant fields.

The **ISCEM** has at its disposal a library of proven field-study operational case studies and research databases devoted to upgrading professional knowledge.

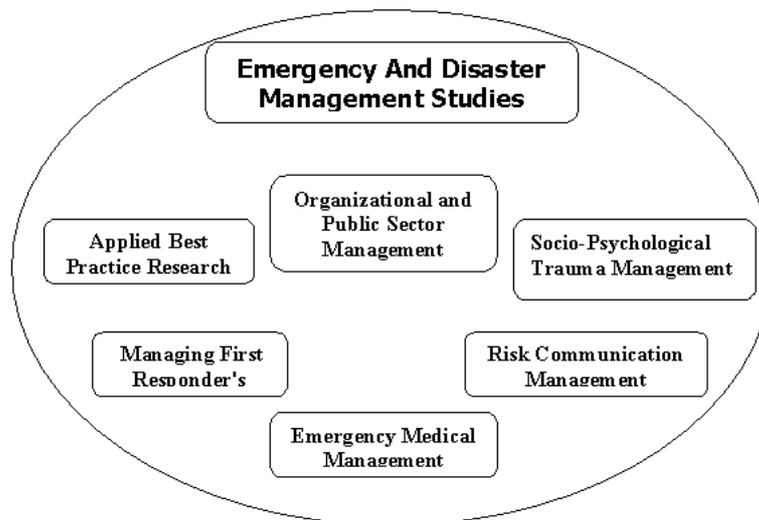
The **ISCEM** staff includes world-class practitioners and researchers who have successfully integrated community based emergency knowledge into operational management policy.

Who Can Benefit From ISCEM's Programs?

- Officials of municipal, medical emergency and security service, first responders and hospital administrators as well as heads of community and emergency agencies.
- Non-public sector emergency managers such as those involved in business and NGO's.
- Students in a broad range of existing University programs dealing with disasters and emergencies.
- Research fellows needing access to case studies, national samples, on-going field projects and international comparative studies.
- Public and private organizations interested in general or specialized full course seminar packages for their employees.

A Unique Interdisciplinary Approach

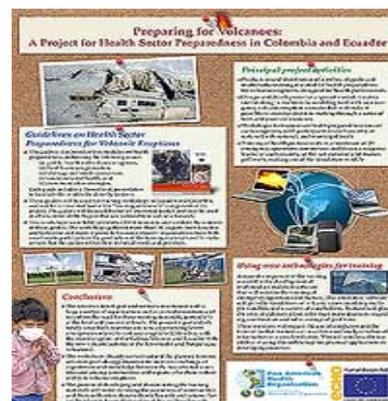
ISCEM represents a unique approach to community emergency management by incorporating into its program a set of independent yet overlapping interdisciplinary synergetic emergency and disaster management study areas.



3) News & Updates

Capturing Progress in Disaster Reduction: 100 Issues of the Disasters Newsletter**

It was 1979 when PAHO published the first issue of its quarterly newsletter *Disaster Preparedness in the Americas* (the word "mitigation" was added to the title in 1992). At that time, PAHO had neither e-mail nor a fax machine to keep abreast of disaster preparedness activities in and beyond the Americas. Instead, the Organization relied on a steady stream of memos and cables to learn about meetings, research, publications and other initiatives underway within the relatively small disaster community. The first newsletter was typed (yes, on a typewriter), photocopied and sent by hand to a very limited circle of people who were interested in developing contacts and learning more about this area of growing interest: preparing to face the health effects of disasters.



Today, many things have changed. Not only is the software and hardware used to put together a newsletter much more sophisticated, the number and diversity of channels (some would say the excess of channels) through which we receive news have multiplied at such a rapid pace that it is virtually impossible to keep up with who is doing what in the Americas, let alone the rest of the world.

What has not changed, however, is why and for whom this newsletter is published. The *Disasters* newsletter has attempted to showcase the initiatives and steps taken by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (and beyond) to prepare for and respond to the health consequences of disasters. From the earliest issues, it has promoted a horizontal exchange of knowledge and ideas among disaster professionals by citing contact information for each news piece (a much quicker task today, thanks to e-mail, than in 1979!)

Today, the print newsletter coexists with an online Internet version, which is available on PAHO's disaster web site (www.paho.org/disasters). The e-newsletter is available at least three weeks before the print copy reaches your office or home by mail. If you would like to know when the electronic version is online, drop us a note at disaster-newsletter@paho.org and you will be added to the e-mail distribution list.

Speaking of e-mail distribution lists, you can join the almost 6,500 people, or 25% of our subscriber database, who have sent us their e-mail address and now receive news items between issues of the newsletter. Your e-mail address will remain private, your mailbox will not be overloaded and you can opt at any time to unsubscribe. Send your e-mail address to disaster-newsletter@paho.org.

**Source: *Disasters: Preparedness and Mitigation in the Americas*, Issue No. 100, August 2005.

4) Conferences Coming Up – Call for Papers

THE THIRD ANNUAL MAGRANN RESEARCH CONFERENCE **The Future of Disasters in a Globalizing World**

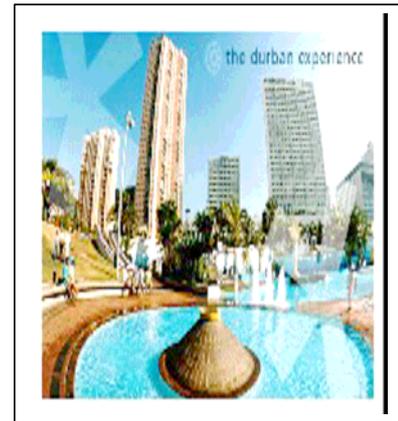
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey
April 21-22, 2006

➤ This conference seeks to elicit new thinking about the human dimensions of disasters and globalization by specialists from the social sciences, the humanities, and related fields. It is intended to facilitate dialog about appropriate analytic approaches, inform public debates about the role of sudden disjunctive events in relation to other aspects of globalization, and add to the international research agenda on hazards and global change. A wide and varied range of contributions is expected.

Papers are solicited from established scholars as well as recent PhDs and advanced graduate students. Limited support will be available to assist invited participants with costs of travel. Abstracts of not more than 250 words should be sent to the conference organizers on or before September 1, 2005. Final papers (approximately 5,000-6,000 words) will be due by February 1, 2006.

For more information, contact Robin Leichenko rleichen@rci.rutgers.edu at Rutgers University, USA(DMA, No. 28), and see webpage at http://geography.rutgers.edu/events/magrann_conference/2005/

World Congress of Sociology Durban, South Africa 23-29 July 2006



RC-39 Deadlines

- Final Program (31.1.06)
- Abstracts (31.3.06)
- Registration (31.5.06)

Information: Joe Scanlon, jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca

The International Symposium on Management Systems for Disaster Prevention



9-11 March 2006 Kochi, Japan

➤ Prospective authors are invited to submit abstracts (around 300 words) of research papers, in English, preferably by email. Submissions are to be directed to the corresponding secretariat. The format for papers will be given in the second announcement. Topics for inclusion are: (1) Management systems for disaster prevention (2) Assessment and management of risk, and infrastructure management (3) Software and hardware countermeasures for disaster prevention and (4) Research and investigation on causes of disaster.

Interested individual may contact the ISMD 2006 Secretariat, Center of Excellence for Social Management Systems Kochi University of Technology, Tosayamada-cho, Kochi, 782-8502 Japan, E-Mail: ismd@kochi-tech.ac.jp (DMA, No. 30). See also webpage at www.kochi-tech.ac.jp/coe21/ismd/call.html



➤ In commemoration of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference will include EERI's 8th U.S. National Conference on Earthquake Engineering (8NCEE) and 58th Annual Meeting, SSA's Centennial Annual Meeting and the OES Disaster Resistant California Conference with a theme on Managing Risk in Earthquake Country. Authors may submit different abstracts online to each of the three co-convened events taking place within the 100th Anniversary Conference. The guidelines and requirements for submission to each event are different. While full manuscripts must eventually be submitted by authors participating in the 8NCEE and DRC, only abstracts are required of SSA participants.

Guidelines on submission can be viewed at www.1906eqconf.org. See website for conference details: <http://blume.stanford.edu/pdf/files/> (DMA, No. 28)

5) New Resources and Materials



New training materials are available from

- New version of *Hospital Disaster Planning* (in Spanish only). Includes the second edition (updated and expanded) of the material to produce the Hospital Disaster Planning Course, and a new training module for the training of trainers. Available on CD-ROM and Internet at: www.disaster-info.net/planeamiento/
- New training material on *Disaster Mitigation in Drinking Water and Sewerage Systems* (available in English and Spanish). It contains PowerPoint presentations, publications, videos, posters and Internet links. It will be available soon on CD-ROM. It can be accessed now by Internet at: www.disaster-info.net/watermitigation/.
- The Spanish version of *Safe Hospitals: A Collective Responsibility. A Global Measure of Disaster Reduction* together with an accompanying information brochure. They can be consulted online at: www.paho.org/spanish/dd/ped/SafeHospitals.htm

Those interested in requesting CD-ROMs or printed copies of these materials should write to CRID, the Regional Disaster Information Center at: crid@crid.or.cr



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Safer Communities and Sustainable Development through Disaster Reduction



Asian Disaster Management News: April-June 2005 Issue

The April-June 2005 issue of the Asian Disaster Management News is now available online and in hard copy. Disaster recovery is the main focus of this issue. The theme article by Loy Rego and Supriya Mehta brings out the key issues in recovery and also illustrates ADPC's initiatives in assisting the tsunami affected countries. Mr Boen and Mr Jigyasu debate the issue of relocation of communities, citing example of two past earthquake and tsunami cases from India and Indonesia. Mr Mihir's article raises the expectations from the International Recovery Platform, whilst Ms Dilruba's article demonstrates the value of introducing risk reduction in the early stages of relief and recovery. Also showcased in this issue are some of the recovery initiatives in the different tsunami affected countries. (*DMA*, No. 28)

To download complete issue, visit www.adpc.net/infores/newsletter/2005/4-6/default.html

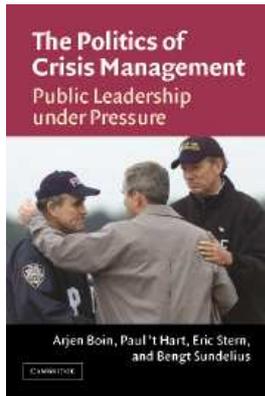


ISDR Library on Disaster Reduction

The ISDR Library develops and maintains a collection of documents, books, monographs, on disaster risk reduction, risk assessment and risk management, in order to become a reference point within the UN system in the field of natural hazards and related environmental and technological disaster reduction.

In addition, it carries online services and responds to internal and external requests for information on disaster reduction. It collaborates closely with UN agencies; governmental bodies; regional and international academic, technical and scientific institutions; libraries and documentation centers and publishers in order to reflect the various aspects of disaster risk reduction worldwide (*DMA*, No. 29). See website www.unisdr.org/eng/library/lib-index.htm

6) Recently Published

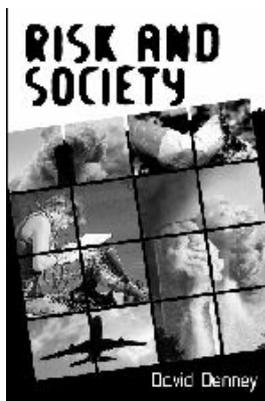


THE POLITICS OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT PUBLIC LEADERSHIP UNDER PRESSURE

By: Arjen Boin, Paul 't Hart, Eric Stern & Bengt Sundelius
2005 Cambridge University Press

📖 Crisis management has become a defining feature of contemporary governance. In times of crisis, communities and members of organizations expect their leaders to minimize the impact of the crisis at hand, while critics and bureaucratic competitors try to seize the moment to blame incumbent rulers and their policies. In this extreme environment, policy makers must somehow establish a sense of normality, and foster collective learning from the crisis experience. In this uniquely comprehensive analysis, the authors examine how leaders deal with the strategic challenges they face, the political risks and opportunities they encounter, the errors they make, the pitfalls they need to avoid, and the paths away from crisis they may pursue. This book is grounded in over a decade of collaborative, cross-national case study research, and offers an invaluable multidisciplinary perspective. This is an original and important contribution from experts in public policy and international security.

- Offers the first comprehensive analysis of the special nature of political/public leadership in major crisis
- Unique multidisciplinary perspective on crisis management
- Grounded in over a decade of collaborative, cross-national in-depth case study research



RISK AND SOCIETY

By: David Denney
2005 Sage Publications

📖 What does it mean to live in 'risk society'? How does the idea of risk change how we live with each other? Risk currently dominates individual and collective consciousness. Globally, insecurity is related to terrorism, pollution, global epidemics and famine, yet smoking, sunlight and travel have also become major preoccupations. This book provides a powerful and lucid account of risk in society today. Denney critically examines the social construction of risk, by considering a range of social theories, addressing the literature and providing an authoritative guide to the key issues raised. An analysis of the nature of risk to aspects of everyday life of the meanings, which have been assigned to notions of risk is also considered. Finally, global themes such as terrorism, global regulation governance and developments in international relations are examined.

7) A Final Note by the Editor

- ✍ Finally, as the current editor of this Electronic Newsletter, I wish to join the words of Philip Buckle and Graham Marsh above and express my warm thanks to Nicholas Petropoulos, for all his hard work as the Coordinator of the Research Network and making it into what it is today. Although you are now handing over to Philip and Graham, we are glad to still have you on [the] board!



Ευχαριστώ, Nikos (I think I just wrote 'thanks' in Greek, but in case I'm completely wrong, this is what I meant to say ;-)

Susann Ullberg,
E-Newsletter Editor