



DISASTER & SOCIAL CRISIS RESEARCH NETWORK *ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER*

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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.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!

Philip Buckle,
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/Swedish National Defence College.

1. A Note from the D&SCRN Coordinator

Dear Members

At the Torun Conference in September I took over from Nick Petropoulos as the Coordinator of the DSCRN, and Graham Marsh assumed the role of Deputy Coordinator. My first task, without any hesitation, must be to thank Nick for his work over the years developing and sustaining the network. This has required a personal dedication and commitment from him that has benefited us all. Nick has driven and inspired our group for a long time and I offer him our sincere thanks and best wishes. He will, I have been told and hope, continue in a mentoring and advisory role. Thank you Nick

I am always open to ideas, suggestions, advice and contributions and I welcome, in fact more strongly than that, I urge you, to continue to contribute and share with me as Coordinator and across the network

I have three initial objectives.

First, to increase the membership of the network, and I ask for your ideas on how we can achieve this and also for your active advertisement of the network.

Second, I would like to bring more young people and new researchers into the group. At most of our meetings I see a bunch of interested, committed and passionate people, but our average age is perhaps a bit

higher than is sustainable. The field of crisis and disaster research is growing, and the need for it is accelerating at a faster rate still. We need to grow, but we must be able to sustain our group and its aims and expertise over the future. I welcome your ideas on how we could do this.

Third, I would like us to develop stronger links with our colleagues across the globe and in the US, at Boulder and Delaware especially and more particularly the IJMED group. I also think that we would profit from stronger links with Australia and New Zealand where there is a lot of useful work going on in social science research and disaster management.

Of course, I have not mentioned the greater part of the World; Asia, Africa, Central and South America. We need greater links with these areas also, but I personally am not aware of any comparable networks. If you know of any please let me know.

I am particularly interested in learning from the 'developing' world and facilitating information exchange rather than just continuing a 'monologue' from the West to the rest of the world.

So, please give me names, contacts, suggestions and ideas.

Finally let me thank Nick again for his efforts over the years.

Philip Buckle
D&SCRN Coordinator
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2) D&SCRN September-December 2005 Webpage Report

Election of new Coordinating Committee and updating of D&SCRN and ESA webpages. The Network's webpage (www.erc.gr/english/d&scrn) was updated (22 November 2005) to reflect the new composition of the D&SCRN Coordinating Committee following the business meeting in the 7th ESA conference. In addition to the names of the CC, their e-mails and roles were also designated to facilitate communication with our readers.

The elections also necessitated an updating of the ESA webpage (www.valt.helsinki.fi/esa), and specifically the space allotted to D&SCRN. Thus, the order was given by the former Network Coordinator on December 12, 2005 to delete the Torun Call for Papers and to post the contact details for the new Coordinator of the Network, Philip Buckle. In addition, the call for materials that we publish in the E-Newsletter was included in the ESA webpage in order to encourage submissions to the Network's electronic newsletter. The request for these changes was also copied to the new Coordinator and to Tuula Gordon, the member of the ESA Executive Committee in charge of Research Networks. While at the time of this writing the changes had not yet been made, I am hopeful that this will be done soon.

Publication of 7th ESA Sessions proceedings in the D&SCRN webpage. Following a decision at the Network's Business Meeting (11 Sept. 2005), the available abstracts and full papers/presentations were submitted for publication in the D&SCRN webpage (www.erc.gr/english/d&scrn) on 18.12.2005. It should be noted that papers/presentations are being published regardless of the authors' attendance at the conference. At the time of this writing, 18 of the 29 colleagues had submitted full papers or presentations. An electronic reminder was sent to the rest to submit their full papers to me for publication; these will be published as they come in. The first installment of full papers and presentations has already been published and colleagues may view them on our website.

New D&SCRN members. Since the publication of the last E-newsletter, four new members have been added to our Network. These are: (1) **Jörgen Sparf** of Mid Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden; (2) **Bob Pokrant**, Associate Professor, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia; (3) **Martin Voss**, Disaster Research Unit Kiel, Hamburg, Germany and (4) **Edward Cherrie**, Senior Performance and Information Officer, North Lanarkshire Council, Social Work Department, Motherwell, Scotland. I would like to welcome these new members to our Network. Their names, affiliation, disaster interests and contact details will be posted on the Network's webpage membership list, along with the publication of the E-newsletter.

Nicholas Petropoulos
D&SCRN Webpage Manager
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3) Conferences Coming Up - Call for Papers

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



www.ewc3.org

Hosted by Germany under the auspices of the United Nations, the Third International Conference on Early Warning against natural hazards will take place in Bonn from **27 to 29 March 2006**.

The Indian Ocean tsunami disaster in December 2004 and the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 demonstrated, once again, the pressing need for effective early warning against natural hazards of all kinds in all parts of the world. Early Warning and preparedness play a critical role in preventing hazardous events from turning into disasters. Clear warnings received in time, coupled with the knowledge of how to react, make the difference between life and death, between economic survival and ruin, for individuals and communities alike.

Earlier this year, the UN Secretary General called for global warning systems covering all countries and all hazards. And the [Hyogo Framework for Action](#), adopted at the [World Conference for Disaster Reduction](#) in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, sets out a clear roadmap for action. Following the two previous conferences on early warning in Potsdam (1998) and Bonn (2003), it is time now to move from concept to action.

The EWC III, which will bring together a wide variety of governmental and non-governmental actors, scientists and practitioners, in discussions around projects illustrating good practice in early warning. It aims at stimulating and helping to implement concrete early warning activities on all continents to bridge existing gaps. Official Calls for Project Proposals and for Abstracts have now been closed. Proposals are undergoing a review to determine whether and how they will be presented at the conference.

Relevant government departments, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, scientific bodies, private agencies and all other interested parties are encouraged to participate.

Conferences Coming Up - Call for Papers



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/pdffiles/> (DMA, No. 28)

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/

TIEMS

THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

KOREA



KOREA

The International Emergency Management Society is proud to formally announce its 13th annual conference this year themed around 'Advances in Global Emergency Management' and to be held in the South Korean capital of **Soeul during May 23-26, 2006.**

It has been an exceptional year for international disasters, which have served to demonstrate to us all the importance of resilient communities and robust contingency planning. Through the annual conference we will bring together international experts from around the world to share their ideas and experiences on these issues and create an environment in which we can all learn and discuss new and innovative ways of preparing for and responding to the range of threats, which we face in the modern world both natural and technological.

Further details of the event are continuously being added to the TIEMS website (www.tiems.org) and registration is open. See further details at: www.tiems.org/files/pdf/2006/TIEMS2006Cfp.pdf

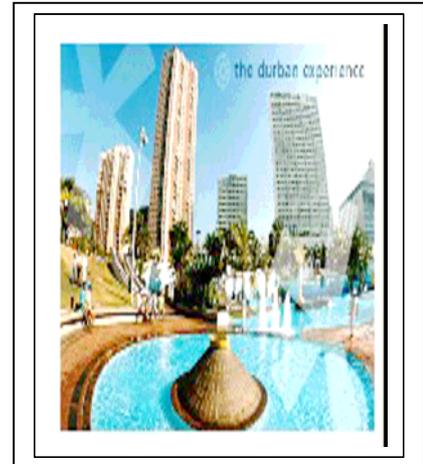
Conferences Coming Up - Call for Papers

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



4) News & Updates

adpc

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Safer Communities and Sustainable Development through Disaster Reduction

2005 has been a very eventful year for ADPC with many on-going projects and training activities. With this issue we are happy to announce the launch of a new project on Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System Programme with funding support from USAID.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all ADPC's supporters and partners and would also like to thank all those who have been providing us with valuable comments and inputs. On behalf of ADPC, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year, 2006.

Suvit Yodmani, Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

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5) Recently Published



RIESGOS COLECTIVOS Y SITUACIONES DE CRISIS: EL DESAFÍO DE LA INCERTIDUMBRE

[COLLECTIVE RISKS AND CRISIS SITUATIONS: THE CHALLENGE OF UNCERTAINTY]

By: Ruano Gómez, Juan de Dios (Ed.)
2005 UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA

📖 The contributions to this edited volume on risk and crisis covers theoretical discussions on these social phenomena as well as the results from empirical studies of crisis management and mass media coverage on the ecological disaster of the oil tank Prestige outside the Galician coast in November of 2002.

6) Members' Views

December 26th

by Ilan Kelman

26 December 2005 represents the second anniversary of the Bam earthquake and the first anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunamis. In addition to remembering the dead and recognising the living's current state, we should also look to the future to see what should change to avoid repetition of such disasters. Are the lessons from them being applied in order to think ahead of disaster before the next time happens? The Kashmir earthquake (on 8 October, 2005) killed approximately three times as many people as the Bam earthquake. Many of the same pre-disaster and post-disaster mistakes were evident, from lack of easy mitigation to transitional shelter. Perhaps we have not learned or perhaps we do not wish to learn. Yet there were positives. Whereas the Bam earthquake appears to have done little for lessening tensions around Iran's diplomacy, India and Pakistan took significant post-earthquake diplomatic steps in Kashmir, despite ongoing militancy. We shall see whether or not these steps last. As well, Pakistan postponed an order of fighter jets to focus on the earthquake disaster--although the country has just received delivery of two F-16s. It is also unclear why Pakistan would not spend the same amount of money on disaster risk reduction and sustainability as on the military, including the fighters and nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, the Indian Ocean tsunami warning system, repeatedly requested in the years before the tsunamis, has progressed -- and has been linked to other hazards to some extent. Overall, the long-term nature of early warning systems has been somewhat acknowledged and they are high on the international political agenda. Unfortunately, Hurricane Katrina illustrated how many people still believe that issuing a forecast and/or warning equates to a complete warning system. Plus, despite many political

leaders being lambasted for not appreciating the extent of the tsunami catastrophe when it was evident to anyone watching the news, the White House failed to recognise the Katrina calamity until forced to do so. More positively, as part of the evolving canvas of disaster risk reduction, setting aside portions of humanitarian aid budgets for proactive mitigation is increasingly acceptable. Regarding response, the UN has approved a new fund to immediately provide money for humanitarian emergencies, rather than having to await event-specific donations. In contrast, the American House of Representatives sent to the Senate a budget, which increases defence spending by approximately the same amount as it decreases health and education, programmes. That will kill more people than Katrina. Some of that defence increase, however, appears to be related to Hurricane Katrina and bird flu. Perhaps, then, the increase is reasonable, although it begs the questions "why is that under defence?" and "what does that say about the paradigms adopted for these disaster issues?". Furthermore, while fervently preaching fiscal and moral responsibility to other countries (including through the IMF), the U.S.A. in the previous five years has creatively transformed a \$200+ billion budget surplus into a \$300+ billion budget deficit. What disasters will that create? The U.S.A. and Pakistan epitomise trends in other countries. Assuming that the criticism applies only to those countries would be unfair. We have plenty of examples of what has gone wrong in the past few years. Are there any more examples of what has gone right? As we mark the anniversaries of appalling events, which should not have happened, who has used them to think ahead of disaster?

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26 December 2005

Extract from: 'Junk Food & "Junk Science" at the 7th ESA Conference in Toruń (Sept. 9-12, 2005)' **

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*** The following text is an extract of a longer piece that Dr Glogoczowski has sent to us. Due to the editorial criteria of the E-Newsletter this will not be published here in its entirety. For those interested in having the entire text, please contact Dr Glogoczowski directly at mglogo@poczta.fm.*

The summer of 2005, in my personal case, was framed by my participation in two remarkable, international events. At the beginning of June I was in Mińsk (Belorussia) at the 9th Pan-Slavic Congress, where more than 200 scholars and men of culture from 15 European countries discussed - in Russian - dangers, which "capitalism restored" poses to their national wellbeing. Two months later I attended in Toruń (northern Poland) a conference of the European Sociological Association (ESA), where about 1000 social scientists were "Rethinking (in obligatory English) Inequalities", the official theme of this big "Pan-European" gathering.

The atmosphere during these two international meetings was, in a large extent, conditioned by their official languages. The Russian is the "language of the past" - at least in all countries of Middle East Europe - so in the still "living in the past" Mińsk we participated not only in a normal conference, demanding compulsory sitting, but we also had to walk as participants of a colorful national parade recalling me long forgotten Stalinist 1st May Parades. In Toruń, where sessions were held exclusively in English, I had to participate in something, which I had almost forgotten since my graduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley in late 1960s. Namely during the lunch time we had to eat, for three days in a row, monotonously the same prepackaged "junk meals", accompanied with plain water. (Normally in Poland, during academic conferences, student canteens are opened and prepare for participants fresh and tasty meals to be consumed during the lunch break.....