



DISASTER & SOCIAL CRISIS RESEARCH NETWORK *ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER*

No.25 January-March 2006

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

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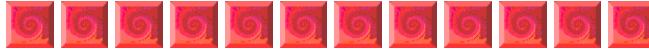
This is the quarterly electronic newsletter of the Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network. The purpose of the D&SCRN is to promote the study, research and analysis of "natural", "technological" and "social" disasters with a view to contributing to the development of disaster resilient European communities,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

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

Well, news has been slight since the last newsletter. I haven't had any response, apart from Ilan Kelman, about how to bring in more members and how to generate better links with other researchers across the globe. This invitation still stands however and I'm determined to press ahead.

I'm talking already to some people in Australia and the US, where I have strong links, but I need advice on people from other parts of the world.

I recently reviewed a forthcoming book on vulnerability published, or to be published, by the United Nations University. It's a large volume of papers with about 40 contributing authors. It was very interesting and all the papers very worthwhile. But I recognised only a few names. Most of the authors appear to be from Germany but I had not heard from them. Of course this may say something about me. But it also shows that linkages and networks and exchange even within Europe need to be improved.

Let me have your ideas.

The first call for the next ESA 2007 in Glasgow has been made. We will start planning for this soon, but please let me have your ideas and suggestions as soon as you can.

Kind regards

Philip Buckle
D&SCRN Coordinator
philip.buckle@gmail.com

2) D&SCRN January-March 2006 Webpage Report

Updating of ESA webpage. As of 7 February 7, 2006, the ESA website information pertaining to the Disaster and Crisis Research Network has been updated. The Call for papers for the 7th ESA conference has been deleted; besides the general purpose of the Network, the site now contains basic communication information concerning the D&SCRN (e.g. contact details of our new Coordinator Philip Buckle, our E-Newsletter Editor, Susann Ullberg, and our website address (See www.europeansociology.org). At this point, I would like to thank Rene Bekkers, ESA website Manager, for updating the D&SCRN page and for his excellent cooperation during the past years.

New D&SCRN members. Since the publication of the last E-Newsletter, the Network has acquired 25 new members - a large enough number that calls for tabulation, by position/affiliation and country. The new members, who come from a diversity of countries, ages, and interests, are distributed as follows:

Name and e-mail	Position/affiliation	City, Country
Linda C. Haynes linda.haynes@unco.edu	Associate Professor, University of Northern Colorado, School of Nursing	Greeley, Colorado, USA
Courtney G. Flint cflint@uiuc.edu	Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences	Urbana, Illinois, USA
Christine A. Bevc Christine.bevc@colorado.edu	Doctoral student, University of Colorado at Boulder, Natural Hazards Center	Boulder, Colorado, USA
Jieh-Jiuh Wang jumount@gmail.com	Ph. Candidate, Columbia University	New York, USA
Jenifer M. Santos-Hernandez jsantos@udel.edu	Lead Graduate Research Assistant, Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware	Newark, Delaware, USA
Joseph E. Trainor jtrainor@udel.edu	Projects Coordinator, DRC, University of Delaware	Newark, Delaware, USA
David Johnson djost3@pitt.edu	Planner/Researcher, Allegheny County Emergency Services/University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
Peter Simon {none}	Graduate Student, Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
Meredith Moss MeredithMoss@aol.com	Graduate Student in Disaster Science at University of Richmond	Ashburn, Virginia, USA
Laura Olson lolson@gwu.edu	Research Scientist, The George Washington University, Management Department	Washington, D.C., USA
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Jon Joseph Schauble schauble@netspace.net.au	University of Melbourne	Melbourne, Australia
Grant Coultman-Smith Coultman-smith@netlink.com.au	Sergeant of Police, International Association of Emergency Managers	Melbourne, Australia
Suniti Bandaranaike suniti.bandaranaike@jcu.edu.au	James Cook University, Centre for Disaster Studies	Anandale, Australia
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Aliou Mamadou DIA dia_aliou@hotmail.com	Department of Geography, University of Dakar	Dakar Fann, Senegal
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Uri-ben Neshier uri@ben-neshier.com	CEO of ISCEMIL, International School for Community Emergency Management	Karmiel, Israel
Swarup Dutta swarup_du@yahoo.com	PhD University of Delhi	Delhi, India
Christian Barbero chlanka@hotmail.com	(Not Specified)	La Paz, Bolivia
Tuija Nieminen Kristofersson tuijak.nieminen@keg.lu.se	Researcher, Department of Social Geography, Lund University	Lund, Sweden
Parth K. Rajyaguru parth_rajyaguru@yahoo.com	Student-Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management	Porbandar, Gujarat, India
Syed Ashraf ul Islam islamasyed@hotmail.com	Disaster Management Bureau	Dhaka, Bangladesh

I would like to welcome the new members to our Network and look forward to their active contributions to the Network's activities; their names, affiliation, disaster interests and full contact details will be posted on the Network's webpage membership list, along with the publication of the March 2006 E-Newsletter in our website.

Updating of membership information. We have had two requests, one from Juergen Weichselgartner and the other from Daryl Dee Britton, for updating their website information. This information will also be updated along with the mounting of the E-Newsletter on the website. Meanwhile, we wish them the best in their new professional endeavors.

Renewal of domain name. The Emergencies Research Center, which hosts the D&SCRN webpage, has renewed its domain name (www.erc.gr) for two more years beginning March 2006. Appreciation is extended to the Scientific Council of ERC for the subsidization as well as to our Website Provider, INFODOMI, for their counsel and prompt cooperation in posting our Network's materials.

Nicholas Petropoulos
D&SCRN Webpage Manager
erc@otenet.gr

3) Call for Papers



EASA
European Association of Social Anthropologists

9th EASA Biennial Conference: Bristol, UK September 18th - 21st, 2006

Workshop 78: When the worst happens: anthropological perspectives on crises and disasters (W078)

Registration for this conference is now open and we particularly welcome the members of the D&SCRN to join this workshop.

Convenor(s)

Mils Hills (Analytic Red)

mils@analyticred.com

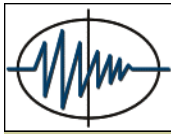
Susann Ullberg (Department of Social Anthropology at Stockholm University)

susann.ullberg@socant.su.se

Tsunami, earthquake, oil spill, extreme weather, terrorist bombs, pandemic influenza: recent critical events or the fear of them have affected millions of Europeans and intensified governmental and academic discussions and concern, not only about climate change and international security, but also about risk, crisis and disaster management more generally. Crises and disasters or the fear of them are social and physical phenomena. Their management and interpretation are consequences of pre-existing social, economic and political processes, increasingly embedded in local-global relations, while such extraordinary events interrupt normality and put communities' coping capacities on trial. Structural vulnerabilities are produced in global political economies, just as local crisis management systems are developed within transnational frameworks of ideas and technologies. Disasters devastate locally but can also impact globally and signify social change and/or systemic reproduction. Global phenomena, such as tourism and migration, can bring together people in accidental communities when a disaster strikes. We aim to reaffirm the place of disasters and crises on the anthropological research agenda. We invite scholars to reflect upon all intersections in this context: the relationships between nature and society, the state and the market, and the local and the global, and the role and enactment of specific social actors in a crisis, such as the media, crisis managers, relief organisations and local communities crosscut by gender, age, class and culture. We encourage explorations in a range of related issues, such as the mitigation of impacts, reduction of vulnerabilities, enhancement of resilient patterns of behaviour, improvement of management organisation and articulation and assessment of meanings ascribed and framing of events and processes. Reflections on the means by which anthropological insights may be practically applied would be particularly welcomed.

To propose a paper for the workshop, please mail the convenors, and for further information please check the EASA website at <http://www.nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa06/call.htm>

4) News & Updates



Centre for Natural Risks and Development Bayreuth

ZENE

The website of the Centre for Natural Risk and Development Bayreuth, Germany (ZENE) is now online and can be retrieved under the following address: <http://www.zeneb.uni-bayreuth.de/>

The web page provides information on current debates, projects or meetings in the field of social science oriented hazard and disaster research in developing countries. It is providing a platform to everyone interested in promoting own research and publications. Based at Bayreuth University, which has a long tradition in African Studies, ZENE has its main regional focus on Africa and is currently engaged in research projects in Mozambique, Ethiopia and Kenya. Our main interest is to undertake and support research that provides knowledge on disaster prevention and disaster coping strategies in developing countries.

For further information please contact

Prof. Dr. Detlef Müller-Mahn
MuellerMahn@uni-bayreuth.de

Dr. Martin Doevenspeck
doevenspeck@uni-bayreuth.de

adpc

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Safer Communities and Sustainable Development through Disaster Reduction

ADPC UPDATE February 11 – March 10 2006 Issue No. 17

The month of February will be another very full month for ADPC with many on-going as well as new activities. With this issue we are happy to announce the launch of a new project on Enhancing Community Resilience to Natural Disasters in Southeast Asia covering Cambodian and Vietnamese coastal communities with funding support from the Government of Denmark. This work is part of ADPC's End-to-End Regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (TEWS) designed to protect 5 countries of Southeast Asia; namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

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

5) Recent & Upcoming Publications



Special Issue of *Disasters*: Natural Disasters and Climate Change

Guest Editors: Madeleen Helmer and Dorothea Hilhorst

Until recently disaster scholars and practitioners have hardly engaged in climate change debates. Scientific assessments on climate change have mainly involved atmospheric scientists and experts in the area of environment and energy. However it has become more evident that climate change will not express itself primarily through slow shifts in average conditions over a long period. It is extreme weather events like droughts, floods and heat waves, often resulting in disasters that we must prepare for.

In this special issue of *Disasters*, scientists address the risks of climate change from the perspective of disaster risk and disaster risk reduction. They explore the commonalities and synergies between the science and policy communities concerned with adaptation to climate change and the communities of disaster studies and disaster risk reduction.

FREE ARTICLES

We are pleased to offer two articles from this issue free online. To read the articles simply click on the links below.

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Natural Disasters and Climate Change

Volume 30, Issue 1

Click on the links below to read article abstracts.

Natural disasters and climate change

Madeleen Helmer, Dorothea Hilhorst

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00302.x>

FREE ARTICLE: The impacts of climate change on the risk of natural disasters

Maarten K. van Aalst

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00303.x#article>

FREE: ARTICLE: Disaster risk, climate change and international development: scope for, and challenges to, integration

Lisa Schipper, Mark Pelling

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00304.x#article>

Reducing hazard vulnerability: towards a common approach between disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation

Frank Thomalla, Tom Downing, Erika Spanger-Siegfried, Guoyi Han, Johan Rockström

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00305.x>

Financing climate change adaptation

Laurens M. Bouwer, Jeroen C.J.H. Aerts

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00306.x>

Community-based disaster preparedness and climate adaptation: local capacity-building in the Philippines

Katrina M. Allen

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00308.x>

El Niño platforms: participatory disaster response in Peru
Jeroen Warner, Maria Teresa Oré

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00309.x>

Global sea-level rise is recognised, but flooding from anthropogenic land subsidence is ignored around northern Manila Bay, Philippines

Kelvin S. Rodolfo, Fernando P. Siringan

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00310.x>

Local initiatives and adaptation to climate change

Ana V. Rojas Blanco

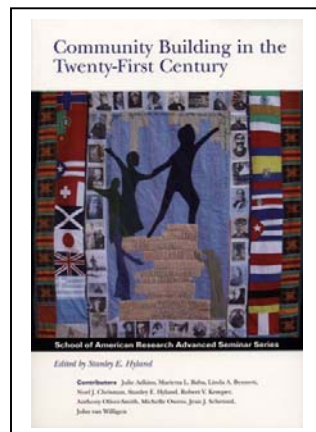
<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-9523.2006.00311.x>

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COMMUNITY BUILDING IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Edited by Stanley E. Hyland
2005 School of American Research Press

Contributors: Stanley Hyland, Julie Adkins, Marietta Baba, Linda Bennett, Noel Chrisman, Robert Kemper, Anthony Oliver-Smith, Michelle Owens, Jean Schensul, John Van Willigen

📖 "Community" has long been a critical concept for social scientists, and never more so amid the growing economic inequity, natural and human disasters, and warfare of the opening years of the twenty-first century. In this volume, leading

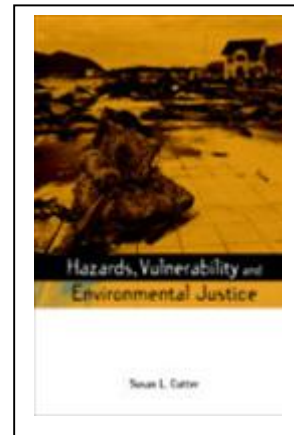
scholar-activists develop a conceptual framework for both the theory and practice of building communities. Rethinking the very concept in light of technological change and globalization, they examine local responses to worldwide trends, study the ways that communities generate and use resources, and evaluate existing theories and approaches to community building to determine the best strategies for fostering community strength and vitality. Their work with groups ranging from refugees, religious charities, and poor urban neighborhoods to tribal peoples, international corporations, and public health agencies demonstrates that local communities contain the seeds for a more desirable future and suggests how we may encourage those seeds to grow.

HAZARDS, VULNERABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

By Susan L. Cutter

2006 Earthscan Publications Ltd

📖 Hurricane Katrina was the costliest natural disaster in US history, killing thousands and displacing a million people. From the 2004 Tsunami to the recent Pakistan earthquake to fuel depot explosions in the UK, natural and human-induced disasters are ever more common, costly and dangerous. Essential collection from Susan Cutter, the foremost disaster and vulnerability expert in the US, covers all aspect of hazards, disasters and justice. Natural disasters and human-induced hazards, from chemical spills and toxic clouds to nuclear disasters, are increasingly common and are costing billions of dollars and countless lives. This invaluable collection from Susan Cutter, the leading expert on hazards, vulnerability and environmental justice in the US, brings together powerful and difficult-to-find literature, framed by a fresh introduction that draws out the salient themes and conclusions for our new age of anxiety. This essential collection is ideal for hazard and disaster planners, academics and students studying hazards, risk, disasters and environmental justice across a range of disciplines

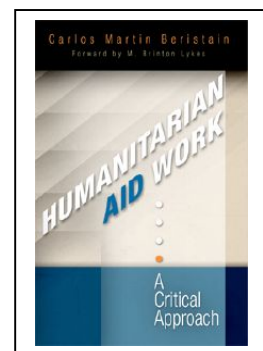


HUMANITARIAN AID WORK. A CRITICAL APPROACH

By Carlos Martín Beristain.

2006 University of Pennsylvania Press

📖 Throughout the world, there is a growing need for humanitarian aid. Enormous resources are being devoted to it; more organizations carry out cooperative projects; and emergency actions have grown to unprecedented levels. However, such growth has not always meant that relief has been adequately provided to victims, nor has it always had positive effects in reconstructing the social fabric. This book aims to help us understand how people respond to traumatic experiences in extraordinary circumstances and to formulate an understanding of the social and cultural context in which these responses occur. Carlos Martín Beristain offers a psychosocial approach that advocates a cultural sensitivity for humanitarian action and the work of collaboration, assistance, and accompaniment. He suggests alternative ideas for social reconstruction in such areas as prevention, care of victims, collective memory, respect for human rights, and help to the helpers. *Humanitarian Aid Work* provides a constructive approach to the problems of groups affected by violence, catastrophe, or emergency situations. It is intended as a critical manual for aid workers. Academic literature and debates—from current research in psychology and the social sciences—as well as the author's experience in Central and South America have been summarized to yield clear, action-oriented guidance. Research results from Europe, Africa, and Asia are also incorporated.



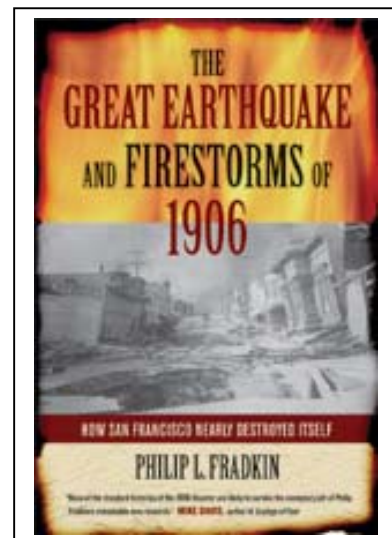
THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE AND FIRESTORMS OF 1906. HOW SAN FRANCISCO NEARLY DESTROYED ITSELF.

By Philip L. Fradkin

2005 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

📖 The first indication of the prolonged terror that followed the 1906 earthquake occurred when a ship steaming off San Francisco's Golden Gate "seemed to jump clear out of the water." This gripping account of the earthquake, the devastating firestorms that followed, and the city's subsequent reconstruction vividly shows how, after the shaking stopped, humans, not the forces of nature, nearly destroyed San Francisco in a remarkable display of simple ineptitude and power politics. Bolstered by previously unpublished eyewitness accounts and photographs, this definitive history of a fascinating city caught in the grip of the country's greatest urban disaster will forever change conventional understanding of an event one historian called "the very epitome of bigness." Philip Fradkin takes us onto the city's ruptured streets and into its exclusive clubs, teeming hospitals and refugee camps, and its Chinatown.

He introduces the people--both famous and infamous--who experienced these events, such as Jack and Charmian London, Enrico Caruso, James Phelan, and Abraham Ruef. He traces the horrifying results of the mayor's illegal order to shoot-to-kill anyone suspected of a crime, and he uncovers the ugliness of racism that almost led to war with Japan. He reveals how an elite oligarchy failed to serve the needs of ordinary people, the heroic efforts of obscure citizens, the long-lasting psychological effects, and how all these events ushered in a period of unparalleled civic upheaval. This compelling look at how people and institutions function in great catastrophes demonstrates just how deeply earthquake, fires, hurricanes, floods, wars, droughts, or acts of terrorism can shape us.



Have you read or are you planning to read any of these books, or any other disaster and social crisis relevant book? Would you like to share your opinions about them with us and write a book review? Send us your review to susann.ullberg@fhs.se and we will publish it here in the D&SCRN Electronic Newsletter.

6) Writers' Corner

Malaysian Disaster Awareness Day

by

*Aini, M.S.

Fakhru'l-Razi, A & *Abdul Aziz, A

On the 26th of December 2005, the National Security Division of the Prime Minister Department of Malaysia launched a Disaster Awareness Day. It was officiated by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. The day coincided with the tsunami disaster of 26th December 2004, which had killed 224,685 people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Somalia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Kenya, Yemen and Malaysia. The disaster had claimed 68 Malaysian lives (all locals), 367 people injured and 10,564 people had to be evacuated. Five states, namely the coastal zones of Penang, Kedah, Perlis, Perak and Selangor were devastated by the Tsunami. Coincidentally, on the same date in 1996, a total of 230 people died and 4925 homes damaged in the state of

Sabah, East Malaysia due to tropical storm Greg.

The aim of the event was to give due recognition to governmental and non-governmental organizations that have taken part in the national and international rescue and relief operations of the tsunami disaster. A total of 28 non-governmental and 41 governmental organizations were given certificates of appreciation.

The national Disaster Awareness Day will be commemorated every year on 26th December. It signals the beginning of a national effort to raise public awareness and education on disaster. It intends to enhance disaster preparedness at both individual and organizational levels.

* Faculty of Human Ecology, Universiti Putra Malaysia

** Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Putra Malaysia

***National Security Division, Prime Minister Department of Malaysia



Interdisciplinary Cities on Volcanoes

by *Ilan Kelman

"Interdisciplinary" is a popular buzzword, including for disasters research and practice. Transdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary, crossdisciplinary, pluri-disciplinary, and other related terms appear too. What does it all mean? The conference "Cities on Volcanoes 4" <http://www.citiesonvolcanoes4.com> in January 2006 showed good practice, with thanks to the International Volcano

Health Hazard Network
<http://www.ivhnn.org> for funding my trip.

The strong representation from social scientists, especially compared to previous Cities on Volcanoes meetings, was impressive along with the interest shown in their work by physical scientists. Volcano physical and mental

health effects, risk communication, and interpreting volcanoes through archaeology and history were prominent subjects alongside four-dimensional computational modelling, monitoring technologies, and geology. Emergency managers made superb contributions, especially on how they and physical and social scientists should engage each other - long before a crisis strikes.

Yet there were still senior field volcanologists with extensive international experience in managing crises, perpetuating myths, which should have been long buried. For example, disaster mitigation must take money away from other endeavours, scientific knowledge is objective, and anecdotal evidence and traditional knowledge are less worthy than data collected from modern instruments. There was also mixed acceptance of livelihoods, the social construction of risk, and contextual vulnerability as important elements in

understanding the human impact of volcanoes.

Many physical scientists have a long road yet to travel to acknowledge the impacts and implications of their work. To assist that journey, social scientists must be willing to attend physical science meetings, to learn some physical science, and to be patient and open-minded in working with other fields. "Cities on Volcanoes" provides a venue and it was encouraging to see attendees listening to each other—and then thinking about it.

A similar "interdisciplinary et al." approach should be tackled for non-volcanic topics. Atmospheric sciences have also started it, with Weather and Society Integrated Studies http://www.rap.ucar.edu/was_is and Climate Affairs <http://www.ccb.ucar.edu/cxa/index.html>

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<http://www.ilankelman.org>