

# Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network Electronic Newsletter

Nº. 29, 30 (Double Issue), January – June, 2007

[www.erc.gr/english/d&scrn](http://www.erc.gr/english/d&scrn)

## Note from the D&SCRN Coordinator

Philip Buckle, Coordinator  
[philip.buckle@gmail.com](mailto:philip.buckle@gmail.com)

Apologies are due to the DSCRN members for the delay of this newsletter. This is due to my own commitments which left me unable to act promptly enough, despite Eduardo and Nicks's frequent prods.

The ESA conference in Glasgow is planned and we have 4 sessions, details of which are available both on the website ([www.esa8thconference.com](http://www.esa8thconference.com)) and on this issue of our newsletter. I am unable to attend (pressing family commitments) and therefore Nick and others have offered to fill the gap. I am sure that it will be a success.

The research group will need to meet during the conference to transact any business (and I invite you to submit items to me (copied to Nick)) and to consider the position of coordinator. I am willing to stand again for the position but you may prefer someone whose current time commitment are less pressing.

A few weeks ago in Geneva the Global Platform (the high level successor to the Inter Agency Task force) met to consider progress towards the Hyogo Framework. Over 600 people attended and details are on UNISDR's website ([www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)). Maureen Fordham had a prominent role and I have asked her to prepare a report for the next newsletter.

I could not attend as I was undertaking a disaster risk mapping activity for an INGO in Zimbabwe. This process has revealed elements of risk that I had previously not thought of, and in particular the mix of risks that defies the identification of an obvious or single intervention point for risk reduction. Villagers in the province I visited are exposed to drought, flood, storm, grass fire as well as malaria, cholera, typhoid and HIV/Aids. On top of this there is the breakdown of social infrastructure (no medicines, no public transport, a fragmenting education system) and local disruption (child headed households, emigration, numerous orphans, all in the context of hyperinflation running at 5000% per year. Further there are issue of political stability, internal displacement. Other risks identified by local people included hippos marauding farms, leopards threatening children guarding cattle, stock disease and plant disease. Witchcraft was also identified as a risk.

Well, there are not only no easy answers but there may be no answers to this situation and people's need in the short term .

I ask whether the models we use for assessing risk and crisis and of identifying remediation methods are essentially linear where the situation in Zimbabwe is much more complex and is set out like a network or web.

Zimbabwe is not the poorest country I have visited but the situation is the most complex. My own personal risk (apart from hyperinflation and not being allowed out of my hotel at night (fear of mugging) was being driven by a Zim driver at 190kmh. Fast even by German standards. I reflected on the driver's different perception of risk to mine.

I hope and expect that the conference proceeds well and that you meet and share with others in the network and further afield.

I hope that in the coming year we can gather some impetus to drive DSCRN forward and to explore some of the issues around disaster risk reduction that have been raised in Geneva and elsewhere in recent times.

Regards,

Philip Buckle

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## Editor's Note

Eduardo Runte, Editor  
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Dear D&SCRN members and colleagues,

This double issue of our newsletter covers the period from January to June, 2007. Our network is growing, and the newsletter is now distributed to almost 150 people in the academic, business, government and non-government sectors. I hope you enjoy the reading, and if you have any comments, suggestions or requests regarding the newsletter, please contact me through the newsletter's mailing address: [dscrn.news@gmail.com](mailto:dscrn.news@gmail.com).

## D&SCRN Web Manager report (January – June, 2007)

Nicholas Petropoulos, Webpage Manager  
[erc@otenet.gr](mailto:erc@otenet.gr)

- 1. New D&SCRN members.** During the period January-June 2007, the D&SCRN has acquired five new members: (1) **Sharon Link**, of Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management, Haifa, Israel ([link@tx.technion.ac.il](mailto:link@tx.technion.ac.il)) with interests in social networks, adaptation, information flows, community, and preparedness; (2) **Carmit Rapaport** of Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel ([carmitr@techunix.technion.ac.il](mailto:carmitr@techunix.technion.ac.il)) with special interests in social networks and organizations; (3) **Mehul Pandya** of the Government Arts College, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India ([panmehul7@yahoo.com](mailto:panmehul7@yahoo.com)) with interests in the impact of disasters on social life; (4) **Tim Harries**, Flood Hazard Research Center, London, UK ([timharries2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timharries2002@yahoo.co.uk)) with interests in the social and psychological factors underlying household responses to flood-risks; and (5) **Armar Chandra Biswas**, Institute of Social Science & Research Development, West Bengal, India ([issrindia@yahoo.co.in](mailto:issrindia@yahoo.co.in)), with interests in social crises in India.
- 2. Updating of information regarding old members.** Two of our members, Serdar Degirmencioglu and Eduardo Runte, have reported changes in their affiliations, interests and addresses. The new information is: (1) **Serdar Degirmencioglu**, Associate Professor, Beykent University, Dept. of Psychology, Istanbul, Turkey ([s\\_degirmencioglu@yahoo.com](mailto:s_degirmencioglu@yahoo.com)), with interests in community response to disasters, post-disaster volunteering and post-traumatic growth and (2) **Eduardo Runte**, Ph.D. Candidate, 'École de Mines de Paris - Pôle Cindyniques- Industrial Safety Chair, Paris, France ([efarunte@hotmail.com](mailto:efarunte@hotmail.com)).

- 3. New D&SCRN E-Newsletter Address.** Following the suggestion of our new E-Newsletter Editor, Eduardo Runte, a permanent e-mail address ([dscrn.news@gmail.com](mailto:dscrn.news@gmail.com)) has been created to expedite communication regarding the newsletter, irrespective of who is the editor of the newsletter.

The names, affiliation, disaster interests and full contact details of the new D&SCRN members, as well as the updated information of our old members and the new permanent E-newsletter address, will be posted along with the publication of the Newsletter in our website.

## Calls for papers

### *Performance Under Stress: Managing Emergencies and Disasters*

We are seeking manuscripts for a symposium on “performance under stress: managing emergencies and disasters” to be published in the *Public Performance and Management Review*.

This symposium will focus on the performance in dealing with disasters including catastrophic disasters. Catastrophic disasters are characterized by unexpected or unusual size, disruptions to the communication and decision-making capabilities of the emergency response system, and an initial breakdown in coordination and communication. High performance in dealing with disasters requires an ability to assess and adapt capacity rapidly, restore or enhance disrupted or inadequate communications, utilize uncharacteristically flexible decision-making, and expand coordination and trust of emergency response agencies. Moreover, the public increasingly expects better public sector performance before, during, and after disasters than it has seen in the past. High standards of responsiveness and the ubiquitous media compel political leaders and administrative heads to coordinate resources effectively. The massive numbers of public, nonprofit, and private organizations involved in disasters response and recovery operations require extensive ability to have horizontal, as well as vertical, communication and decision making, and high performing public leadership.

Performance has long been recognized as an important criterion in managing disasters, and has attracted much theoretical attention recently. However, more theoretical and empirical work seems necessary to examine the nature and level of performance in public organizations that work in dynamic environments of disasters characterized by factors such as networks, resources coordination, and extreme time constraints.

We are soliciting articles that analyze a range of issues related to performance management in managing disasters, such as the meaning of responsiveness in managing disaster networks, efficiency and timeliness,

the factors that affect the level of public organizations' responsiveness, and best practices of improving disaster management performance.

The deadline for manuscript submission is September 30, 2007.

All submissions will be refereed. Please send manuscripts or proposals for manuscripts to [nkapucu@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:nkapucu@mail.ucf.edu). The mailing address is: Dr. Naim Kapucu, Department of Public Administration, HPA II 238M, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, 32816.

### ***XVII World Congress of Sociology***

In 1998, the World Congress of Sociology was in Montreal, Canada. In 2002, it was in Brisbane, Australia. In 2006, it was in Durban, South Africa.

In 2010, it is coming back to Europe after a 16 year absence. (It was in Bielefeld, Germany, in 1994.) The location is Gothenburg, Sweden and the dates are July 11-17, 2010.

It's still a long time away but it's worth marking the dates in your calendar.

Many of those involved in the network have found it difficult to find sufficient funds to travel to Australia or South Africa. This should be much less of a problem with the Congress back in Europe.

Please let the organizers of the Research Committee on Disasters know if you have ideas for a session topic or simply plan to submit a paper.

The organizers are Joe Scanlon from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada ([jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca](mailto:jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca)) and Lori Peek at Colorado State University in Fort Collins in the USA ([lori.peek@colostate.edu](mailto:lori.peek@colostate.edu)).

Disaster-related sessions are allocated based on how many persons belong both to the International Sociological Association and the International Research Committee on Disasters. The committee's new chair – he took office in February – is Ron Perry of Arizona State University. He can be reached at [Ron.Perry@asu.edu](mailto:Ron.Perry@asu.edu).

## **Call for nominations**

### ***UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction***

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) is calling for the nomination of individuals or institutions for the 19th U.N. Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction, for outstanding and internationally recognized action in the following fields:

- The implementation, at international or regional level, of activities designed to strengthen people's awareness of disasters triggered by natural hazards;
- The launching of scientific activities contributing to technological innovation facilitating disaster prediction;
- The launching of scientific or social activities contributing to the strengthening of disaster risk reduction;
- The promotion of activities which reduce the economic impact of disasters and contribute to sustainable development;
- Any other activities recognized as essential in promoting disaster risk reduction (early warning, environmental management, land use planning, promotion of building codes, awareness-raising, education, etc.).

The deadline for nominations is June 29, 2007. For more information and the nomination packet, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf>.

## **Writers' Corner**

### ***Social Problems and Personal Traumas studies,*** ***by Charalambos Tsekeris \**** [tsekeris@panteion.gr](mailto:tsekeris@panteion.gr)

The systematic study of social problems (crises, disasters) often suggests a creative and, sometimes, unconscious combination of personal memoir, moral assumptions, philosophical reflection and sociological analysis. Moving to a self-critically reflexive level, I am fully convinced that, on the general basis of this “combination”, we can fruitfully discern something about the peculiar epistemology of social problems. That is, we can explicitly elaborate on the “value” of the various forms of interplay between theorizing and living social problems or social disasters. Following this line, we can possibly gain unique epistemological advantages. Sources of human suffering and personal traumatic experiences may unexpectedly act as valuable sources of useful knowledge and sociological imagination. To paraphrase Charles Wright Mills, this may possibly result in seeing social problems in different ways. Furthermore, the productive interaction between the referential reflexivity of the sociology of social problems (sociology on social problems) and the immanent reflexivity of the social problems sociology (sociology in social problems) might pave the way for new exciting intellectual developments.

Such an analytic orientation is somehow exemplified by Svetlana Boym's conception of “reflective nostalgia”. According to this innovative conception, personal

traumatic stories of exile (like the writings of Vladimir Nabokov, Joseph Brodsky, and others who wrote of lost homes and homelands) are essentially capable of moving out of their own emotionally loaded and narrowly subjective context, releasing a wider radical cultural and political dynamics and affecting therapeutically not only the individual psyche but even entire communities or nations. Nostalgia (nost-algia = nostos + algos, return + pain) has still a significant influence on modern ideologues of the left and right. It is usually seen as a curse, or as an ailment to be cured. But “reflective nostalgia” is less destructive and more redemptive, less conspiratorial and more transforming, harmoniously reconciling us to our losses, associated with social disasters or historical cataclysms, and investing our grief and personal/collective biographies with meaning (without falsifying history). Drawing on personal uncertainties and confusions, nostalgic feelings and traumatic memories, Professor Boym’s “Future of Nostalgia” (2001) constitutes an extraordinary practical demonstration of the emergent possibility for a self-consciously open dialogue between critical reflection and storytelling, as well as between the sociology of emotions and the sociology of risk, disaster and crisis.

- Charalambos Tsekeris graduated from Brunel University (2000) and earned his doctoral degree in Sociology from Athens Panteion University (2006). He is currently dealing with the complex relationships between technoscience, risk culture and politics.

***My island pathway to disaster research, by Ilan Kelman***

<http://www.ilankelman.org>

My interest and involvement in disaster research emerged because I was seeking a career which was challenging, involved all scales from local to international, provided opportunities for innovation, and linked to long-term sustainability processes. Research was always a strong candidate to match the need for challenging and innovative work. But why disasters?

My main interests were predominantly focused on development and environmental management, which covers multiple scales along with links to sustainability. Within that vast range, I sought a more specific topic. My first approach towards narrowing the topic was geographic: I focused on islands.

Islands present challenges due to their smallness, isolation, and marginality. These same characteristics, along with islands' compactness, present opportunities because they are a useful setting for analysis which can then potentially be extrapolated to larger areas. The interconnectedness of islands, especially regarding the strong ties amongst their social and environmental

characteristics, also expose the multiple approaches necessary for addressing the complexity of the sustainability process. Finally, islands are usually of a local scale yet can be sovereign states, so all scales from local to international are encompassed.

As one subset of these topics, disasters emerged as yielding significant challenges and requiring plenty of innovation. In exploring the topic, I discovered a strong disaster research community along with impressive disaster practitioner networks – plus strong and needed interchanges amongst researchers and practitioners. With journals, textbooks, newsletters, and jobs readily available, I realized that disasters on islands presented a viable and valuable topic for my specialty, matching all my criteria.

In addition to retaining the depth and breadth that I seek, pre-disaster and post-disaster activities are necessarily involved. My work is about building and maintaining safer and healthier communities over the long-term rather than always responding in crisis mode. The inspiration, challenges, and creativity emerging from islands means that opportunities to assist and to learn from others will always exist.

***From Bengal to Delhi and Japan , by Suman Ranjan Sensarma***

[suman@drs.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:suman@drs.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

I was born and brought up in West Bengal, India, in a town, namely Balurghat. I studied at Banaras Hindu University. During that period I became interested in city planning. So, I entered the School of planning & Architecture (SPA), New Delhi, a prime Planning institute in India. During my thesis writing period I got an opportunity to make case study of my neighbor town Maldah which I had watched from my childhood. I realized how people of Maldah live with chronic flood risks. I know how they are fighting against their misery.

After the completion of my Master of Planning, I started to work with different organizations, and planning consultancy firms. I used to teach in SPA as visiting faculty.

In 2004, I got the MEXT scholarship for my advance study in Kyoto University, Japan. Since that time I became involved in social disaster risk related research. Consequently, my research turned towards the disaster risk mitigation, conflict analysis and collective decision making process. My interest in conflict and negotiation is really benefitted by the outstanding guidance of my supervisor, Professor Norio Okada and the intellectuals of multi disciplinary climate in his lab.

## Recent Publications

### *Suman Ranjan Sensarma*

City & Regional Planner; Ph.D Candidate, Kyoto University, Japan

Sensarma, Suman Ranjan and Norio Okada. (2006). Analysis of Chizu Ichinose Community Disaster Mitigation Conflict: The Process Matters. In: Infrastructure Planning Review, Japan Society For Civil Engineers. Vol. 23, No. 4, pp. 299-308.

In order to understand the historical evolution of the Chizu-Ichinose community disaster risk mitigation conflict, the dispute is modeled as a static structure for each of two phases, one from 1985 to 2002, and the other from 2002 to date (2005). The GMCR model (Graph Model for Conflict Resolution) is used to systematically describe the process of changes in the structure of this conflict. Then we focus on the structural change, which is interpreted to have occurred instantaneously between the end of the first phase and the beginning of the second phase. This structural change is qualitatively interpreted as the outcome of the intervening social shocks identified as a natural disaster impact, which may have been compounded by some political shift in the local government. This combined approach is found to be a useful methodology to systematically describe the combined process of both static and dynamic structure of the real conflict focused in this paper.

Sensarma, Suman Ranjan and Norio Okada. (2006). Multi Stage Conflict Resolution Process in the Case of Community Disaster Risk Management: A Retrospective Analysis. In: IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics. Taipei, pp. 929-935, October 8-11, 2006 - CD ROM.

This article deals with the process of a community disaster risk management conflict in the light of Graph Model for Conflict Resolution (Game theory based approach), and Drama theory. The first approach is concerned with the strategic interaction of different players in the game and how they can reach a solution point (s) and the second approach is concerned with how players (characters) apply rational emotional pressure on each other to redefine the game before it is played. These theories help to find out how reality unfolds in the strategic and dilemmatic context. In the case of Chizu Ichinose community disaster risk management conflict, none of the players might realize his full goal before escalating the conflict. In this very complex situation, the dilemma has arisen suddenly within a limited time to act strategically. A retrospective analysis of this conflict for our case study area helps us to know how did this confrontation evolves over time and why it suddenly took a turn toward the worse.

Finally, the outcome of these analyses may help to avoid this sort of situation which is likely to be occurring in any part of the world.

Sensarma, Suman Ranjan and Norio Okada. (2006). Conflict over Natural Resource Exploitation in a Mountainous Community: The Trade Off Between Economic Development and Disaster Risk Mitigation --A Case Study. In: Journal of Natural Disaster Science. Vol. 27, No. 2, pp. 95-100.

This research illustrates the conflict in the decision-making process in the case of the Ichinose community, Chizu, Tottori prefecture, Japan. The dispute is modeled as a static structure for each of two phases, one from 1985 to 2002, and the other from 2002 to date (2005). The GMCR model (Graph Model for Conflict Resolution) is used to systematically describe the process of changes in the structure of this conflict. The conflict escalated in the second phase of this dispute although there must have been many creeping metaphases before escalation of the conflict. The role of information and sudden social shock (as a natural disaster impact) can be interpreted as a cause of the structural change of the conflict. An effective dispute resolution mechanism has been emphasized in local-level development processes.

## News & Resources

### *Emergencies Research Center's Last Project*

Dr. N. Petropoulos  
Former ERC Scientific Director  
[erc@otenet.gr](mailto:erc@otenet.gr)

As of January 2007, the Emergencies Research Center (ERC) of Athens, a non-profit research organization concerned with the social aspects of disasters, ceased to exist legally following a decision of its Board. Before its dissolution and upon a proposal of its Scientific Director Dr. N. Petropoulos, the Board decided to "digitalize" its press archives on disasters, in order to facilitate further research, policy and practice in civil protection. Thus, about 5000 Greek newspaper and magazine clippings, collected by ERC during the last twenty years (1987-2007) were scanned and written into two DVDs in PDF format. Although the collection focuses mainly on Greek disasters, a large number of the clippings deals with major disasters in other countries (e.g. Indonesian EQ-Tsunami, 9/11, bird flu epidemic, El Ninio etc). DVD I contains mainly the "natural disasters" (e.g. earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, forest fires, ship sinkings, extra terrestrial risks, epidemics etc.) while DVD II contains mainly the "technological" and "social" disasters (e.g. technological accidents, nuclear reactor accidents, train derailments, road accidents with mass deaths, terrorism, pollution and the hothouse effect, air disasters, mass suicide heresies, hooliganism etc.). The two DVDs are accompanied by a common

introduction describing the purpose of the digitalization, the method of classification and the overlaps between “natural”, “technological” and “social” disasters. Copies were reproduced for all the Board members. The two DVD’s, packaged in a single cassette, can be available to Greek-speakers at the cost of reproduction plus mailing costs.

### ***Communicating Disasters: Building on the Tsunami Experience and Responding to future Challenges***

Communicating about disasters sometimes ends up as communications disasters. How can these mishaps be minimized, so that the power of established and new forms of mass media can play a more meaningful role in managing both hazards and disasters? This was the broad question addressed during the brainstorming meeting in Bangkok last December organized by TVE Asia Pacific (TVEAP) and United Nations Development Programme - Regional Centre in Bangkok (UNDP-RCB). The meeting recognized that the media must evolve its own ethics, guidelines and strategies for covering hazards and disasters, and these cannot be imposed from outside. All participants agreed on the value of greater understanding and cooperation between media practitioners, development professionals and disaster managers. Please find the full report here: <http://www.tveap.org/disastercomm/> (Reprinted from Disaster Mitigation in Asia, n° 44, ADPC)

### ***2006 Disasters in Numbers – CRED***

The Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) has released a two-page document of hazard and disaster statistics for 2006. A total of 395 disasters were recorded in 2006, with 226 floods, 66 windstorms, and 30 related to extreme temperatures. Disasters in 2006 killed 21,342 people, with economic damage of about \$19 billion. Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Afghanistan, Viet Nam and Pakistan are in the top ten list of countries most hit by disasters. To read the statistics, please visit here:

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/media-room/press-release/2007/2006-Disaster-in-number-CRED-ISDR.pdf> (Reprinted from Disaster Mitigation in Asia, n° 44, ADPC)

### ***Worldmapper***

Worldmapper is a collection of world maps, where territories are re-sized on each map according to different subject of interest. There are 366 maps, also available for download as PDF posters. The data used for the maps can also be downloaded. Of particular interest are the disaster maps, which show the prevalence of disasters, the number of people affected or killed by disasters, and more. The disaster map list can be found here:

[http://www.worldmapper.org/textindex/text\\_disaster.html](http://www.worldmapper.org/textindex/text_disaster.html) (Reprinted from Disaster Mitigation in Asia, n° 45, ADPC)

### ***Journal of Business Continuity & Emergency Planning***

We are delighted to announce that JOURNAL OF BUSINESS CONTINUITY & EMERGENCY PLANNING is now published in association with DRII, International Association of Emergency Managers, Continuity Forum, Association of Contingency Planners and InterCEP and is working with these organizations to enhance knowledge transfer in the resilience community. The 100-page April issue contains:

Special guest features from its partner organizations by:

- John Copenhaver, CEO, DRII;
- Arthur Rabjohn, President, Int'l Association of Emergency Managers
- Russell Price, Chairman, Continuity Forum
- Leah Core, Director, Association of Contingency Planners
- Bill Raisch, Director, InterCEP;

Detailed, peer-reviewed articles and case studies:

- International Planning for Continuity Oversight – The need for forums for financial authorities to share best practices, by Alton Harvey, Chief, Office of Contingency Planning, Securities & Exchange Commission
- Vulnerability assessments for public and private facilities, by Roger L. Kemp, CEO, Town of Berlin, Connecticut;
- How John Lewis Partnership connected 200 business continuity plans to a comprehensive emergency notification database, by Russell Husband, Former Assistant General Inspector, John Lewis Partnership;
- Implementing a corporate HR disaster management system, by Tim Turner, HR Risk Manager, Intel;
- How BT updated its business continuity strategy to improve resilience and meet Civil Contingencies Act responsibilities, by Clive Ansell, Group Strategy Director, BT;
- A model for managing the risk of ethical misconduct disasters as a strategic business continuity strategy, by Robert C. Chandler, Chair, Center for Communication & Business, Pepperdine University;
- Pandemic flu planning at Washington Mutual and in the US financial services sector, by Annie Searle, SVP, Enterprise Risk Services, Washington Mutual;

- Security certification for critical information infrastructures, by Luisa Franchina, General Director, Ministry of Communications, Italy;
- Identifying the victims of the Indian Ocean Tsunami – the role of the private sector, by Joseph Scanlon, Director, Emergency Communications Research Unit, Carleton University.

To subscribe, please go to:

<http://hsp.msgfocus.com/c/1kGuligYjDZjvRx>

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### ***Disasters Preparedness and Mitigation in the Americas***

Is the quarterly newsletter of PAHO's Program on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief. It provides news about disaster preparedness activities in the countries of the Americas, and thus aims to encourage dialogue and the sharing of ideas among governments and agencies. It also reviews publications, features upcoming meetings and offers articles of current interest that have been added to our Selected Bibliography. (Available in English and Spanish.)

To subscribe, please send an electronic mail message to [disaster-newsletter@paho.org](mailto:disaster-newsletter@paho.org) with the following information:

- Name and Address
- Telephone and Fax numbers
- E-mail address
- Affiliation (e.g., Ministry of Health, NGO, student, physician, etc.)
- Areas of interest (e.g., natural disasters, technological disasters, epidemiology, nutrition, SUMA, IDNDR activities, hospital mitigation, etc.)

### **Notification of Ph.D. Projects with the Industrial Safety Chair at École des Mines de Paris**

Under the supervision of Professor Erik Hollnagel, Chair of Industrial Safety.

#### **Topic 1: The Economics of Safety**

*Objective:* Safety requires investments (time, people, money) that compete with other demands and concerns. From a reactive safety management perspective, it is

often difficult to justify the investments because costs (preventive measures + losses from accidents that were not prevented) are real, while benefits (savings from accidents that did not happen) are hypothetical. From a proactive (resilient) safety management perspective, return on investments is higher because they also improve the organization's ability to predict, plan, and produce.

The objective of this project is to develop a conceptual framework of the economics of resilience-based industrial safety to be used for design, justification and deployment of industrial safety strategies. A second objective is to improve existing economics tools (models and methods) and/or to develop new ones based on this conceptual framework. These tools will be designed and validated in collaboration with the industrial partners of the chair.

*Suggested plan of research:* The research is foreseen to comprise the following stages: comprehensive survey of the state of art of safety safety economics; development of a conceptual framework based on resilience engineering; validation of framework through case studies; development of prototype tools for design and deployment of industrial safety strategies; evaluation of tools with an end-user in a realistic example.

#### **Topic 2: The Role of Accident Investigation in Safety Management**

*Objective:* The value of an accident investigation critically depends on how it is performed, specifically which accident model it is based on and which method it uses. Most investigations tend to emphasise the analysis, using industry standard approaches. Accident investigations should, however, go beyond the analysis and consider all steps from event reporting to the implementation of recommendations. The objective of this project is to develop an efficient approach to accident investigation based on the concepts of resilience engineering. A second objective is to develop and field test a concrete methodology in a chosen domain of application, and to specify requirements for relevant IT support.

*Suggested plan of research:* The research is proposed to proceed via the following steps: survey common accident investigation practices and recommendations; analyze industry-specific practical needs and constraints; develop the requirements for a resilience-based framework for accident investigation; implement, apply and evaluate the methodology in selected application cases; propose specific IT support tools.

#### **How to submit your application**

Send a CV and a letter of motivation to Eric Rigaud: [Eric.Rigaud@cindy.ensmp.fr](mailto:Eric.Rigaud@cindy.ensmp.fr)

Deadline for applications: 20 July 2007

## General Information

The Ph.D. studies will be carried out at the Pôle Cindyniques located in Sophia Antipolis, France. Additional information about the doctoral education can be found at: <http://www.cindy.ensmp.fr>.

The Industrial Safety Chair is sponsored by École des Mines de Paris, FIMMM, TOTAL, APAVE, GDF, INERIS, MITTAL-ARCELOR, SNCF, AGF and the alumni association of “École des Mines de Paris”.  
[www.cindy.ensmp.fr/ChaireSecuriteIndustrielle](http://www.cindy.ensmp.fr/ChaireSecuriteIndustrielle)

## Events coming up

Please make sure to confirm dates and locations with the respective events' managers.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Sociological Association



Conflict, Citizenship and Civil Society

September 3-6, 2007

Glasgow, UK: [www.esa8thconference.com](http://www.esa8thconference.com)

### Biannual Meeting of the German Geographers



Dealing with risks – Catastrophes, destabilization and security

September 29 – October 5, 2007

Bayreuth, Germany: <http://geographentag-bayreuth.de>

## Program of the Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network Sessions at the 8<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference

Convener: Philip Buckle, Coventry University, UK

Note: Chairpersons are proposed and have to be confirmed and some papers may be moved according to the availability of the authors.

### Session 1: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, 14h – 15h30

#### Room CLIC 4

Chair: Nicholas Petropoulos

1. **Emeritus T-Joseph Scanlon:** *Mass Death and the Loss of Privacy*
2. **Alan Kirschenbaum & Sharon Link:** *Disasters and Social Disruption: A Myth or Reality?*

3. **Kurt Imhof:** *Communication about catastrophes in modern age*
4. **Lindy Newlove-Eriksson:** *The Importance of 'Sheltering-in-Place' and 'Invacuation': Balancing Personal Responsibility, Public Accountability and the Role of Voluntary Organisations in Times of Crises*
5. **Maggie Kusenbach:** *Home, Community, and Disaster in Florida Mobile Home Parks*

### Session 2: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>, 09h – 10h30

#### Room CLIC 4

Chair: T-Joseph Scanlon

1. **Nicholas Petropoulos:** *Justice for Disaster Victims: Comparative Legal Outcomes in Disasters*
2. **Philip Buckle:** *Disaster Risk reduction: Individual, family, household, community and nation*
3. **José Manuel Mendes:** *Hazard management, social vulnerabilities and local governance in Portugal*
4. **Susann Ullberg:** *29A – The making of post disaster politics from within*
5. **Sverre Roed-Larsen:** *Modern accident investigation - six challenges*

### Session 3: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>, 11h – 12h30

#### Room CLIC 4

Chair: Alan Kirschenbaum

1. **Helga Pelizäus-Hoffmeister:** *Changes in Fear as a Social Construct and in Coping Strategies*
2. **José Rodrigues dos Santos:** *Is a general "crisology" possible? The foundations of the concept of "crisis" revisited*
3. **Michael Markwick:** *Deconstructing Invincible Justice*
4. **Eugen Mamontov, Abby Peterson & Nicola Bellomo:** *Managing panic-stricken crowds: The need in quantitative models for social dynamics*
5. **Agnieszka Heller & Piotr Matczak:** *Adaptation options for reducing extreme weather events: measuring social costs and benefits*

### Session 4: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13h30 – 15h

#### Room CLIC 4

Chair: Susann Ullberg

1. **Patrick Chaskiel & Marie-Gabrielle Suraud:** *A Disaster and its Social Aftermath: Dealing with*

2. **Sandrine Revet**: *Natural disaster and “survival community”*
3. **Fatma BelkKumbetoglu**: *Is gender matter in the recovery process after a big Disaster (Duzce earthquake)*
4. **Valérie November, Pascal Viot & Marion Penelas**: *RiskPrint: understanding the spatiality of risks*
5. **Roine Johansson**: *Inter-organizational collaboration in response to crises*

## The D&SCRN Electronic Newsletter

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](http://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, Eduardo Runte ([dscrn.news@gmail.com](mailto:dscrn.news@gmail.com)) 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!

All “signed” texts express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the editor or those of the D&SCRN.

Philip Buckle, D&SCRN Coordinator

Eduardo Runte, E-Newsletter Editor