

Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network Electronic Newsletter

N° 32, October – December, 2007

<http://dscrn.cindy.ensmp.fr/>

Coordinator's Report

Susann Ullberg

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Dear Members and Colleagues of the Disaster and Social Crisis Research Network, yet a year is gone! 2007 gave the network several new members, a great conference in Glasgow, a new Coordinating Committee, a new web page and a new web page manager. I think we can feel very pleased with these achievements. On behalf on the entire network I wish to thank all of you that have contributed to such a productive year!

This doesn't mean we can lean back and relax though. 2007 was again a year full of disasters and crises. A quick retrospective reminds us of the disastrous floods in Indonesia, United Kingdom, Malawi, Uganda, Mexico; the mining accidents in Russia and in China; the destructive forest fires from Greece to California; the school killings in Finland and the United States, the cyclone in Bangladesh; the violent putting down of social protests in Burma, to end 2007 with the assassination of Benazir Bhutto and crisis in Pakistan, and to begin the new year with the political and social crisis in Kenya. Just to mention a few. Our task is to deal with such processes and problems, in theory and in practice.

So, a new year is ahead of us. A lot of hard work to do, but also plenty of interesting new contacts to be made and interesting projects to learn from. We look forward to your contributions to the E-newsletter!

For our network's regard, and as I already mentioned, we have a new web page since last month. It looks just the same, but don't let this fool you – we have a new site at l'École des Mines de Paris as you can tell from the new address: <http://dscrn.cindy.ensmp.fr>. A new design of the web page is due as soon as we have a new

logo, which is something that the members in the Coordinating Committee are working on right now. **We want to extend this “call for logo” to all members of the network though – the more proposals we have, the better! Do send your proposal to our web page manager and newsletter editor, Eduardo Runte, as soon as possible! More details in the Editor's Note below.**

In a wider perspective, there are a number of interesting things coming up within the field of our work. Our own meeting will not be due until September 2009, but meanwhile we have several interesting conferences that will be held this year, of which many will be advertised in our e-newsletter. I will take unscrupulous advantage of my position (!) to flag for a session called *‘Experiencing calamity – expressing the unthinkable’* that I convene with a colleague at the EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists) in Ljubljana in August. Call for papers coming soon! Don't hesitate in sending us information about the conferences you are attending and/or organizing this year!

As for the European Sociological Association (ESA), which is our “mother organization,” the new Executive Committee has (just like us ;-) set up a new web page. I recommend you to take a look at it at www.europeansociology.org although the page is still “work in progress” from what I can see. There is a new Committee for Research Networks with which I have been in contact. We have suggested that the membership procedure for joining ESA be connected to the membership of the research networks, an issue that was raised on our meeting in Glasgow. Hopefully this will in due time be a smoother procedure. **(continues on p. 2)**

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(continued from p. 1) Finally, and back to our network, I wish to give my warmest regards and thanks to Nick Petropoulos who has now handed over (also) the web page management. For those of you members who haven't met Nick, he was a founding member of the D&SCRN and the network's first coordinator. For as long as I have known him he has been one of the most active members in the network. Thanks to his efforts, together with those of senior members such as Maureen Fordham, Murat Balamir, José Rodrigues dos Santos and Philip Buckle, we have reached this point. Read more about the origins of the D&SCRN below, kindly written by Nick after having searched his archives. While Nick is still a member of the CC, and indeed a mentor of both Eduardo and me, he has indeed, after so many years, deserved some rest from the administration of the network.

For the rest of you, hope you will again enjoy the reading and I wish you all the best for this New Year!

Yours sincerely,
Susann

Editor's Note

Eduardo Runte

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This issue of the newsletter covers the period from October to December, 2007. In this issue, you will find what our new members, Dr. Salleh and D. Sakallariou, do. They have both taken the time to tell us about their interests and research projects. I would like to encourage our other members to do the same. These texts, while short, fulfill a role in creating a true network of researchers and practitioners.

You will find a thoughtful article by Col. Monnappa on the role of social workers in disaster management and an inspiring article by Haley Rich and Ilan Kelman about a program in Pueblo, CO, USA, aimed at training school students about emergency management. This article includes plenty of links for anyone interested in replicating this program elsewhere. D&SCRN founding member Nicholas Petropoulos then tells us the history of the founding of the network.

Our member S. Sensarma presents his recently accepted Ph.D. thesis. Congratulations to him on this achievement! Still on the topic of theses, we would like

to congratulate S. Revet, who has published a book based on her research in Venezuela, "Anthropologie d'une catastrophe. Les coulées de boue de 1999 au Venezuela."

This issue also features a list of calls for papers and of upcoming events. If you would like to advertise an event that your organization is planning to host, or if you have heard of an event that might be of interest to our readers, please let me know!

I wish you a good reading, and ask you to consider participating in the future with your own articles and comments.

Finally, I would like to thank the readers who have sent me comments, suggestions, and encouragement. Your support is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Eduardo

D&SCRN Web Manager report (October – December 2007)

Eduardo Runte

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1. **New D&SCRN members.** During the period of October - December our Network acquired two new members: (1) **Dr. Khairulmaini Osman Salleh**, Professor, Department of Geography, Malaysia, (khairulo@um.edu.my), with interests in vulnerability and adaptability studies of traditional communities to climate change hazards; (2) **Mr. Dikaïos Sakellariou**, research student,

(dikaïos.sakellariou@lshtm.ac.uk) with interests in the interaction of vulnerabilities with triggering agents and the social, cultural and political context of disasters. We welcome the new members to our Network and look forward to their contributions to the Network's activities. You will find more about them in this issue of the newsletter under the heading "Our Members". The names, affiliation, disaster interests and full contact details of the new members will be posted on our website, along with the publication of the newsletter.

2. **Transfer of the D&SCRN Webpage Management to Ecole des Mines de Paris.** The website has moved to its new server. Our new address is <http://dscrn.cindy.ensmp/>. Anyone trying to access the old address will be automatically transferred to the new one.

3. **Website make-over.** I am planning a make-over of website before March 2008. I welcome suggestions on how to make our website more useful and relevant to both our members and the general public. In particular, I would like our network to have a logo

– one that conveys our social sciences approach to disasters and social crises. If you have any ideas, please contact me.

Our Members

Khairulmaini O. Salleh

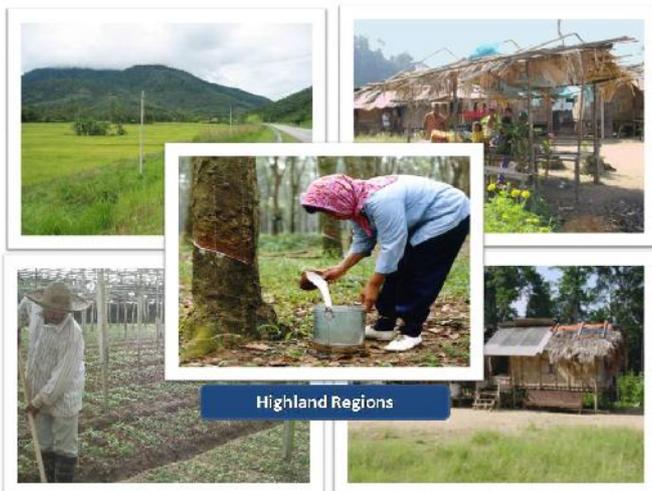
University of Malaysia

khairulo@um.edu.my



Dear All,

I take this pleasure to inform you a bit about my self. My name is Khairulmaini Osman Salleh. I am from Malaysia. I was born in 1956 in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia. My late father Haji Osman Salleh was a teacher and my mother Hajjah Aini Ahmad was a nurse. My schooling years were all done in Port Dickson (Malaysia) and I did my Undergraduate University Education at the University of Malaya. I pursued my Postgraduate Studies at the University of Sheffield under a Government Scholarship. My PhD (conversion) research was on Semi Arid Erosional Systems in Southeast Spain, which was also funded by UNESCO and the University of Sheffield.



Malaysia: Highland regions. By K. O. Salleh.

At the moment I am a Professor of *Physical Geography* at the University of Malaya, the Premier and Oldest University in Malaysia. My research interests are in Fluvial Geomorphology (River Basin Studies), Natural Resources Research and Environmental Hazard Studies, however, of late my research has shifted towards the issues of societal vulnerability to the climate change threats. My present research on this subject is on the

vulnerability and adaptive capacities of low income economic systems for three major geographical regions – the highland regions, urban regions and coastal / island regions of Peninsular Malaysia. I have contributed much to these fields and most of my research findings have been published in International Journals such as *Geoforum* (Pergamon), *Malaysian Journal of Tropical Geography*, *ASIAN Journal of Environmental Management*, *Bulletin of Physical Geography Italiano*, *Indonesian Journal of Geography*, *Netherlands Environmental History*, *Journal of Environmental Sciences China*, *The Jahangnirgar Review* and including numerous contributions in local Journals such as *Akademika*, *Sarjana*, *Jati*, *Malaysia's Encyclopedia on the Environment* and locally published Books. I have also co-edited 2 Books on *Malaysia and Globalization* and *Globalization and the Southeast Asia Region*.



Malaysia: Urban regions. By K. O. Salleh.

At the moment my main research work centers on *Upper Basin Fluvial Regimes, Vulnerability and Adaptability to Climate Change, Disturbed Geomorphological Systems and Local and Regional Environmental Security*. I am involved with a number of major research projects in 2007. These include my research on urban landslides, urban environmental quality and the urban poor, environmental hazards and early warning systems, vulnerability and adaptability of low income economic systems to climate change threats, hydro-electric power catchment information systems, power plant site selection studies and hydro-meteorological changes and economic impacts. I am also involved with the setting up of the University of Malaya's Climate Affairs Center (UMCCA). UMCCA networked and collaborates with a number of foreign agencies to promote research and awareness in *climate affairs* especially that dealing with "early warning systems". My expertise in River Basin Geomorphology has also got me involved with a number of consultation work, amongst these are my work with the National Electricity Board on the setting up of Power Plants. On a personal note I am married to a lovely wife and we

have 4 wonderful children. My wife is Professor Dr Fauza Ab Ghaffar, lecturer in Urban Planning and Regional Development Studies and Head of University of Malaya's Quality Assurance Unit (QAMU).



Malaysia: Coastal & Island Regions. by K. O. Salleh.

The sets of pictures that illustrate this paper describe the distribution of low income economic systems within three major geographical regions – (a) highland regions, (2) urban regions, and the (c) coastal and island regions. These low income communities practice very simple economic systems and are much dictated by the environment. The last decade has witnessed a tremendous increase in their livelihood qualities much to the support and active implementation of Malaysia's development programmes. However, the resilience of these communities to external stress especially environmental stress is within certain threshold boundaries and to this extent they are always a vulnerable community. My present study is to investigate the resilience nature of these communities, their vulnerability indicators and inherent adaptive capacities to increasing threat of climate induced hazards.

Dikaios Sakellariou

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Dear D&SCRN Members,

I am glad to be given the opportunity to introduce

myself to this community of researchers.

I am an occupational therapist by training. After a few years of working in physical rehabilitation and later doing research on sexuality I became interested in the social and political context of health, more specifically in the factors that regulate (distribution of) access to resources such as health services or education. This led to involvement in research projects on community-based rehabilitation and to an exploration of the political context of health and the role of occupational therapy in unstable environments.

Currently I am a research student at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Public and Environmental Health Research Unit and my aim is to explore vulnerability in the context of a fire-hit community in Peloponnisos, Greece. More specifically, I am interested to see how is vulnerability defined and experienced by the community, how it interacts with triggering effects to lead to a disaster, and whether the policies put in place after the disaster address the needs identified by the community. As the project progresses I will be glad to give you more detailed information; for now, I look forward to receiving your feedback, comments and ideas and to many interesting interactions in the coming months and years!

Sincerely,

Dikaios Sakellariou

Writers' Corner

Disaster Management and the Role of a Professional Social Worker, by Lt. Col. K. C. Monnappa*

monaps1@gmail.com



Introduction

Disaster relief is a complicated task that involves emergency and related services. Historically, social workers were involved in disaster relief work (Webster, 1995). However, this was not at the center of social work documentation and research (Streeter and Murty, 1996). Furthermore, disaster intervention is not always part of social work education (Dodds and Nuehring, 1996).

Disasters affect the community at large. Consequently,

human services have to address a variety of needs that emerge from the complex situation, whatever its causes are (Rogge, 1996; Macrae, et. al. 1997; Becker, 1997). Following a disaster, rescue services such as the Armed Forces and NGOs are on the scene almost immediately and provide the specific operations they were trained for. Upon completing their duties, they return to their bases. However, caring for the human outcomes of a disaster only begins. Some of the relief work is done by social workers and therefore should be acknowledged as part of the social work practice and profession.

Dynamics of a Disaster

Disasters occur when they are least expected. At the micro level disasters affect individuals and families. At the macro level they reflect a crisis on a much broader level (Sundet and Mermelstein, 1996). Indeed, following an emergency, a community may need all the professional and non-professional help that it can receive. The more vulnerable the population, the more severe the effects of a disaster on this population might be, (Dufka, 1988, Melick and Logue, 1986, Lystad, 1985, Bolin and Klenow, 1983). Emergencies tend to generate much informal support. Voluntary organizations and private businesses may offer help to the community, however, the question remains as to who should organize, manage and lead the relief operations in and what is the role of professional social workers in this process (Cherry and Cherry, 1996).

Many wish to help. Newburn (1993:60) wrote "close co-operative links need to be established with the voluntary sector... however large the government's resources, it will find very quickly that it cannot take on complete responsibility for the 'care' response to a disaster". Indeed, disasters generate much interest and support. Professionals and lay people may wish to give a hand. Dyregrov (et. al. 1996) discusses the combination of professional and non-professional help provided during disasters, and the different psychological impact on each group of helpers over time.

The question then arises as to who will lead and accept the overall responsibility for managing relief operations. The resource dependency theory highlights the need for inter-organizational coordination and support (Faupel and Kartez, 1996). A central, leading agency should manage any situation.

Social Service Departments: An option?

Hodgkinson and Stewart (1991: 88) claim, "The sharing of information is a key issue that has had to be dealt with during disasters. Police services, experienced in handling exceptional events, could become 'lead' agencies. However, the police have statutory duties to perform in a disaster situation: collecting evidence for future investigation, controlling traffic and crowds, preventing theft, looting etc. The complexity of police duties puts limitations on their ability to assume a

leading role following a disaster. Even under 'community police' principles, a police force can hardly accept responsibility for dealing with victims and families (Manning, 1988).

Disasters are characterized by urgency, uncertainty and panic. They affect everyone, including helpers who are expected to provide immediate relief (Van Duin and Pijnenburg, 1990). The prime responsibility for handling disasters should remain at the local level where the immediate resources and expertise are found (Monnappa, 2003, et al). In large-scale calamities, regional or national (state) agencies will have to assume a leading role in providing resources and managing the complex disaster situation and environment.

Hodgkinson and Stewart (1991:88-89) claim that Social Service Departments (SSDs) can easily become lead agencies following a disaster. The ability to carry out their functions relies on the local staff and management. The assumption is that every SSD is staffed, equipped and trained to accept any local responsibility. Their research findings indicate that the roles of SSDs as lead agencies are to:

- Accept responsibility for providing services;
- Liaise with other agencies;
- Plan what it is they are going to provide;
- Define exactly the type of service that will be offered;
- Establish, promote and monitor the service;
- Provide a clear ending.

While Hodgkinson and Stewart claim that SSDs could provide 'a clear ending' to services, no one can define what such 'endings' mean, where do professional contacts start and terminate. Contacts during an emergency may develop into long-term therapeutic relations, helping the victims and survivors, turning grief into resolution, acceptance and reintegration, thereby necessitating a need for professionals to staff such SSDs.

The question that crops up is what kind of people should staff such SSDs? Professional social work staff, if trained and supervised, should be aware of such emotions and channel them into action (Soliman and Rogge, 2002). A viable choice then is to introduce Social Workers to play a more viable, pivotal and prominent role in such organizations.

Varied Roles of the Professional Social Worker

Most of the social work research done following disasters seems to focus on the traumatic reactions of the victims and the psychological impacts of the trauma involved (Levine 1996, Becker, 1997, McCamish, 1997). Newhill (1989) discussed the nature, principles and social work theory base of psychiatric emergency

work. Psychological stress is an effective incentive to action, (Streeter and Murty, 1996). Boes (1997) suggests a typology for social work intervention in hospital emergency rooms, where injured people are rushed and families follow. Trauma, however, seems to be only one objective for social work intervention. Social workers may be summoned to care, and even accept responsibility for major elements of a disaster relief operation, managed, locally, by various organizations. Newburn, (1993) identified six social work roles as 'having been positive' during emergencies. They include providing information and advice, practical support (e.g. housing, income) and other therapeutic types of intervention including validation, reconstruction, facilitation and mitigation with other agencies. In terms of personal social services, users particularly valued:

- The provision of advice and support at all times;
- Help with validating their feelings or in helping make sense of feelings and emotions;
- Help in piecing together the experience of the disaster;
- The facilitation and encouragement of self-help;
- Help in mitigating serious consequences (Newburn, 1993).

Having a 'lead' role, social workers may have to contact, liaise and coordinate with other local human services. Furthermore, services may have to include:

- Participate in community pre-disaster management committees and encouragement of other social service organizations and citizens to become involved;
- Structure social service organizational management to include an ethical framework for participation in disaster response and recovery activities;
- Review organizational regulations and policies to maximize coherence between the requirements and interests of organizations and survivors;
- Initiate and participate in pre-disaster activity that increases the capacity of public, private, and volunteer organizations to coordinate and collaborate ethically when disasters occur;
- Engage in pre-disaster, interdisciplinary, public, and professional training that addresses ethical approaches to survivors' reactions to disaster, the use of disaster response and recovery periods;
- Intervene through sensitive planning, team building, and community coordination – pre- and post-disaster – through the full spectrum of social work approaches from clinical and direct practice through advocacy, organizing, and organizational administration.

Conclusion

For social workers staffing SSDs and operating under conditions of disaster, ethical responsibility applies. Social service organizations and professionals at local state, national, and international levels must continue to learn from past successes and failures to improve disaster management frameworks, strategies, procedures, and collaborations. With the certain knowledge that new natural and man-made disasters will emerge, our obligation is to think and act, before disasters arrive, to minimize potential harm and to intervene, post-disaster, with maximum efficient, effective, and ethical service, as also to make the profession of Social Work a more dynamic, vibrant and a challenging field so as to attract a wider spectrum of professionals into the realm of Social Work theory and practice. Moreover, schools and departments of Social Work need to rework their curriculum to include Disaster Management/Mitigation as an option and area of specialization.

* Lt Col K. C. Monnappa is a Disaster Mitigation professional. He is an MA in Social Work from the prestigious Delhi University, India. He has published a book on Disaster Preparedness and has been a regular contributor of articles to various professional journals.

Teens Learn to Save Lives – and Do!, by Haley Rich and Ilan Kelman

<http://www.ilankelman.org>

Recent years have witnessed a wonderful expansion of initiatives on youth, education, and disasters. PreventionWeb (Link 1) hosts the Disaster Risk Reduction Education Network and the Children and Youth in Disasters Network. The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has a Knowledge and Education Cluster (Link 2) and is developing a digital library for disaster risk reduction education materials. The ProVention Consortium provides Research and Action Grants for young researchers to undertake disaster-related projects (Link 3).

A program in Pueblo, Colorado, USA has also done impressive work in putting into action these ideas, particularly through educating high school students about emergency management. Initiated and led by one of us (Haley) on an entirely voluntarily basis, a program has been developed and implemented at Pueblo West High School, in Haley's community. Based on the USA's Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs, Link 4) (for a similar program in Turkey see Link 5), she developed Teen SERT (School Emergency Response Training) for teenagers to practice responding to multiple casualty scenarios.

The multiple casualty exercises are held with adults

watching and taking notes and photos. That is, only the teenagers are involved in the incident command and emergency management – and as casualties. So if an emergency happens and no adults can assist, the teenagers have experience of managing the situation without any outside assistance. After each exercise, full debriefings are held with adults.

As a direct result of the first aid training received through the Pueblo West High School's Teen SERT program, ten Pueblo citizens' lives have been saved so far. The additional benefits of the program reveal leadership skills, empowerment, and community dedication for the students involved along with a newfound awareness and respect for first responders and government services. That translates into as simple an action as pulling over to the side of the road when a response vehicle with flashing lights is behind. The positive and proactive impacts of this program reach far beyond the basic preparedness and response training.

On 16 February 2005, Pueblo West High School was presented with two "Outstanding Leadership Awards" by the United States Department of Homeland Security for the efforts to prepare the students for disasters. Youth are the adults of the future. They will be running society, making decisions, and teaching the next generation. By letting them learn and teach disaster risk reduction as part of their

basic education, society will perpetuate its own disaster resilience.

Start your program today!

For further information:

On the program and how to create your own:

<http://www.cert-la.com/links/teensert.htm>

To join the TeenSert email list:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Teen_SERT

A slide show about the program:

<http://www.fliptrack.com/watch/m5yU1XXirl>

For help in creating fake injuries (the art of moulage) see:

<http://www.fliptrack.com/watch/EA6SpiJDFJ>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/20338047@N08/?saved=1>

<http://www.cert-la.com/education/moulage.htm>

Links:

Link 1, PreventionWeb:

<http://groups.preventionweb.net/scripts/wa-PREVENTIONWEB.exe?INDEX>

Link 2, UN ISDR:

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/partner-netw/knowledge-education/knowledge-education.htm>

Link 3, ProVention Consortium:

<http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=41>

Link 4, CERTs:

<https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert>

Link 5, CERT-like program in Turkey:

http://www.ahep.org/ev/egitim5_0e.htm

Contact:

Haley Rich at AllianceforEmpowerment@gmail.com or +1-719-647-2652 (two hours behind New York time)

Ilan Kelman through <http://www.ilankelman.org>

The origins of the Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network, by Nicholas Petropoulos

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The first steps for the establishment of a Network for Disasters in the context of ESA were undertaken during the ISA World Congress of Sociology held in Bielefeld Germany (18-23/7/1994) by Dr. Nicholas Petropoulos who had been a member of the founding ESA Steering Committee and also a member of ISA RC 39. A paper was circulated among members of RC 39 asking for declaration of interest. The paper was signed by colleagues from 9 different countries (Jennifer McKay of Australia, Marco Lombardi of Italy, Mathew Willenius of Finland, Jean Toschenko of Russia, Gevork Pogosian of Armenia, Wolf Dombrowski of Germany, Maxim Kiseler of USA, Joseph Scanlon of Canada and Nick Petropoulos from Greece).

The next step involved the canvassing by letter (6 February 1995) of the RC39 European members who had not attended the Bielefeld ISA meeting with regard to their interest in forming an RN within the context of ESA. Plans were to constitute the Network in the upcoming 2nd ESA conference to be held in Budapest (30 August-2 September 1995). Strong interest in forming an RN was expressed by Bruna De Marchi of Italy, Uriel Rosenthal and Menno van Duin of the Netherlands, Alla V. Mozgovaya of Russia, Örjan Hultåker of Sweden, Kerry Abbot of Israel, and Vildan Akan and Biersen Gokce of Turkey. Information about

the Budapest conference and the intention to constitute the Network was sent to all social scientists who had declared interest in the "Network on Disasters." Unfortunately, none of those who had expressed an interest in the formation of a network was able to come to Budapest. Meanwhile, two more new sociologists (Kkalid Koser of the Netherlands and Agnes Nemeni of Romania) who had attended the Budapest conference expressed interest in forming a Network on Disasters.

Following the abortive attempt to organize the Network at Budapest, a letter, along with a membership application, was sent to all those who until then had expressed interest requesting them to become members of ESA. At the same time, their thoughts were surveyed as to the title and scope of the Network, i.e. whether it should restrict itself to "Natural" and "Technological" disasters (and carry the traditional title, "Research Network on Disasters") or whether it should also include "complex" disasters such as crises and have a more inclusive title (e.g. Research Network on Crises and Disasters). The response was discouraging in both senses. A communication with the ESA Secretariat revealed that only three of those who had expressed interest had become members of ESA. Among those who could not become members, one said that she was already a member of ISA RC39 and could not afford to pay membership fees for two networks. As we needed 10 members from at least three different countries to constitute a network, we could not proceed to a formal application. With regard to the title and scope of the network, two of the colleagues who replied were in favour of the more inclusive title. Among those who replied, Prof. Uriel Rosenthal said: "*We must not confine our interests to mere disasters but expand our mental map to contingencies and crises*", appending at the same time an article to document his arguments.

There followed an announcement in the *European Sociologist* (No. 3, 1995/1996), inviting colleagues with interests in "natural", "technological", and "complex" (conflict) disasters to join the Research Network on Disasters (provisional title). An attempt to have a founding meeting at the 3rd ESA conference in Essex (August 1997) failed due the Dr. Petropoulos' inability to attend the conference. The founding meeting of the Research Network eventually took place at the 4th ESA conference in Amsterdam, where the "Working Group on Disasters" (transitional status of Networks) under the coordination of Dr. Petropoulos, had also organized four sessions on disasters with the participation of 12 sociologists. The **founding members included** (in alphabetical order) Russell Dynes (USA), Anne Eyre (UK), Maureen Fordham (UK), Klaus Hartmann (Germany), Timo Kopomaa (Finland), Nicholas Petropoulos (Greece), Boris Porfiriev (Russia), Yuriy Sayenko (Russia), Hanna Schmuck (Germany), Robert Stallings (USA), Pal Tamas (Hungary), and Vera Vratusa (Yugoslavia).

During the organizational meeting, the founding members adopted the more comprehensive title for the Network (Disaster and Social Crisis Research Network), decided on the purposes of the Network and stipulated the means for achieving these purposes. The founders also decided to operate on a less formal basis, not to charge membership fees for the Network, except for the ESA fees for those who want to become regular members of the Association. A provisional Coordinating Committee, consisting of Nicholas Petropoulos (Greece) as Coordinator and Wolf Dombrowski (Germany), Boris Porfiriev (Russia), Maureen Fordham (UK), Timo Kopomaa (Finland), Robert Stallings (USA) and Vera Vratusa (Yugoslavia) as members, was set up and charged with the submission of the formal membership application to the ESA Executive Committee. In addition, the founders decided to establish a webpage under the management of Maureen Fordham and an Electronic Newsletter under the editorship of Nicholas Petropoulos.

The formal application for recognition as a Research Network, along with a report of activities of the "Working Group on Disasters" during the Amsterdam conference, the composition of the Coordinating Committee, a listing of the 13 founding members, the activities of the network since Amsterdam and the Network's plans, was submitted to the ESA Executive Committee on 22 April 2000 and **formal recognition was granted during the ESA Executive Committee meeting in Prague (28-29 April 2000)**. At the time of formal recognition, the D&SCRN had established its webpage, with host the Anglia Polytechnic University of UK and had also published the first issue of its Electronic Newsletter with the assistance of the Emergencies Research Center of Athens.

Among the more well-known in the field to subscribe to our request to become a RN were Enrico Quarantelli (USA), Russell Dynes (USA), Uriel Rosenthal (Netherlands), Wolf Dombrowski (Germany), Joseph Scanlon (Canada), Bruna de Marchi (Italy) and Boris Porfiriev (Russia), Dennis Wenger (USA), Robert Stallings (USA) and Dorothea Hilhorst (Netherlands) (See above historical account for more scholars).

Previous RN chairs / boards:

Founding Coordinating Committee/Board (Amsterdam, 1999-2001)

- Nicholas Petropoulos (Greece), Coordinator/Editor of E-Newsletter
- Wolf Dombrowski (Germany), Member
- Maureen Fordham (UK), Member and Website Manager
- Timo Kopomaa (Finland), Member
- Boris Porfiriev (Russia), Member

- Robert Stallings (USA), Member
- Vera Vratasa (Yugoslavia), Member

Second Coordinating Committee (Helsinki, 2001-2003)

- Nicholas Petropoulos (Greece), Coordinator and Editor of E-Newsletter
- Murat Balamir (Turkey), Member
- Anne Eyre (UK), Member
- Maureen Fordham (UK), Member and Website Manager
- Elke Geenen (Germany), Member
- Lindy Newlove (Sweden), Member
- Boris Porfiriev (Russia), Member
- Robert Stallings (USA), Member
- Vera Vratasa (Yugoslavia), Member

Third Coordinating Committee (Murcia, 2003-2005)

- Nicholas Petropoulos (Greece), Coordinator and Website Manager
- Murat Balamir (Turkey), Member
- Maureen Fordham (UK), Member
- Dorothea Hilhorst (Netherlands), Member
- Boris Porfiriev (Russia), Member
- Jose Rodrigues dos Santos (Portugal), Member
- Robert Stallings (USA), Member
- Susann Ullberg (Sweden), Member and Editor of E-Newsletter
- Vera Vratasa (Yugoslavia), Member

Fourth Coordinating Committee (Torun, 2005-2007)

- Philip Buckle (Australia/UK), Coordinator
- Graham Marsh (Australia/UK), Deputy Coordinator
- Murat Balamir (Turkey), Member
- Maureen Fordham (UK), Member
- Marek Glogoczowski (Poland), Member
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- Susann Ullberg (Sweden), Member & Manager of the E-Newsletter
- Lindy Newlove-Eriksson (Sweden), Manager of the E-Newsletter Issue 22

Fifth Coordinating Committee (Glasgow, 2007-2009)

- Susann Ullberg (Sweden), Coordinator
- Murat Balamir (Turkey), Member
- Philip Buckle (Australia/UK), Member
- Maureen Fordham (UK), Member
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- Jose Rodrigues dos Santos (Portugal), Member.

Prof. Philip Buckle lectures on Forest Fires in Greece, by N. Petropoulos

Emergencies Research Center, Greece

erc@otenet.gr

On 23 November 2007, Prof. Philip Buckle, former coordinator of D&SCRN, gave two lectures, the first to the faculty and students of the Agricultural University of Athens in the morning and the second to the Graduate Students of the University of Athens' "Prevention and Management of Natural Disasters" Program in the afternoon.

The lectures were organized by Dr. Nicholas Petropoulos, following the destructive rural forest fires in the Peloponnese region during August 2007, in cooperation with Prof. George Migiros of the Mineralogy and Geology Laboratory of the Athens Agricultural University and Prof. Taxiarchis Papadopoulos of the Geology and Environment Department of the University of Athens.

The title of Prof. Buckle's presentation was "Australian disaster management arrangements with special reference to wildfire management: commonalities in risk, vulnerability and capacity with Greece."

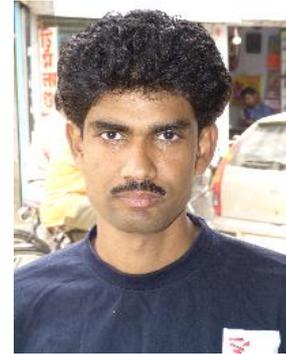
Prof. Buckle's lectures focused on:

- The international Disaster Risk Reduction agenda (and its applicability to Australia and Europe);
- The Australian disaster management arrangements with particular respect to wildfires;
- The emerging issues in fire management and public safety in Australia (but with some reference to possible parallels in Greece);
- The organizational and community vulnerability and capacity, and;
- The commonalities and parallels between Greece and Australia and ways in which knowledge and skills can be exchanged.

The lectures were accompanied by lively discussions in both academic institutions and suggestions for possible research cooperation. Prof. Buckle and Dr. Petropoulos are exploring funding possibilities for doing comparative field research on the recovery and reconstruction processes following forest fires. They are willing to expand the research team to include colleagues from other EU countries victimized by forest fires during the summer of 2007.

Suman R. Sensarma

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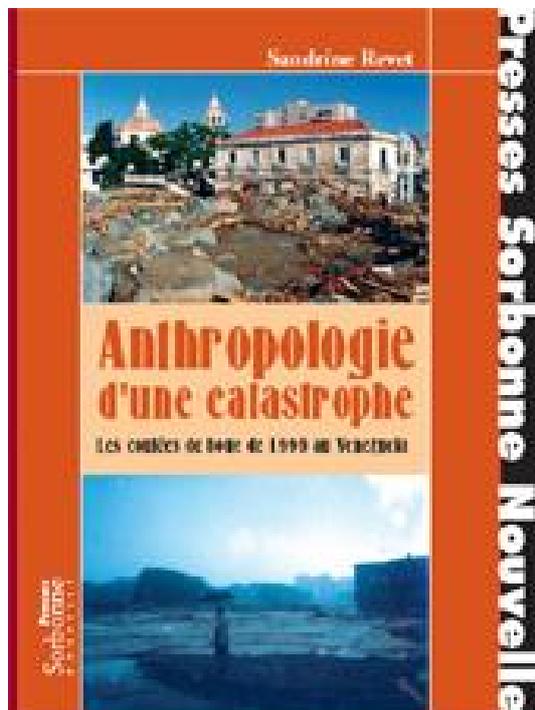


Articles, Books, Theses...

Sandrine Revet

Sandrine.revet@free.fr

Anthropologie d'une catastrophe. Les coulées de boue de 1999 au Venezuela



Published in 2007, by Presse Sorbonne Nouvelle, France. Language: French.

Le 15 décembre 1999, de puissantes inondations s'abattent sur le Venezuela. Elles provoquent des coulées de boue meurtrières. À partir d'une enquête ethnographique qui débute quelques mois après l'événement et se poursuit jusqu'en 2005, cet ouvrage porte un regard anthropologique sur cette catastrophe « naturelle » : il s'agit de comprendre comment un ensemble de phénomènes physiques devient un événement social : La Tragedia.

Modeling and analysis of the process of resolving regional conflicts under disaster and development risks: case studies from Japan and India

Ph.D. thesis. Department of Urban Management, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University, Japan. Supervisor: Prof. Norio Okada. 2007.

Abstract

This research has primarily focused on the different process of conflict resolution related to disaster and development, and has proposed a methodology for analyzing and examining policy implications for multi-stakeholder interactive decision making in three case study areas, one from India, and other two from Japan. Different regional conflicts have been modeled in the strategic and dilemmatic perspectives.

It has been shown that combining GMCR (Graph Model for Conflict Resolution, a game theoretic approach) and Drama theory (a dilemma analysis approach) can provide a comprehensive picture of the conflict resolution process. The fundamental principle of the Graph Model methodology is that all players have some feasible states, and that their moves are determined by a fixed set of preferences. Within this set of options and preferences players reach in different equilibria. They cannot change their preferences during the game, because it is against the rules of the game. On the other hand, Drama theory comes up with a new notion where players (characters) no longer accept the set of preferences as fixed. Characters communicate and redefine their game in terms of either changing their strategy or trying to change opponents' options and preferences. Emotion plays a vital role to deconstruct a player's subjective reality in their objective frame. Drama theory gives more focus on a player's emotion-involved behavioral aspects of interactions in a dynamic process. This also emphasizes that such a perspective future can be created cooperatively by a group, rather than placing emphasis on conflict. This is the fundamental aspect of drama theory. GMCR based modeling is taken as a base of this research. The different equilibrium concepts give different strategies to resolve the conflict. GMCR can give an indication of

which equilibrium apparently has been reached. Drama theory gives more focus on the player's position in the conflict which is somewhat neglected in the GMCR analysis. Positions are what characters (players) are demanding, not just what they are prepared to accept (Bryant, 2006).

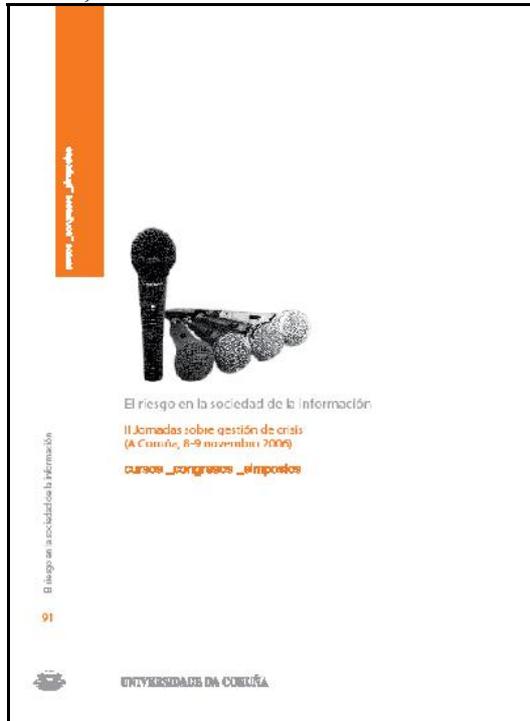
These two models are used in a complementary way. The elimination of each dilemma may require a different tactics. The game theoretic orientation of strategic moves gives insight to drama theory to redefine the character's (players) positions in respect to threats and promises to achieve collaboration in a dynamic process. Furthermore, drama theory can also capture the creeping metaphases of the conflict. Combining GMCR and drama theory approaches is intended to bring an effective methodological leverage in this thesis.

This research provided a framework to analyze player empowerment in the process of conflict resolution, given a real social conflict in India. Theoretical procedures are developed to distinguish the actors and players in a strategic conflict. The conventional game theory implicitly assumes players to be complete in terms of three capacities i.e., representability, knowledge, and executability. However, in the real world players are not always complete players. Depending on the extent to which these capacities are fulfilled by the players, we propose to systematically categorize the capacity status of a player, e.g., 'null player,' 'intermediate player' and 'complete player' in a game. The concepts of representability, knowledge and executability are defined in the game. This research examines the transformation process of stakeholders to become empowered by other actors and grow into a complete player during a game. Thus a game theoretic approach is used to examine how the players' status affects the structure of the game and subsequently their strategic choices. To demonstrate this concept, first this idea is elaborated by illustrating the potential implications behind the standard and modified forms of Battle of Sexes (BOS) game by use of GMCR (Graph Model for Conflict Resolution), a game theoretic approach to conflict analysis. To illustrate this approach, a case study is presented: a real-world social conflict in the Rajaji National Park in India is modeled and the process of player empowerment is systematically analyzed and interpreted by GMCR. The formation of preferences and player's strategies is modeled in a game theoretic form in conjunction with a social network approach. It has also shown that more attention has to be paid to this kind of social network approach, and its strategy evolution in a game theoretic domain. Thus this chapter has contributed to enhancing awareness producing a prototype method for highlighting this unexplored line of research.

This research has also concentrated on analyzing player's strategic and behavioral aspects by using the combined GMCR and Drama theory methodologies in the Chizu-Ichinose community (Japan) disaster mitigation conflict which is seemingly resolved and then escalated. A combined approach is employed to understand the evolution of this conflict in a strategic and dilemmatic way. GMCR, a game theoretic approach provides a range of solution concepts under different strategic conditions. On the other hand, drama theory shows how the confrontation evolved over time and the characters engage in confrontation and keep changing their positions, preferences and perceptions through interactions with others. In the case of Chizu-Ichinose community disaster risk management conflict, the dilemma arises suddenly within a limited time to act strategically. The combined methodology of conflict analysis is used to systematically describe the process of structural change of this conflict which is already escalated. To look at the whole picture it is necessary to bring an integrated framework to systematically analyze this type of long-term conflict resolution process. For this purpose, the IRGC (International Risk Governance Council) framework is presented, consisting of the cyclic process of pre-assessment, risk appraisal, tolerability, and acceptability and risk management.

The last case study analysis intends to bring the new perspective of conflict and cooperation analysis in the Yoshino river weir conflict combining game theoretic and drama theoretic approaches. The modeling and analysis of this case study shows how conflict can be resolved giving more emphasis on cooperation. In the case of Yoshino river weir conflict, it is shown how the characters (players) are in a continuous process of (de)construction of their socially perceived reality in terms of changing their stands, beliefs and preferences. Finally, this research refers to the needs for further extensions in the field of modeling and analysis of conflicts.

**Ruano Gómez, Juan de Dios (Dir.) [2007]:
*Risk in the information society: II Conference on
Crisis Management,*
A Coruña, Publications Service of the University**



This book contains the lectures presented at the II Conference on Crisis Management held in November 2006 at the Faculty of Sociology, University de A Coruña. The presentations included theoretical, empirical and operational reflections in the area of communication in risk situations and in disasters. The conference underscores the importance of Sociology and of the Communication Sciences in the study of crisis management.

Among the critical developments studied are the terrorist attacks of March 11, 2004 in Madrid; risk communication by climate change; and the treatment of information made during the avian flu crisis. The results of empirical research carried out in connection with the Prestige disaster and with the mad cow crisis have also been presented.

Among the highlights of the conference are the theoretical contributions in the field of the catastrophes: from the natural to the virtual passing through the technological catastrophes and media catastrophes. Finally, in the operational area of crisis management, it demonstrated that mainstream radio media used certain narration patterns in the treatment information about the attacks on 11-M in Madrid, as well as the difference between information about disasters and communication about crisis.

Upcoming Events

2008 Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society

March 27 – 30, 2008

St. Louis, Missouri

The 2008 Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, March 27 – 30, will feature a session entitled "Bridging Communities: Hazards, Disasters, and the Public." Additional information about sessions and the annual meeting is available from the Midwest Sociological Society web site: <http://www.themss.org/>. All monetary costs of participating in this annual meeting are the sole responsibility of the individual presenters.

24th EGOS Colloquium

July 10 – 12, 2008

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The 24th EGOS Colloquium, to be held in **Amsterdam, July 10-12, 2008** will feature a session on risk and risk management. For more information, please have a look at the website:

http://egosnet.org/conferences/collo24/sub_29.shtml

Calls for papers

3rd Symposium on Resilience Engineering

October 28 – 30, 2008

Cannes, France

History: The first Resilience Engineering Symposium was held in Söderköping, Sweden, on October 25-29 2004. The second Resilience Engineering Symposium was held in Juan-les-Pins, France, on November 8-10 2006. In recognition of the continued and growing interest for resilience engineering, a third symposium will be organized on the Cote d'Azur, France, on October 28-30, 2008.

Scope: The term Resilience Engineering represents a new way of thinking about safety. Whereas established risk management approaches are based on hindsight and emphasise error tabulation and calculation of failure probabilities, Resilience Engineering looks for ways to enhance the ability of organizations to create processes that are robust yet flexible, to monitor and revise risk models, and to use resources proactively in the face of disruptions or ongoing production and economic pressures. In Resilience Engineering failures do not stand for a breakdown or malfunctioning of normal system functions, but rather represent the converse of the adaptations necessary to cope with the real world complexity. Individuals and organizations must always

adjust their performance to the current conditions; and because resources and time are finite it is inevitable that such adjustments are approximate. Success has been ascribed to the ability of groups, individuals, and organizations to anticipate the changing shape of risk before damage occurs; failure is simply the temporary or permanent absence of that.

Topics: Papers are solicited that address central issues for Resilience Engineering, such as:

- How people and organizations can learn and remain sensitive to the possibility for failure;
- Model-based measures of resilience and / or performance indicators;
- Analyses of the unanticipated consequences of change - how improvements can create new paths to failure;
- The impact of misunderstandings and overconfidence in safety and risk management;
- Description of the trade-offs and adjustments people and organisations habitually make to cope with the complexity of their working environment;
- Practical examples and/or field studies of resilience - or the spectacular lack thereof;
- The relation between resilience and quality management (e.g., Kaizen);
- Organisational safety and enterprise resilience;
- How to understand and manage financial crises.

Important dates: Important dates. Deadline for submission of extended abstracts (1-2 A4 pages): *March 28, 2008*. Review outcome and feedback: *June 20, 2008*. Final submission of papers: *September, 12 2008*.

Sponsors: The meeting will be organised and supported by the Industrial Safety Chair of Ecole des Mines. The chair is financed by FIMMM, TOTAL, APAVE, GDF, INERIS, ARCELOR, SNCF, AGF and the Alumni Association of École des Mines de Paris.

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- Eric Rigaud, LOC Chair
- Josephine Speziali, Paper submissions & review
- Luigi Macchi, Proceedings
- Eduardo Runte, Registrations and queries
- Denis Besnard, LOC member at large
- Damien Fabre, LOC member at large
- François Pieri, LOC member at large

Point of contact

symposium@resilience-engineering.org

Look for updates at

www.resilience-engineering.org

XVII World Congress of Sociology

July 11 – 17, 2010

Gothenburg, Sweden

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) and Lori Peek at Colorado State University in Fort Collins in the USA (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.

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 webpage: <http://dscrn.cindy.ensmp.fr/>.

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) 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.

Susann Ullberg, D&SCRN Coordinator

Eduardo Runte, E-Newsletter Editor