

# Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network Electronic Newsletter

Nº. 33, January – March, 2008

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

## Coordinator's Report

**Susann Ullberg**

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Dear D&SCRN members and colleagues, spring is approaching Stockholm and so is this year's first issue of the newsletter! We are all in the midst of hard work at the universities, in various governmental and non-governmental institutions and in other places. Although we all have the ambition to engage in each others work and exchange experiences (which is indeed one of the purposes of the network and of this newsletter), work (over)load and everyday responsibilities makes such encounters just too rare. Given this frame, it was all the more pleasant for me to have our former Coordinator Philip Buckle visiting Stockholm from Coventry (UK) for a couple of days in February. In those few days we both had the opportunity to hear more about each others work in this field of study of disasters and crises, and to exchange experiences about institutional and political realities between the UK and Sweden. I had the particular pleasure of introducing to Philip more closely to the work of my colleagues at the National Center for Crisis Management Research and Training (CRISMART). Coincidentally you will all have the same opportunity in this newsletter through the presentation of CRISMART written by my colleague and our CC member Lindy Newlove-Eriksson. As a result of Philip's visit I came to reflect more about national realities in an increasingly transnational world. With the Hyogo framework in mind, different countries have different possibilities and constraints to develop platforms for disaster prevention and mitigation. It is of course also in the end a matter of political priorities. As for the case of Sweden, the government has just recently presented a bill to the parliament (2007/08:92) proposing the creation of a new central authority for

society's security and preparedness in the event of crisis. Three already existing agencies for emergencies and crisis management are basically put together into one in order to make appropriate decisions more efficient. This proposal is intimately connected to the establishment of a standing Crisis Management Centre within the Government Offices that has just taken office. This office is thought to enhance awareness, assemble and coordinate information and analyses, initiate inter-ministerial coordination and support decision-making during crises. Specifically, the office should identify and advise on relevant measures both within the Government Offices and in the interplay between ministries and authorities. This new organization of disaster and crisis politics in Sweden is indeed a product of many processes, both at the national and the international level, of which the lessons from the Tsunami relief operation was just one. It will of course take some time to see the results of the reform and it is yet too early to speculate what this will mean for the management of different disasters to come. Paradoxically enough in this business, the more efficient, the less visible – the prevention and/or mitigation of disasters, as we know, don't generate any headlines in the media. These are recent developments in Sweden, but what of the rest of Europe, of the rest of the world? What is happening in this area in the regions and countries where you work and/or do research? Let us hear more about it! This is what the newsletter is for; to learn from each other. Enjoy the reading!

Yours sincerely,

Susann

### Contents

Coordinator's Report.....	1
Editor's Note.....	2
D&SCRN Web Manager report (January – March 2008).....	2
Our Members.....	3
Writers' Corner.....	4
Research Centers.....	5
Upcoming Events.....	7
The D&SCRN Electronic Newsletter.....	8

**Eduardo Runte**

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Dear D&SCRN members and colleagues,

This is 2008's first issue of our newsletter. In the section "Our Members", you will find what some of our members are up to – what projects they are working on, what their recent publications are, etc. The "Writers' Corner" features an article by Ilan Kelman on UN's *Many Strong Voices* initiative, and in the brand new "Research Centers" section, Lindy Newlove-Eriksson tells you what Sweden's CRISMART is all about.

In the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a dengue fever crisis rages on. As City, State and Federal governments fight to deflect blame, the disease continues to cause victims. At the time of writing, more than 50 people have died. In the State of Rio de Janeiro, the victims are almost a hundred. Over 90,000 cases have been registered this year alone.

An interesting fact is that Brazil had succeeded in eradicating the disease, and few cases were registered between 1950 and 1980. The comeback of the disease has been linked to cutbacks in prevention initiatives. In my view, this poses a somewhat disturbing question: was the past success of that country's prevention programs at least partially responsible for the recent epidemic?

Organizations often use "lagging indicators" to define their strategies. To put it simply, lagging indicators tabulate past events (number of failures, number of deaths, etc.). Such indicators have an obvious advantage: they are easy both to implement and to maintain. The disadvantage, that many seem to forget, is that they refer only to what already happened. It is not difficult to imagine that decision-makers, looking at the low numbers of dengue victims in the past, began to question the need for investments in prevention. Indeed, how does one justify spending resources to prevent something that, after all, has not happened in a long time? This is certainly an issue that troubles all of those whose responsibility is to prevent or respond to crises.

It seems to me that research on decision-making should not limit itself to the decisions made (or not made) in time of crisis, but also on the processes of decision making that take place "when nothing is going on." But not only that, an effort should be made in the translation of research findings into practical advice for actual decision-makers.

The D&SCRN is a network of researchers and practitioners, and this newsletter is our medium to discuss ideas and projects. We look forward to knowing more about what you do, what your interests are, and what is happening where you live.

Sincerely,

Eduardo

## D&SCRN Web Manager report (January – March 2008)

**Eduardo Runte**

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- 1. New members.** In the period between January and March 2008, the network grew a little bit. Please join me in welcoming our new members: (1) Setio Budi, Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta, Indonesia, ([setiohh@mail.uajy.ac.id](mailto:setiohh@mail.uajy.ac.id)), with interests in crisis management, crisis communication in corporations and disaster management; (2) Xiaoli Lu, Leiden University, The Netherlands, ([Xlu@fsw.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:Xlu@fsw.leidenuniv.nl)), with interests in evacuation, decision making, and managing uncertainty; (3) Želimir Kešetović, University of Belgrade, Serbia, ([zkesetovic@yahoo.com](mailto:zkesetovic@yahoo.com)), with interests in crisis communications, crisis decision making, protection of critical infrastructures; (4) Cecile Quesada, France ([cequesada@free.fr](mailto:cequesada@free.fr)), currently working on the knowledge, representations and practices concerning volcanic risk and eruptions in the Pacific (Kingdom of Tonga), and studying the interactions between local populations and the agents that promote prevention and management policies among them, and the cultural causes of the failure of most of the natural disasters prevention projects.
- 2. Website.** You can visit our website at <http://dscrn.cindy.ensmp.fr>. The newsletter and information about our new members will be soon available online.

## Our Members

### Xiaoli Lu

Crisis Research Centre, Leiden University  
(The Netherlands)

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Dear D&SCRN Members,

It is my pleasure to introduce myself to all of researchers in this community. I am a Ph.D. researcher in the Crisis Research Centre at Leiden University's Department of Public Administration. My current research focuses on dealing with uncertainties in hurricane evacuation decision making. When a hurricane threatens a community, some emergency managers give orders to evacuate which later turns out to be unnecessary (i.e. the hurricane doesn't strike) whereas others prefer to take the risk in face of the coming hurricane. My research explores how various kinds of uncertainty constrain decision making by government officials. Comparative cases from China and the United States will be included in this research. In addition, I am particularly interested in case studies of Chinese crises and have collected some materials since 2005, for example of the Songhua River pollution crisis, the Chongqing Carrefour stampede crisis, and the snow crisis in the southern 12 provinces in China.

I have an interdisciplinary master of science in management and civil engineering and an undergraduate degree in civil engineering management from Harbin Institute of Technology (China). The most important reason that I would like to join D&SCRN is that I am interested in crisis and disaster research and practice. I hope to share my research with others and hear and communicate about other people's research and similar interests through this network.

Sincerely,

Xiaoli Lu

### Joe Scanlon

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(Canada)

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Plans are now well underway for the disaster sessions at the World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden, July 11-17, 2010. Sessions are being planned on vulnerable groups in society, theory, disasters and the environment, African scholarship and other topics. But proposals for other sessions are welcome as are proposals for specific papers on any relevant topic. Anyone interested should contact Joseph Scanlon ([jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca](mailto:jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca)) or Lori Peek ([lori.peek@colostate.edu](mailto:lori.peek@colostate.edu)). They are co-chairs of the sessions organized by the International Research Committee on Disasters (IRCD). Participants who wish to present a paper will have to join the ISA but are advised the registration fee for the Congress is significant lower for members. There is a possibility special pre-Congress seminar will be held in Stockholm but plans are not yet complete. To avoid misunderstandings, it should be made clear that while the IRCD has found the ISA World Congress useful for its meetings every four years many IRCD members and many Congress participants are not Sociologists.

The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami led to a great deal of research on the handling of the dead after a disaster, a topic that has been largely neglected in the past. Working under the direction of Dr. Hank Fischer of Millersville University, Joseph Scanlon reviewed the response to Thailand and Sri Lanka from Israel, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the UK, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. This result is a series of articles about various aspects of the handling of the tsunami dead:

Scanlon, Joseph (2007) "Convergence Unlimited: overloaded call centres and the Indian Ocean tsunami" *International Journal of Emergency Management* Vol. 4 No. 2 pp: 211-238

Scanlon, Joseph (2006) "Identifying the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami: The role of the private sector" *Journal of Business Continuity and Emergency Planning* Vol. 1. No. 3 pp: 1-12

Scanlon, Joseph (2006) "Dealing with the Tsunami dead: unprecedented international co-operation" *The Australian Journal of Emergency Management* Vol. 21 No. 2 (May) pp: 57-61

Scanlon, Joseph (2006) "Inside an international crisis How first responders combined forces in Thailand and Sri Lanka" *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gazette* Vol. 68 No. 2 pp: 24-25

Scanlon, Joseph (2006) "Dealing with Foreign Dead: An Evolution of Mass Casualty Identification" *Natural Hazards Observer* Vol. XXX No. 5 (May) pp: 10-11



Scanlon, Joseph (2005) "Scandinavia's Key Role in the Handling of the Tsunami Dead" *Scandinavian Journal of Forensic Science* Vol. 11 no. 2 pp: 40-41

Scanlon and two of his researchers were struck by the similarity to many of the problems of dealing with the dead during a pandemic.

Scanlon, Joseph, Terry McMahon and Coen van Haastert (2007) "Handling Mass Death by Integrating the Management of Disasters and Pandemics: Lessons from the Indian Ocean Tsunami, the Spanish Flu and Other Incidents" *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management* Vol. 15 No. 2 (June) pp: 80-94.

### Naim Kapucu

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D&SCRN member Dr. Naim Kapucu has been promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Central Florida in the Department of Public Administration.

He established an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program on Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The program officially starts in summer 2008. More information about the program can be found at [http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/pubadm/emergency\\_management2.cfm](http://www.cohpa.ucf.edu/pubadm/emergency_management2.cfm).

Below are his most recent publications on disaster and crises management are listed below:

Kapucu, Naim, Maria-Elena Augustin and Vener Garayev. (2008). "Interstate Partnerships in Emergency Management: Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) in Response to Catastrophic Disasters," *Public Administration Review*. Forthcoming.

Matthew L. Collins and Kapucu, Naim. (2008). "Early Warning Systems and Disaster Preparedness and Response in Local Government," *Disaster Prevention and Management*. Forthcoming.

Kapucu, Naim. (2008). "Collaborative emergency management: Better community organizing, better public preparedness and response," *Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy, and Management*. Forthcoming.

Kapucu, Naim. (2008). "Planning for Disasters and Responding to Catastrophes: Error of the Third Type in Disaster Policy and Planning," *International Journal of Public Policy*. Forthcoming.

Kapucu, Naim. (2008). "Culture of Preparedness: Household Disaster Preparedness," *Disaster Prevention and Management: An International Journal*. Forthcoming.

Shawn (XiaoHu) Wang and Kapucu, Naim. (2008). "Public Complacency under Repeated Emergency Threats: Some Empirical Evidence," *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (JPART)* Volume 18(1):57-78.

Kapucu, Naim. Wendell Lawther, and Sommer Pattison. (2007). "Logistics and Staging Areas in Managing Disasters and Emergencies," *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*. Volume 4(2): Article 4 (pg. 1-18).

Kapucu, Naim. (2007). "Emergency Logistics Planning and Disaster Preparedness," *The Journal of Emergency Management*. Volume 4(6): 21-24.

Current information about Dr. Naim kapucu can be found in his personal webpage at <http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~nkapucu>.

### Writers' Corner

**Many Strong Voices against the climate change crisis, by Ilan Kelman, Jennifer West, Lars Otoo Næss and Grete K. Hovelsrud**

Contact Ilan through <http://ilankelman.org>

As climate change continues to take a toll on communities, new and creative efforts are also continuing to determine how to deal with this long-term disaster and its spin-off effects. One project, Many Strong Voices <http://www.manystrongvoices.org>, joins communities from around the arctic and from the 51 Small Island Developing States (SIDS; <http://www.sidsnet.org>) in recognition of the similar vulnerabilities to climate change which both regions experience.

Many Strong Voices, launched in December 2005 by the United Nations Environment Programme, brings together arctic and SIDS participants to share and enhance knowledge and expertise about, and to collaboratively devise strategic solutions to, climate change challenges. Those involved include international organisations, government agencies, non-governmental organisations, indigenous peoples' organisations, research institutes, communities, and individuals whose livelihoods are strongly tied to sustainable management of natural resources.

The programme's aims are to:

- Assist in strengthening these regions' role in negotiations on greenhouse gases and on climate change adaptation.
- Design a comprehensive climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessment across the SIDS.
- Raise awareness about the effects of climate change on vulnerable regions.
- Increase understanding of needs and solutions.
- Motivate action on addressing and preventing climate change's adverse impacts.



*Building a sea wall on western Tongatapu, Tonga: An appropriate or inappropriate adaptation strategy? (by Ilan Kelman)*

The focus is catalysing local action across the arctic and the SIDS, recognising the important and complementary contributions of sound research, outreach, and lobbying. While external and top-down interventions and exchanges are useful for supporting local action, the most effective manner of reducing vulnerability and living with climate change is through community-based initiatives. Many Strong Voices provides the inspiration, impetus, and opportunity to build and maintain community-based processes related to climate change which are solidly based on sustainability principles, policies, and practices.

Throughout, one important theme has been recognising that climate change is just one challenge and opportunity amongst many others facing these regions. Other ongoing concerns include rapid rural-to-urban migration, population growth, the potential loss of languages and cultures through emigration, gender and minority inequities, manipulation by and dependence on rich governments and corporations, and degradation of natural resources.



*Pangaimotu island on Tonga (by Ilan Kelman).*

These multiple stressors must be considered simultaneously to ensure that tackling one problem, such as climate change, does not create or exacerbate other problems emerging from the myriad of social and environmental crises that challenge these communities. Dealing with climate change should contribute to addressing these other issues and vice versa.

With such comprehensiveness, cooperation, and exchange, Many Strong Voices will be heard, leading to action locally and globally for positive change.

## Research Centers

### CRISMART

**By Linda Newlove-Eriksson**

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CRISMART - the National Center for Crisis Management Research and Training located at the Swedish National Defence College in Stockholm - shares many a common interest with the D&SCRN. CRISMART, originally conceived of as a fairly modest research project focusing on and fostering cooperation in the area of crisis management within the Baltic Sea region, has flourished just over a decade later into not only an esteemed interdisciplinary and international center of research, but into a merited training and analytic institute as well. Boasting over 150 case studies of Swedish and

international character examining decision making in crises, the CRISMART case bank provides empirically grounded resources for the training exercises conducted by the competent team of researchers and analysts. By identifying and analyzing the decision-making occasions of a crisis, CRISMART generates a number of 'lessons learned' that are used to help organizations deepen their understanding of crisis preparedness and strengthen their crisis response capabilities. In order to do this, CRISMART employs a number of scientific techniques: namely, research, analytical support and educational services.

CRISMART's research focuses on how an organization prepares itself prior to a crisis, makes decisions and communicates during one, and eventually draws lessons from and makes changes in the aftermath of a crisis. CRISMART studies domestic and foreign crises that have their origins in natural disasters, contagious diseases, large-scale accidents and infrastructure disturbances, conflicts, acts of terrorism, riots, political scandals, and other types of extraordinary events. These experiences are then documented, analyzed, and compiled into a case bank, which enables comparative crisis management research. CRISMART has built a solid academic foundation by constantly improving research methods, utilizing multi-disciplinary studies, supporting crisis management research in other countries, and strengthening international cooperation. This has been achieved by establishing good working relationships with several universities, research institutions and centers of excellence in Sweden and throughout the world. Last year, the *Politics of Crisis Management: Public Leadership Under Pressure* (Cambridge 2005), authored by CRISMART Director Eric K. Stern, founding CRISMART Director Bengt Sundelius, Paul t' Hart and Arjen Boin, was awarded the 2007 Herbert A Simon Award by the American Political Science Association (APSA) for Distinguished Contributions to the Study of Public Administration.

A core staff of 20 and a comparably sized group of closely aligned partners, the majority holding social science PhDs or nearing doctoral completion, comprise the qualified CRISMART team. The interdisciplinary nature of the center is reflected in competencies held by staff in the fields of political science, political and cognitive psychology, international relations, media and communication studies, public administration, anthropology, sociology, international education and pedagogical studies, law and criminology. Several of CRISMART's researchers and analysts have previous experience within the Swedish public sector at

government authorities, the chancellery and ministries, county boards and at the municipal level. Moreover, several of CRISMART's personnel have strong military backgrounds, an asset to training exercises and teaching to which CRISMART regularly contributes at the defence college. Many staff members also have international work experience, for example within the United Nations. With a foundation of general knowledge in crisis management, CRISMART staff members have become specialized within specific areas of interest. From being more oriented on problems surrounding the acute phase of crisis management, CRISMART research has also become focused on that which happens before the outbreak of crisis, studying aspects such as preparedness and organizational learning. Other specialized fields of research are cooperation between various actors and levels of authority, the role of media in a crisis, as well as the European Union's growing crisis management capacity.

From its very inception – and indeed initial design – roots to which the center has moreover remained true, CRISMART has strived at building bridges between academic and practitioner communities in the field of crisis preparedness and management. Ongoing collaboration with and support from the Swedish Emergency Management Agency, SEMA, has been an integral part of the research center in its aims to improve crisis preparedness and management in Sweden and abroad. As CRISMART Director, Dr. Eric K. Stern points out, preparing for, coping with, and learning from crises are extremely challenging tasks. Improving society's preparedness requires knowledge-based partnerships between those who study crises and those who have the unenviable responsibility for managing them. We must learn from experience, while keeping an eye on a rapidly changing future. We must learn not only from the crises which occur in our own countries but also from those affecting our neighbors. We must systematically learn from and teach others if our governments and our societies are to become better prepared for the challenges to come. Stern, as other engaged scholars in the field have also pointed out, believes that the social sciences have much to contribute to the political and practitioner communities. Indeed, a social science engaged and contributing to the management of vital policy issues remains at the heart of CRISMART's endeavors. Following in the tradition of the inspirational late Alexander George, CRISMART strives to demonstrate that it is possible to maintain the highest standards of academic excellence and scholarly integrity while engaging in critical dialogue with and contributing to improving

the practice of policymaking.

In addition to its ongoing collaboration with SEMA, CRISMART works with a number of central partners in Sweden and abroad, in both a research and training capacity. For example, last year CRISMART assisted in the large scale Swedish exercise, SAMÖ, an exercise designed to prepare national, regional and local authorities for management of a major crisis. The exercise involved multi-agency response to a fictive terrorist attack on the public transportation system of Stockholm. CRISMART was responsible for evaluating the performance of the Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA) both in terms of their planning of the exercise and during the execution of it, as well as general evaluation of the entire exercise. Together with the NOC – the National Centre for Learning from Accidents and Incidents at the SRSA and SEMA, CRISMART is organising the upcoming conference: “Learning from Crises and Major Accidents” which will be held on 12 May. In keeping with CRISMART’s mission, the objective of the conference is to support and improve crisis preparedness on the local, regional and national levels. A recent example of CRISMART activity on an international level, and in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy, is a three-day seminar with two tabletop exercises on the topic of “Crisis Management and Terrorism: Enhancing Organizational Reliability”. Held last month in Kramfors, the seminar was attended by over 30 practitioner participants and 10 lecturers from Europe and the United States specializing in a number of fields, including terrorist threats, threat politics, intelligence, planning, crisis coordination, toxicology, as well as post-incident evaluation and reform.

One of CRISMART’s key work areas is the provision of qualified analytical support to organizations seeking to produce crisis management studies, evaluations on crisis exercises, and courses in crisis management. Depending on the needs and demands of an organization, CRISMART analysts study an organization’s internal decision-making processes, crisis planning, coordinating resources during a crisis, crisis communication and the media, crisis cooperation, risk assessments, and a number of other central factors which have an impact on an organization’s crisis preparedness and crisis capabilities. Analytical support is designed to meet the level of ambition and approach desired and can range from ensuring the quality of internal reports to a complete analysis of an organization’s crisis management capability or a country’s entire crisis management system. Analytical support helps facilitate a fruitful dialogue between crisis researchers and practitioners working directly with crisis

preparedness and contributes to increasing an organization’s competencies in relation to crises. A distinguishing feature of CRISMART’s analytical support is the combination of experience-based and research-based knowledge. Extensive knowledge on the various aspects of crisis management as well as significant experience and a good understanding of utilizing well-established analytical methods, which are anchored in national and international empirical crisis experiences, are brought to bear.

CRISMART’s approach to training and crisis management education emphasizes the importance of both theoretical and practical knowledge. Theory provides a solid foundation for developing good routines, and practical knowledge helps make decision makers aware of the potential aspects of a crisis so they are prepared to manage them. Aligned with CRISMART’s bridge-building premises, courses and exercises are designed to stimulate dialogue between researchers and practitioners. Learning is an ongoing process, not something that is simply created on one single occasion. Therefore, it is important to provide the conditions for a learning environment, where educational activities and in-service training occur on a regular basis. Training provides valuable insights into the elements of stress and uncertainty which decision makers at all levels are faced with during crisis situations. Furthermore, training opportunities enable different strategies and skills for decision making, leadership, stress management and crisis communication to be tested and developed in a ‘safe and forgiving environment.’ By complementing the more traditional teaching methods such as courses and seminars with experience-based pedagogy, the capacity for learning is dramatically increased.

For more information on CRISMART and its activities, as well as online access to most publications, please see <http://www.crismart.org> .

## Upcoming Events

### *24<sup>th</sup> EGOS Colloquium*

July 10 – 12, 2008

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://egosnet.org/conferences/collo24/sub_29.shtml)



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium on Resilience Engineering**

October 28 – 30, 2008

Antibes-Juan-les-Pins, France

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.

#### Point of contact

[symposium@resilience-engineering.org](mailto:symposium@resilience-engineering.org)

#### Look for updates at

[www.resilience-engineering.org](http://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](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).

### **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](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.

Susann Ullberg, D&SCRN Coordinator

Eduardo Runte, E-Newsletter Editor