

Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network Electronic Newsletter

N° 36, October – December, 2008

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

Coordinator's Report

Susann Ullberg

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Dear D&SCRN members and colleagues, Happy New Year! I hope that 2009 has started well for all of you. Unfortunately the war in Gaza casts long shadows over the New Year spirit. My thoughts, thus, go to the people of Gaza who have had to endure living this political conflict for so long and once again, as I write these lines, are suffering the violence of war. Let's hope for a ceased fire now and for this year to be an end to this long conflict, once and for all!

In terms of disaster studies I would say 2009 promises to be a really exciting year. The organisation of the ESA conference in Lisbon on September 2nd-5th is well under way. Please find in this issue of the D&SCRN newsletter the Call for Contributions (papers / posters / media presentations) for our Research Network 8 'Disaster & Social Crisis'. The Coordinating Committee (CC), which I chair until new elections in Lisbon, is happy to announce that we have 13 sessions proposed. Encouragingly there is a variety of topics ranging from Civil Protection Services to humanitarian response, cross disciplinary disaster research and the safety concept, promising diversity and very interesting discussions. Four sessions have picked up on the conference theme "European Society or European Societies" of which two (2 and 7) are related to disaster research and practices within European Union research frameworks – very pertinent to discuss at a European conference indeed! We are also very glad that five (5) sessions are Joint Sessions with other ESA research networks, namely those of RN6 'Critical Political Economy', RN9 'Economic Sociology', RN12 'Society and Environment', RN 22 'Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty and RN 24 'Science and Technology'. We

think joint sessions are great opportunities to put across different perspectives in order to bring new thoughts to light that can enable us with a better understanding of the social phenomena we study. We are of course pleased to know that scholars from the other networks feel the same. Finally, we have allocated space for one (1) open session that will embrace interesting papers that don't seem to fit in any of the other sessions. Thus, don't hesitate to submit your abstract even if you can't find the appropriate session. There is plenty of room for all of us!

The complete Call for Contributions is published on our own web page (<http://dscrn.crc.ensmp.fr/>) and a shorter version is posted also on the ESA web page (www.europeansociology.org) as well as on the conference site (www.esa9thconference.com).

Please note that submission of abstracts is done on line through the conference web page at www.esa9thconference.com. This is open **now** and the deadline is set to **February 26th**. I have suggested an extended deadline to the Organising Committee in Lisbon, but for now this is the one, so don't wait! Your abstract will be peer reviewed by the Coordinating Committee and accepted papers/posters/media presentations will be notified by the session organiser by late March. You will then need to register for the conference latest on May 15th. All information about the conference in general is on the web page. If you have specific questions regarding the sessions please contact the person that is listed as session organiser in the Call for Contributions below. Any other queries please contact me at susann.ullberg@fhs.se.

We look forward to meet you all in Lisbon! Submit your abstract and for now, enjoy the newsletter!

All the best from Argentina

//Susann

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Editor's Note

Eduardo Runte

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Dear D&SCRN members and colleagues,

This is the fourth and last issue of the Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network Electronic Newsletter of 2008. It covers the period from October to December 2008.

This issue features two calls for papers to which I would like to direct your attention to:

- The 9th European Sociological Association Conference. Our research network is organizing a number of sessions, and we are looking forward to our contributions!
- The 17th World Congress of Sociology. The Research Network on Disasters (RN 39) of the International Sociological Association is organizing several sessions – in this issue of the newsletter, you'll find a complete list of sessions, as well as instructions on how to submit a paper.

In addition to the above, this newsletter presents an article by Lt. Col. K. C. Monnappa about the media's reporting of disasters in India, a job announcement from Mines ParisTech, as well as an assortment of resources and events that may be of interest to our readers.

Sincerely,

Eduardo

D&SCRN Web Manager report (October – December, 2008)

Eduardo Runte

dscrn.website@gmail.com

1. New members: Please join me in welcoming the new D&SCRN members: (1) **Adam Rostis** (adamrostis@gmail.com), doctoral candidate at the Saint Mary's University (Canada). Rostis has been working for the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office (EMO) since 2003 on disaster management issues. Before joining EMO, he was a regional delegate with the International Federation of the Red Cross in Harare, Zimbabwe from 1999 to 2003. His work with the Red Cross helped develop capacity to use information technology for disaster preparedness. He is a candidate in the Doctor of Management program at Saint Mary's University in

Halifax, Nova Scotia and his research interests include disaster management and organizational behaviour. (2) **Kathrin Leitner** (Kathrin_Leitner@hotmail.com), doctoral candidate in Social and Cultural Anthropology. She is interested in catastrophe/disaster perception and resolution strategies, and is searching for literature with a focus on local knowledge/perception.

2. **Website.** **Joe Scanlon**, long-time member of the network, noticed that his name did not figure in the membership roster. We have fixed that. **Sverre Røed-Larsen** has a new email address: sverre.rl@getmail.no. We are currently in the process of remodeling our website. If you have any ideas for a logo, or for a design, please contact me.

Writers' Corner

Class Bias in Disaster Reporting – A need for introspection by the Indian media

By Lt. Col. K. C. Monnappa, MA Social Work

monaps1@gmail.com

The Indian media has been accused of harbouring a "class bias" when it comes to reporting incidents that involve influential people in society, it overemphasizes them and exploits their "shock value". A case in point is the media coverage of the recent attacks on Mumbai by terrorists on 26 Nov 2008. India as per its Constitution is a democracy. They say democracy is a system of government where the political power rests with the nation's population either directly or through elected representatives. It is government of the people, for the people, by the people. From this one should be able to infer that the purpose of democracy is to build a just society where the interests of all the people are cared for -- the rich and poor, men and women, minorities as well as the majority and the economy works for the benefit of all. But sometimes the media is liable to work at cross purposes and tend to make a few privileged people more equal than others. The Indian media has been accused of the following bias while reporting the events during and post Mumbai attack:

- Class bias, including bias favoring one social class and bias ignoring (or exaggerating) social or class divisions;
- Sensationalism, bias in favor of the exceptional over the ordinary. This included the practice whereby exceptional news was overemphasized, distorted or fabricated to boost commercial ratings;
- Exaggerated influence of minority views: Like sensationalism, this is a tendency to emphasize the new and the different over the status quo or existing consensus. This was done in an attempt to be "fair", or to find something worth reporting.

Whether or not media bias exists in the Indian society is a seemingly endless debate. Yet valid questions remain about media performance and the role of public communications practitioners in shaping perception. As far as the Indian media is concerned the aftermath of the Mumbai attacks has shown that the media in India is not learning from its mistakes. There is no introspection on the part of the media regarding the way the entire attack was televised. The media showed blatant class bias in the entire reporting. This media is now being squarely criticised for valid reasons for its bias towards the 'elite' class, by only focusing on the operations at Taj Palace, Oberoi and Nariman House when there were attacks at other places like the Cama Hospital and CST railway station. Was it just because it took a longer time to control them, or because there were foreigners with links to US, UK and Israel, or was it just because big and "important" people with a lot of money throng the Taj/Oberoi hotels?

The Taj Palace Hotel, a place frequented by the rich was suddenly projected as an icon of Mumbai by the media; the CST railway station on the other hand was hardly covered. Nothing much is known about the people other than those in the five star hotels who lost their lives. Some reporters were rushed all the way to Israel to write about the sufferers there but blatantly ignored the kith and kin of those who died at the CST railway station and the streets of Mumbai. Popular perception today is that this response of the media and the rich of the country stems from the fact that this attack was an attack on the image of so called “**Shining India**” that the elites want to project. Since the symbols of this “**Shining India**” like the Taj Palace Hotel or Oberoi Hotel was attacked, it resulted in such anger on the part of the rich and the elite.

The ghastly attacks proved that the tragedy could be turned into a spectacle. It is true that the media mostly revolves around power centers, and hence is frequently pro-elite. Since most rich corporates have a stake in the media, journalists often tend to lose their freedom to money. Advertisers often dictate terms. According to scholar Richard Alan Nelson's (2003) study *Tracking Propaganda to the Source: Tools for Analyzing Media Bias*, (<http://lass.calumet.purdue.edu/cca/gmj/fa03/gmj-fa03-nelson.htm>) the media are neither objective nor completely honest in their portrayal of important issues. When bias occurs it stems from a combination of factors such as:

- Framing devices are employed in stories by featuring some angles and downplaying others.
- The news is a product not only of deliberate manipulation, but of the ideological and economic conditions under which the media operate.
- While appearing independent, the news media are institutions that are controlled or heavily influenced by government and business interests experienced

with manufacturing of consent/consensus.

- Reporters' sources frequently dominate the flow of information as a way of furthering their own overt and hidden agendas.

One of the cardinal rules of reporting a conflict is to contextualize it. This is as important as the narration of facts. This provides the necessary meaning. Editorialising and opinionating the content should have little place. This assumes greater importance while covering a terrorist strike of such magnitude. Media is never tired of claiming privileged position as the fourth estate, but is forgetting it is required to be socially responsible and a watchdog of the democracy, and not merely a money spinning machine. Freedom of expression, which the media swears by, also involves being accountable to the masses. The press is supposed to be a guardian of democracy and the defender of public interest. But more often than not, news is pedaled like any other commodity in the market with a profit motive.

One reason for the media bias is that the news media tend to appeal to a specific audience, which means that stories that affect a large number of people on a global scale often receive less coverage in some markets than local stories, such as a public school shootings, a celebrity wedding, a plane crash, or similarly glamorous or shocking stories. The reason for this type of bias is a function of what the public wants to watch and/or what producers and publishers believe the public wants to watch. That is why the Taj Palace hotel, which is frequented by the creamy layer of the society and foreigners, remains at centre stage even after almost two months of the tragedy. It not only blurred the picture as we see it now, it is also accused of letting some sections piggy ride the public mood of anger and disenchantment. This erosion is the inevitable culmination of the long process of the appropriation of the concept of public press for private interests of a few, in short, the turning of the press into a business enterprise.

Finally, media plays a pivotal role in a democracy and as such reforms are needed so that the power of big money is removed. Otherwise a democracy can never be "of the people" i.e. poor or middle class people. It will always be class dominated. Democracy will be for the rich. In this connection ownership of the media by a few of the rich elite may lead to more specific distortion of the democratic process. The media are themselves a vital element of the democratic process. They can be used to protect the interests of their own class and suppress any criticism of the status quo. But in the present day scenario, the words of Great Russian novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn rings true, hastiness and superficiality are the psychic diseases of the 20th century, and more than anywhere else this disease is reflected in the press. The media did well getting into

the line of fire, but from an ethical and responsibility point of view, it lost a great change. What the terror exposed was not just the underbelly of the Indian State but also the insides of the much vaunted media in India. The Indian media ought to reflect on its role and take corrective steps.

Resources

BEMOSA: Behavioral Modeling for Security in Airports

Avi Kirschenbaum, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

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In the latest European Commission call for research in the area of security, I, as coordinator, and a consortium of partners throughout Europe (Israel, Spain, Italy, The Netherlands, Greece, United Kingdom, Slovakia, and Czech Republic) were awarded a contract in a highly competitive bid against over 250 proposals in the area of airport security. We were ranked third. Until now the EU approach toward "security" has been to examine technological solutions while marginalizing human and organizational factors. This proposal represents a breakthrough in examining airports as complex social organizations and the emergency/security decision making process in terms of group behavior. The project represents a major step in recognizing that disasters and emergencies are intimately interwoven into the fabric of society and to a large extent are socially driven. Equally important is the objective of applying the research results and transcribing them into a practical training program that will aid those in charge of hundreds of thousands of lives to make decisions that will maximize our safety. I have included the Abstract below and invite any of the network members who are interested in more details to contact me at avik@tx.technion.ac.il.

Abstract

BEMOSA will contribute significantly to the overall European objective of eliminating hazards of hostile action in the air transport system. To do so it will develop a dynamic and realistic model of social behaviour and security decision making during security threats in airports. These objectives will be accompanied by advancing the state-of-the art in behavioural modelling by direct, multi-faceted observations of group behaviour and creating a dynamic and realistic model of social behaviour during airport security threats.

By examining airports throughout Europe and focusing on key decision making groups such as control tower operators, security employees, service vendors and passengers, BEMOSA will deliver the basis for a comprehensive and practical training program that considers all the airport security stakeholders. Advanced

software simulations that will help to capture and predict social behaviour under stressful emergencies will provide the platform for the training modules and training packages that can be readily and at minimum cost applied to airports across Europe.

This collaborative project involves a consortium of academic, SME and airport end users with extensive expertise in social & behaviour sciences, aviation and security. All are dedicated to modelling airport security decisions whose impact on the maintenance of airport operational continuity is vital. Advancing the state-of-the art research will lead to increased efficiency of air transportation by decreasing false alarms, increased safety through training and increased coordination for all stakeholders in cases of emergency and security threat. These objectives will be accomplished in a series of coordinated work packages designed so that all partners will participate in a balanced way thereby assuring BEMOSA objectives are achieved.

After the Disaster: Re-Creating Community and Well-Being at Buffalo Creek since the Notorious Coal-Mining Disaster in 1972

By: T.P. Schwartz

This book is based on more than six years of fieldwork that conducted by the author at Buffalo Creek, West Virginia, and at other small, rural communities in the US. It offers some very important amendments to the famous but controversial findings of more than thirty years ago by Kai Erikson, Robert Jay Lifton, Gerald Stern, Bonnie Green and others concerning the causes and consequences of the Buffalo Creek disaster.

After the Disaster: Re-Creating Community and Well-Being at Buffalo Creek since the Notorious Coal-Mining Disaster in 1972. Amherst, New York, USA: Cambria Press. 2008. 519 pages. Hardcover.

Upcoming Events & Calls for Papers

World Conference of Humanitarian Studies

4-8 February, 2009

Groningen, The Netherlands



Contact Information

info@humanitarianstudies2009.org

<http://www.humanitarianstudies2009.org/>

3rd Functional Resonance Accident Model (FRAM) workshop

16 – 19 February, 2009

Mines ParisTech – Sophia Antipolis, France

Working conditions (e.g. temperature, light, good food) are essential to human performance. In this truly scientifically-inspired mindset, we are therefore pleased to announce that the 3rd FRAM workshop will be organised February 16-19, 2009, at Sophia Antipolis, France. Just like previous editions, the purpose of the workshop is to discuss the use of the model and the associated method, exchange experiences, problems, and solutions(?), identify opportunities for collaboration, ongoing projects, and possible further developments.

Erik Hollnagel will be with us of course and as for previous editions, the atmosphere will be absolutely relaxed and friendly. If you were planning to wear a tie, we'll still let you in, though.

The focus for this year's edition will be set on *Modeling Performance Variability Within FRAM*. This covers, but is not limited to, capturing and manipulating factors of variability, qualifying variability within functions, modeling resonance, etc. Some experiences from using FRAM for risk assessment will be presented.

Scientific Contents

The workshop will comprise 3 main parts:

1- *An introduction to FRAM and the modeling of variability - retrospectively and prospectively*. The introduction will return briefly to the basics of FRAM. It will also describe the challenge of variability modeling and why we need it.

2- *A number of presentations from the participants*. The presentations or planned interventions from participants will be in the 1:1 format, i.e., 20 minutes for the presentation followed by 20 minutes of discussion.

3- *Open discussions about lessons learned and future developments*. Past experience in similar events has proven that open discussions are vital to both bond as a group, have fun and carry reflections forward. We will try to have plenty of that, along with split groups exercises, brainstorming, pedagogical innovations...the whole lot. In order to facilitate active discussions, the number of participants may be limited (to match the capacity of suitable meeting rooms).

Logistics & Fees

The workshop will start at 2pm on the 16th and end at noon on the 19th. This should allow you to travel at decent times and catch buses to and from Nice airport easily. Information will be circulated about the venue, hotels, travelling infrastructures, etc.

Also, on the financial front, there will be a nominal

registration fee for the workshop, in order to cover the cost of lunches, coffee breaks, etc. We will let you know about that as soon as we have worked out the figures. For information, last year's fee was 200 euros per person. Payment can be taken in cash or cheque (in euros only).

Invoices can be provided upon payment.

Your registration will include lunches and coffee breaks for the 4 days of the workshop, as well as a dinner (on the 17th). Any other meal is not included.

If you are planning to attend...

Please notify Denis Besnard (coordination):

Denis.Besnard@crc.ensmp.fr (coordination)

Please CC Luigi Macchi and Damien Fabre (scientific organization):

Luigi.Macchi@crc.ensmp.fr

Damien.Fabre@crc.ensmp.fr

Please CC Christelle Guiot (admin. Support):

Christelle.Guiot@crc.ensmp.fr

See you soon in Sophia Antipolis.

On behalf of the organising team,

Denis Besnard

SRA 2009 Annual Meeting

28th June - 1st July, 2009

Karlstad, Sweden



Society for Risk Analysis Europe



From the everyday to the extraordinary: challenges for risk analysis and management

The 18th SRA-Europe Annual Meeting will take place between 28th June – 1st July 2009 in Karlstad, Sweden.

The conference theme will span across a broad range of issues from everyday risks to extraordinary events. The conference aims to provide a forum for traditional SRA themes such as risk identification, quantification and mitigation, risk perception and communication, policy making and legislation, as well as opening up for new risk-related topics.

Conference theme and aims

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) is a multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, scholarly international society that provides an open forum for all those who are interested in risk analysis. Risk analysis is

broadly defined to include risk assessment, risk characterization, risk communication and perception, risk management and risk policy. It may concern individuals, public and private organizations, and society at a local regional, national or global level. SRA-Europe is a regional organization of the Society for Risk Analysis.

The 2009 conference of SRA-Europe will take place in Karlstad, Sweden. The conference theme will span across a broad range of issues from everyday risks to extraordinary events. The conference aims to provide a forum for traditional SRA themes such as risk identification, quantification and mitigation, risk perception and communication, policy making and legislation, as well as opening up for new risk-related topics. The conference aims to facilitate interaction among all players in the risk field: risk experts from all disciplines, and risk stakeholders as policy makers, the private sector, NGOs and other interest groups.

Specific topics

The conference will be a forum for presentations on existing and emerging risk issues, from all related research disciplines. Presentations in the following areas are particularly welcomed:

- *Everyday risks and prevention of injuries*: Issues here include identification and analysis of major determinants of injury mortality and morbidity and analysis of achievements in safety related work;
- *Management of natural risk and climate change*: From a European perspective, the major consequences of climate change will be negative. Vulnerability analyses, risk and disaster management strategies and conditions for learning and developing warning systems are pertinent topics here;
- *Disaster risk management in an international context*: This theme addresses the role of European stakeholders in supporting safe and secure societal systems in the developing world and the possible contributions of risk oriented research;
- *Future risks and technologies for security and safety*: The growing dependence on technical systems in critical infrastructures has resulted in growing risks in society. This theme calls for security risk assessment methods and experiences that contribute to increased confidence in and understanding of such technologies.

Conference activities

The conference will start on Sunday evening 28th June with an opening reception and will last through until lunch Wednesday 1st July. Each conference day will open up with a plenary session with keynote presentations and discussions, followed by parallel sessions including oral papers, round table discussions

and symposia reflecting particular themes of interest. A special drinks and buffet poster session is planned on Monday evening. A conference dinner will take place on Tuesday evening, providing the delegates with an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful countryside and midsummer light in the county of Värmland. The conference language is English.

Organization and support

The conference will be co-hosted by Karlstad University, the Swedish National Defence College and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency. The latter will be established 2009 and is the main sponsor of the event.

Location

The conference venue will be the new Technical Centre at Karlstad University (www.kau.se).

For more information

<http://sraeurope.org/>

D&SCRN Call for Contributions ESA 2009

September 2 – 5, 2009

Lisbon, Portugal



ESA RN 8 “Disaster and Social Crisis”

Call for Contributions

The purpose of the RN8 ‘Disaster and Social Crisis’ is to promote the research on disasters and crises aiming at contributing to disaster-resilient European communities.

The D&SCRN Coordinating Committee invites scholars and practitioners in this field to submit paper/poster/media presentations for the 9th ESA conference in Lisbon on September 2nd-5th, 2009.

We welcome all proposals but particularly such that engage with the conference theme “European Society or European Societies?” with key theoretical issues in this field of research and/or with pressing problems in the field of disaster and crisis policies and practices. Members of the D&SCRN and colleagues from countries within and outside of Europe are all very welcome to participate!

How to submit a contribution

At the ESA 2009 conference we will be organising twelve sessions. You will find the details of each session below. They will also be published on the D&SCRN webpage at (<http://dscrn.crc.ensmp.fr/>) as well as on the conference website

(www.esa9thconference.com).

Please note that submission of abstracts shall be made online at the conference website

(www.esa9thconference.com).

RN8 Sessions

1. The Place of Psycho-social Response in Civil Protection Services: European Union and other Perspectives

Session Organiser:

Nicholas Petropoulos (erc@otenet.gr)

The delivery of social and psychological services (psychological support, housing assistance, job security etc.) to prevent or mitigate traumatic stress among the affected populations following mass emergencies is becoming an increasingly important consideration of civil protection agencies, whether the mass emergencies involve “natural”, “technological” or “complex” (humanitarian) disasters. Contributions are invited on: (1) the status, nature and scope of psycho-social response within the civil protection organizations of European Union and other countries (2) the organization of psycho-social response for special categories of population (children, foreigners, handicapped, institutionalized, aged etc.) in modern complex societies (3) the methods of assessment of psycho-social needs/demands in various types of mass emergencies and (4) research evaluating the short- and long-term outcomes of actual psycho-social interventions, either within European Union countries or overseas following large-scale mass emergencies.

2. Legal and Social Issues Related to the Management of Burnt Forest Areas

Session Organisers:

Graham Marsh (apx323@coventry.ac.uk)

Francisco Moreira (fmoreira@isa.utl.pt)

The aim is to bring a cross Europe approach to the topic of post-fire management enabling participants to draw lessons from the experiences and research of colleagues and hopefully leading to more collaborative research in the future. The increase across Europe in numbers of forest fires and their intensity are most likely due to the onset of global warming. Along with legal issues associated with the topic, papers covering fields of research centred on social and communication issues

would be most welcomed. For example involvement of local communities in post-fire recovery activities; role of volunteers in first aid restoration techniques and/or woodland restoration activities; dialogue with local communities and stakeholders in awareness raising activities concerning forest fire damage and best practices of post-fire management. At the end of the session a round table discussion will be held on possible research directions for the future. The session will be jointly chaired by members of the D&SCRN and of the European Union’s COST Action FP0701: ‘Post-fire management in Southern Europe.’

3. New Themes in the Study of Humanitarian Response

Session Organiser:

Dorothea Hilhorst (thea.hilhorst@wur.nl)

This panel reviews current discussions on the humanitarian response to natural disasters and conflicts. Papers are particularly welcome on three issues:

- Natural disasters often occur in conflict situations or amidst political tension. What does this mean for the humanitarian response?
- How can disaster response better build on local development and humanitarian actors, including state actors?
- How to incorporate climate change adaptation in disaster risk reduction in relation to the organisation of humanitarian response?

4. Mass Urban Phenomena in Europe: Riots or Social Protests?

Session Organisers:

Nicholas Petropoulos (erc@otenet.gr)

Susann Ullberg (susann.ullberg@fhs.se)

During the last decade a series of mass-phenomena incidents have occurred in cities of the European Union (for example in Prague, Gothenburg, Genoa, Paris, Nice, Athens, and Thessaloniki). Questions have been raised as how to define these mass phenomena. Are they mere locally situated riots whose aim is blind violence and simple tension-reduction attendant to conflict and crises lacking organization and ideology? Or can they be defined as collective protests enacted by global social movements with an ideology, selective targets, and visions for a different, more humane, society? If they are transnational manifestations, what significance has the local social, political and economic context for the particular incident? How are these incidents framed by institutional actors and what roles do mass media play in this framing? This panel invites contributions on the nature, the interrelations, the causes and the impacts of

these mass urban phenomena both at local, regional and global levels. Contributions pointing to the convergences and divergences, the commonalities and the diversities, as well as to the linkages among these mass urban phenomena within the European Union will be given priority consideration.

5. Maintaining Safety in the Risk Society

Session Organiser:

Eduardo F. A. Runte (eduardo.runte@crc.ensmp.fr)

In his influential book "Normal Accidents", Perrow argued that the increasing complexity of socio-technical systems meant that accidents had become normal - in the sense that they were the inevitable outcome of essentially uncontrollable processes. In the nineties, the High Reliability Organization school sought to understand why some high-risk organizations suffered significantly less accidents than others. In the new century, researchers became interested in the topic of resilience, or the ability of an organization to remain in control even in situations of extreme disturbance. In other words, progressively the topic of interest shifted from the vulnerability of organizations to their ability to adapt and respond adequately to expected and unexpected events.

From this new perspective, safety is understood as the active effort to anticipate and to respond to challenges, rather than the commonly accepted "absence of accidents." The central questions to be answered then are: a) what are the characteristics of an organization that can remain in control even in times of turbulence? and, b) how can an organization acquire, maintain and exercise those characteristics? In terms of methodology, an important issue is that while accidents and failures are readily visible and available for inspection, "safety" becomes a "non-event" that requires researchers to "explain what is happening, when nothing is happening."

The focus of this session is on applied research, and therefore case studies are favored over theoretical developments. In particular, the session aims at bringing together a range of disciplines related to the question of safety from a human or social science perspective (human factors, ergonomics, work and organization sociology, anthropology, ethnomethodology, cognitive systems engineering, social psychology and cognitive psychology).

6. Remembering and Forgetting Disaster

Session Organiser:

Susann Ullberg (susann.ullberg@fhs.se)

Disasters are major critical events that are generally

thought of to have lasting impacts on the societies where they occur, not least in social memory. Now, some disasters seem to be vividly recalled while others, equally catastrophic, seem to succumb into social oblivion. Such a binary opposition – remembering vs forgetting – has lately been questioned within the social sciences however, forwarding rather a view of remembering and forgetting as a dialectical process. The questions of who remembers/forgets what, how, where and when thus become crucial in exploring such processes. This panel invites contributions that analyse how disasters are remembered and forgotten in different societies; what are the social, cultural, and political factors that forge this process and which are the social effects.

7. What Difference do International and Cross-disciplinary Teams make to Disaster Research Practice?

Session Organiser: Maureen Fordham

(maureen.fordham@northumbria.ac.uk)

What difference do international and cross-disciplinary teams make to disaster research practice? This session will share experiences from the MICRODIS project (<http://www.microdis-eu.be/>) as a starting point to elicit examples and comment from others engaged in international and cross-disciplinary research on disasters and social crises.

MICRODIS is an Integrated Project funded under the EU Sixth Framework Programme. Its overall goal is to strengthen preparedness, mitigation and prevention strategies in order to reduce the health, social and economic impacts of extreme events on communities. The project aims include developing an integrated impact methodology and establishing an evidence-base of primary field research through quantitative surveys and various qualitative methods. It includes partners from seven countries in Europe and Asia who come from a range of disciplinary backgrounds (including sociology, epidemiology, anthropology, psychology) and practice (including both academic partners and practitioners).

The session starts with some questions concerning the extent to which research concepts and practice translate across international, and intra-national, boundaries. This session aims to explore issues around the experiences of, the challenges for and effects on:

- The research findings
- The transferability of tools/techniques/methods
- The researchers/research team
- The social relationships between the researcher and the researched

We welcome contributions from those working within disaster and social crisis but also from related fields.

8. Open session

This session invites theoretical, empirical or practical contributions/presentations on other topics relevant to disasters and social crises that are not covered in the above sessions but are viewed as significant by the members of our network and other social scientists.

9. The Economic and Social Dimensions of the 2008 Credit Market Crisis (Joint Session with RN6 'Critical Political Economy' and RN9 'Economic Sociology')

Session Organisers:

Nicholas Petropoulos (erc@otenet.gr)

Rafael Marques (rmarques@iseg.utl.pt)

Jan Drahokoupil (jan_drahokoupil@gmail.com)

RN6 (Critical Political Economy), RN8 (Disasters and Social Crisis) and RN 9 (Economic Sociology) invite contributions on the social, economic and political dimensions of the 2008 credit market crisis. Specifically, we invite paper/poster/media presentations on (1) the historical, social, political and economic factors leading to the credit crisis, (2) the social, economic and political factors affecting the passing of the crisis into the regular economies of societies, (3) the differential social impacts of the crisis on housing, unemployment, consumer and stockholder behaviour (including panic selling) and on other sectors in societies, and (4) the social impact of the crisis in (a) social and psychological terms (e.g. crime, mental health, suicide, family breakdown etc.) or (b) new forms of social/economic behaviour and reorganization of social and economic institutions. Especially welcome are presentations of comparative studies, using either historical or cross-cultural methods.

10. Environment, Disasters and Politics (Joint Session with RN12 'Society and Environment')

Session Organisers:

Susann Ullberg (susann.ullberg@fhs.se)

Kris van Koppen (kris.vankoppen@wur.nl)

RN8 (Disasters and Social Crises) and RN12 (Environment and Society) invite paper/poster/media presentations on the links between environmental politics and "natural" disasters (such as coastal or inland floods, earthquakes, hurricanes/typhoons, heat waves, snowstorms, landslides, drought etc.). Central themes of the session will be (1) the perception of the links between environmental conditions, politics, and "natural

disasters" by governments, policy makers, NGOs and citizens; (2) the roles of ENGOs at grassroots and (inter)national levels in the design and implementation of short-term interventions and long-term policies for coping with "natural" disasters; (3) the relation between sustainable development and how communities deal with "natural" disasters in their daily life, in varying cultural, economic and political contexts.

11. Environmental Crisis, Social Vulnerability and Migration (Joint Session with RN12)

Session Organisers:

Susann Ullberg (susann.ullberg@fhs.se)

Kris van Koppen (kris.vankoppen@wur.nl)

RN8 (Disasters and Social Crises) and RN12 (Environment and Society) invite paper/poster/media presentations on the links between environmental crisis, social vulnerability and processes of migration. We welcome contributions on (1) which particular conjunctions of natural and social, economic and political forces produce the environmental and social vulnerabilities of environmental refugees (2) what are the social, economic, and political effects of environmental migration. Case studies are particularly welcome.

Abstracts should be submitted through the ESA submission portal to either RN8 or RN12. Please indicate in your abstract that it is being submitted to the special joint session.

12. Disasters and Risk – Concepts and Perspectives (Joint Session with RN 22 'Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty')

Session Organizers:

Benjamín González Rodríguez (mino@udc.es)

Jens O. Zinn (j.zinn@kent.ac.uk)

Abstract forthcoming.

13. Science and Technology: their Role in the Generation and Prevention/Mitigation of Crises and Disasters (Joint Session with RN 24 'Science and technology')

Session Organisers:

Susann Ullberg (susann.ullberg@fhs.se)

Aaro Tupasela (aaro.tupasela@helsinki.fi)

Using the term "science" in its generic sense to embrace not only the "hard" (physical, biological etc) but also the "soft" (social) sciences and the term "technology" to include not only the more conventional industrial and

nuclear technologies but also the “new technologies” (biotechnology, information technology, etc.), RN8 (Disasters and Social Crises) and RN24 (Science and Technology) invite paper/poster/media presentations on “science and technology” as agents either in the generation or the prevention/mitigation of disasters, mass emergencies and social crises. More specifically, we invite contributions, theory-, research- or policy-oriented, dealing either (1) with major disasters, accidents and crises associated with science and technology or (2) with the use of science and technology to prevent/mitigate the impact of disasters, mass emergencies and social crises. PhD students are especially encouraged to send abstracts that touch upon these themes.

Abstracts should be submitted through the ESA submission portal to either RN8 or RN24. Please indicate in your abstract that it is being submitted to the special joint session.

Questions?

For queries regarding the sessions please contact the respective session organisers listed or to the RN Coordinator Susann Ullberg at susann.ullberg@fhs.se.

For queries regarding the conference, please consult the conference webpage (www.esa9thconference.com).

Disaster Management 2009

September 23 – 25, 2009

New Forest, UK



Introduction

Recently, there has been a disturbing increase in the number of natural disasters affecting millions of people, destroying property and resulting in loss of human life. These events include major flooding, hurricanes, earthquakes and many others.

Today the world faces unparalleled threats from human-made disasters that can be attributed to failure of industrial and energy installations as well as terrorism. Added to this is the unparalleled threat of emerging and re-emerging diseases, with scientists predicting events such as an influenza pandemic.

Human made and natural disasters in 2004 were estimated to have claimed tens of thousands of lives worldwide with economic losses in the order of US\$100 billion. The year 2005 further tested the international relief community with ‘unparalleled frequency and scale

of natural disaster’; Hurricane Katrina alone having destroyed 300,000 homes, displaced 770,000 people, and cost US \$200 billion. Figures for 2006 and 2007 follow similar patterns.

All these events pose unprecedented risks to human health on a world scale which requires a massive effort by the international community. This conference therefore focuses on current global health risks, and how best to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters in order to reduce human health impacts.

It will help participants to understand the nature of global risks, learn risk management strategies to prepare for disruptive events, and identify the best prevention methods in disaster management and public health. It will provide a forum for the exchange of information between leading academics and partners in disaster management.

Topics

- Global risks and health
- Chemical emergencies
- Extreme weather events
- Food and water safety
- Natural disasters
- Pandemics and biological threats
- Radiation emergencies
- Terrorism
- Offshore disasters
- Remote areas response
- Emergency preparedness and planning
- Risk mitigation
- Surveillance and early warning systems
- Disaster resilient communities
- Disaster epidemiology and assessment
- Disaster mental health
- Business continuity
- Human health economics
- Recent incidents and outbreaks
- Public health preparedness

Abstract and Paper Submission Information

Papers are invited on the topics outlined and others falling within the scope of the meeting. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted as soon as possible. Abstracts should clearly state the purpose, results and conclusions of the work to be described in the final paper.

We strongly encourage the submission of abstracts

electronically, by clicking on the 'Submit an Abstract' button found at the top and bottom of this page. If you prefer, abstracts can be sent by email, fax or mail to the Conference Secretariat. Details can be found on the left side of this page. Please include your name, full address and conference topic on all submissions.

Final acceptance will be based on the full-length paper, which if accepted for publication, must be presented at the conference. To be fair to all participants, each registered delegate will only be able to submit one paper. The language of the conference will be English.

The paper deadline will be advised after submission of abstracts.

For more information

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/09-conferences/disaster-management-2009-6.html>

India Disaster Management Congress, 2009

Thematic Session: Disaster Communication Systems

New Delhi, India, 4th & 6th November 2009

DCS-IDMC09@ekgaon.com

About the thematic session on "Disaster Communication Systems"

Globally disasters have a more visible face than ever as observed over last one decade. Socio-economic evolution has not taken into consideration the ecosystem impacts and hence made the human population more vulnerable to impacts. Loss of traditional knowledge systems which supported livelihoods and societies over centuries have also resulted in loss of traditional coping mechanism against disasters, these mechanisms failed to evolve over time hence creating less resilient communities.

Communication & Impact

Early warning systems that are accessible during an eventuality serve multiple functions and are increasingly recognized as a critical factor influencing the economic and human impacts of disaster and climate change. Communications systems are not a function of technology and access alone, information across these systems flows in cascades and chains between its point of origin and its ultimate use. Such cascades often involve multiple actors and multiple points where information is interpreted, reformulated and transmitted to the next set of actors. How these system processes occur is as important as the technological 'hardware' that performs the physical processes of information transmission. Information flow is a process that depends on a variety of institutional, perceptual and other softwares; as well as the static or interactive interfaces

through which potential users interact with stimulus. Because potential actors along a chain of information transmission often differ culturally, educationally and socially, the software and interfaces required for effective communication will often differ as well for keeping an information system "alive" and "working".

Effective Disaster Communication Systems

A communication system based on socially accepted values, processes and based in socio-ecological environment of the community could have greater "life" and "longevity". The role of technology, policy and institutions is to enable this facilitation for building "Alive" communication systems.

The existing global/national/regional/state/village level communication policies, systems and guidelines and their role in early warning, disasters and building adaptive capacities are to be understood contextually to evolve effective institutional support for building effective disaster communication systems.

Technology interface across hardware and software should enable both asynchronous and synchronous data transmission to ensure cross-system relay both by push as well as pull mechanism in comprehensible forms and language. Data reception systems should use Common Access Protocol (CAP) to ensure standardization and clear understanding by user community.

Disaster response and mitigation require effective and coordinated communication to avoid confusion and mayhem. Institutional cooperation framework is required for channeling information across reliable communication systems and cascades of interfaces for better response during disaster situations.

Knowledge management and packaging of information is critical for creating desired impact on the individual and community behaviour on disaster information shared. An early warning could be useless if it were not able to get the community alert in the event of an upcoming disaster situation, further if it creates panic it would do more damage. Packaging of disaster information in various modes of communication such as personalized devices (such as mobile, telephone, email etc.), mass media (newspaper, radio, television) and community media (loudspeaker, hooter, alarm etc.) is necessary to ensure that desired objective is met. Communication systems are as effective as the quality of content they carry with them.

Expected Outcome

This session looks into issues of disaster communication and its impact in extracting response from communities during early warning, mitigation and adaptation process. The session seeks to identify institutional roles, technological options (for infrastructure and delivery) and communication products for enabling community based disaster preparedness to effectively manage

eventualities, build resilience and evolve community based coping mechanisms. Evolution of these mechanism would help in decentralization of risk governance with community level institutions, who would be better prepared" and "equipped" to take mitigation steps.

Call for abstracts

Interested scientists, scholars, researchers and practitioners are invited to submit the abstracts of their papers for presentation at the Congress for the Thematic Session "Disaster Communication System".

The abstract could cover any or all topics given as under, or any other topic relevant to the thematic session:

- Disaster Communication for Community Behaviour Change
- Communication Systems for Enabling Public Private Partnerships for Disaster Management
- Role of Social networks in enabling communication channels for disaster information
- Communication Systems for building adaptive capacities - Innovations and pilots
- Communication Systems for disaster mitigation in Urban and peri-urban Geography
- Community based Communication Systems for disaster mitigation
- Disaster Communication Systems, analyzing policy scenario - Enabling and Disabling factors

The abstracts should not exceed 300 words and must be submitted on or before *31st July 2009* along with name of the author/ co-authors, designation, institutional affiliation, postal & e-mail address. Please identify the lead author.

The abstracts shall be submitted either electronically or by post to the Organizers and Facilitators of the concerned Thematic Session, also endorsing a copy to the Conference Secretariat for information. The addresses are given as under. Selection of abstracts shall be notified to the authors on or before 16th August 2009.

Please send your abstract to DCS-IDMC09@ekgaon.com, with a copy to dashvishy@yahoo.com and idmc@nidm.net

For more information and abstract submission please visit www.ekgaon.com/dcs-idmc09/ and <http://nidm.gov.in/idmc2/sessions.asp>.

XVII International Sociological Association

World Congress of Sociology

Gothenburg, Sweden

International Research Committee on Disasters (RC-39)
Regular Sessions: July 12-16, 2010

Anyone wishing to present a paper at a session organized by our committee should contact one of the two committee organizers – Joe Scanlon (jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca), Lori Peek (lori.peek@colostate.edu) – or a session organizer. (The email address for each session organizer is with the description of the session.) Every effort will be made to include all proposals received before June 30, 2009. Acceptance of proposals received after that date may depend on whether space is still available. Individual session organizers may set their own deadlines and may invite people to present in their sessions but if a specific session becomes overcrowded with good proposals, we will find room elsewhere in the program. Session organizers may present their own papers in their session or may present elsewhere. Session organizers will not chair the sessions they organize.

To stimulate discussion, we intend to limit each session – if at all possible – to three 17-minute presentations leaving about half an hour for questions, comments and discussion. If we have to fit four papers into a session, each presenter will be limited to 13 to 15 minutes to keep that half hour for discussion. At present we have scheduled 12 sessions including a theme session and a business meeting. We are prepared to add two more sessions should that prove necessary.

Anyone wishing to present should send their name, affiliation, email address, title of the paper and a one paragraph summary. Each session organizer will decide if he/she wishes to ask for more information or to see a full paper before the Congress. All presenters will be expected to have a completed paper available on line by Gothenburg.

Some deadlines are set by the International Sociological Association:

January 15, 2009 – Session topics, session organizers are posted by the ISA. This marks the official call for papers.

January 31, 2010 – Details of the sessions' programmes (authors' name, affiliation, e-mail, and paper title) are to be submitted to the ISA by the Programme Coordinators.

May 1, 2010 – Registration deadline for all programme participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.). Otherwise their names will not appear in the Program and abstracts of their papers will not be published. By then, all presenters should be members of our committee – Research Committee # 39, the International Research

Committee on Disasters and members of the ISA. The number of sessions allocated depends on the number of joint members.

May 1, 2010 – This is also the deadline for on-line submission of abstracts of accepted papers to the Cambridge Sociological Abstracts web site. Abstracts are only accepted by the system from those who are already registered for the Congress.

June 1, 2010 – Deadline for submitting last minute changes of sessions programmes.

Draft Program

01. Monday, July 12 – 14:30 to 16:00 Disaster Dissertations

This session will provide an opportunity for doctoral students to present a brief (five minutes maximum) overview of their dissertation research topic. There will be a very short question session after each presentation. The purpose of this session is to make attendees aware of the students and their research topics so they can offer suggestions and advice informally during the rest of the Congress. Students will be scheduled into this session initially on a first come first served basis. If there are too many applicants we may have to make some decisions about priorities.

Session Organizer: Joe Scanlon

(jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca)

Session chair: Dennis Wenger

02. Monday, July 12 – 16:30 to 18:00 Theory and Methodology

All papers in this session will cover issues related to various theories about disasters and what constitutes a disaster. While proposals are welcome, it is expected the papers in this session will be invited ones.

Session Organizer: Wolf Dombrowsky

(wdombro@msn.com)

Session chair: Everett Ressler

03. Monday, July 12 – 20:30 to 22:00 Scandinavian Disaster Research

Over the past decade the study of crisis and disasters has become a significant field of study within the Scandinavian social sciences with a growing number of research institutes. This line of research has a fairly long tradition however, especially in Sweden. This session will include invited presentations by a number of pioneers of disaster and crisis research in Scandinavia, accounting for the history of this field of study as well

as for their own research and their views on the future of the field.

Session Organizer: Susan Ullberg

(Susann.Ullberg@fhs.se)

Session chair: Andrew Coghlan

04. Tuesday, July 13 – 14:30 to 16:00 African Ethnographies in Adversity

This session will be devoted to research focusing on problems in the continent of Africa. The first such session was held in Durban in 2006.

Session Organizers: Andrew Collins

(Andrew.Collins@unn.ac.uk) and

Bernard Manyena

(Bernard.manyena@unn.ac.uk)

Session chair: Walter Peacock

05. Tuesday, July 13 – 16:30 to 18:00 Vulnerabilities and Capacities Populations

Over the past two decades, research on “vulnerable groups” in disaster has grown exponentially. This work has identified women, children, the poor, racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with disability as disadvantaged during all phases of the disaster life cycle. This session will explore the latest research in this area, and also will focus on the capacities of marginalized groups.

Session Organizer: Betty Morrow

(betty@bmorrow.com)

Session chair: Nicolas Petropoulos

06. Wednesday, July 14 – 14:30 to 16:00 Peace, Conflict, and Climate Change

The disaster of climate change is intertwined with peace and conflict at many levels, from international environmental negotiations to securing resources to assist indigenous communities deal with climate change's impacts. This session will explore these interlinks, in particular to try separate the hyperbole over climate change causing all witnessed problems from the reality of climate change exposing vulnerabilities and conflicts that have long simmered but have not been addressed.

Session Organizer: Ilan Kelman

(Ilan_kelman@hotmail.com)

Session chair: Jim Kendra

07. Wednesday, July 14: 16:30 to 18:00 Executive Meeting and Session in Honor of Russell Dynes

In addition to reports from the president and treasurer plus the editors of our journal and newsletter, this session will include a special presentation by Dr. William Anderson, in which he will review the contributions of Russell Dynes to Sociology of Disaster.

Session Organizer: Ron Perry

(ron.perry@asu.edu)

Session chair: Lori Peek

08. Wednesday, July 14 – 20:30 to 22:00 Open Paper Session

This is an open paper session. Research Committee # 39 welcomes papers from any discipline as long as these are in the area of crisis communication, emergency management or any other aspects of the broad field of disaster studies. Anyone who is doubtful whether his/her paper would be acceptable should communicate with one of the organizers – Joe Scanlon (jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca) or Lori Peek (lori.peek@colostate.edu).

Session Organizer: Joe Scanlon

(jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca)

Session chair: Havidan Rodriguez

09. Thursday, July 15 – 14:30 to 16:00 Evacuations and Sheltering

This session will highlight recent research on evacuating and sheltering disaster-affected populations. Papers may explore how to most efficiently and effectively move people out of harm's way—including, for example, high-rise building occupants, residents of low-lying coastal areas, and children and adults in earthquake stricken regions. Papers may also focus on the effectiveness of short- and longer-term sheltering options for diverse populations.

Session Organizer: Lori Peek

(lori.peek@colostate.edu)

Session chair: Jim Kendra

10. Thursday, July 15 – 16:30 to 18:00 Disasters and Risk

There is a growing interest in disasters and risk in social sciences in Europe, with young scholars using the ethnographic approach to understand risk or disaster situations. What does the ethnographic approach add to the analysis of disaster and risk? In this session we will present field works that contribute to analyze disaster or

risk as processes of qualification, or categorization, to identify what is at stake in these situations, to shed light on the contradictory interests hold by different actors. We want to analyze not only the points of view of the “victims” but also the interactions between assistance or prevention operations and devices, and the “beneficiary” population. In crisis situations, like disasters, various social world converge and encounter : medical and assistance professionals, politicians, medias, “experts”, population, national and international spheres etc...How do these different worlds meet on the disaster scene, and what transformations occur at that time, that can be prolonged for months or years in the reconstruction phase?

Session Organizer: Sandrine Revet

(sandrine.revet@free.fr)

Session chair: Avi Kirschenbaum

11. Friday, July – 14:30 to 16:00 Open Paper Session

This is an open paper session. Research Committee # 39 welcomes papers from any discipline as long as these are in the area of crisis communication, emergency management and other aspects of the broad field of disaster studies. Anyone who is doubtful whether his/her paper would be acceptable should communicate with one of the organizers – Joe Scanlon (jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca) or Lori Peek (lori.peek@colostate.edu).

Session Organizer: Joe Scanlon

(jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca)

Session chair: Carla Prater

12. Friday, July 16 – 16:30 to 18:00 Catastrophic Event

Catastrophes are of a different scale than more routine emergencies or disasters. Catastrophes tend to affect multiple communities, damage or destroy most or all of the built environment, overwhelm local capacities, and disrupt everyday routines for long periods of time. Recent events, including Hurricane Katrina in the United States, the Sichuan, China Earthquake, and the Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami illustrate the tremendous challenges associated with preparing for, responding to, and recovering from catastrophes. This session will highlight recent research on the social impacts of catastrophic events.

Session Organizer: Lori Peek (lori.peek@colostate.edu)

Session Chair: Michael Lindell

Research Assistant – Industrial Safety Chair Mines ParisTech, Sophia Antipolis, France (Chair holder: Professor Erik Hollnagel)

The Industrial Safety Chair

The ISC was established in 2006 and initially funded as a 5-year partnership between Mines ParisTech and a number of major French companies. The Chair is composed of one professor (Pr. Erik Hollnagel), two research associates (Drs Eric Rigaud and Denis Besnard) and a number of PhD students (presently four). The objective of the team is to accomplish the three main missions for the industrial partners: training, research and direct contracts (safety-related studies and engineering of methods and tools). The general scientific background of the Chair's operations is the human factors as applied to industrial safety and resilience engineering. Further information about the Chair can be found at <http://www.crc.ensmp.fr/csi/>.

Work description

The RA is expected to contribute to the successful fulfilment of the three main missions of the ISC. The successful candidate will therefore commit to the realisation of the training and research agenda, develop and participate in internal and external education and projects, collaborate with the industrial partners, and generally help with the day-to-day running of the Chair.

Qualifications

The successful candidate should hold a recent Ph.D. in an area relevant to the human factors of industrial safety (e.g. psychology, ergonomics, reliability, management, etc.) or resilience engineering, and should be interested in working on industry-oriented topics. Experience from working with industry and/or research management is desirable. The candidate can be either French with fluent English, or from EU with both fluent French and English.

Position, location and salary

The position is to be held for a period of 18 months. The location of work is within the Centre for research in Risks and Crises (CRC) in Sophia Antipolis, France. Further information about CRC can be found at <http://www.crc.ensmp.fr>. The net monthly salary will be 2,000 (two thousand) euros. The successful candidate is expected to begin working within the first quarter of 2009.

How to submit your application

A CV and a cover letter should be sent by email to Dr Denis Besnard (denis.besnard@crc.ensmp.fr) with [Application RA Industrial Safety Chair] in the subject line. *The deadline for application is January 30th, 2009.*

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. Ideas should be referenced (Author, year), but there is no need for a complete reference list.

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 coordinator, the editor or of the D&SCRN.

Susann Ullberg, D&SCRN Coordinator

Eduardo Runte, E-Newsletter Editor