

# Disaster & Social Crisis Research Network Electronic Newsletter

Nº. 37-38, January – June, 2009 (Double Issue)

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

## Coordinator's Report

**Susann Ullberg**

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Dear DSCRN members and colleagues, the DSCRN e-newsletter is finally back and this time with the full program for the upcoming ESA 9th biannual conference. The session organizers and I have been working hard the last months to organise and schedule the papers registered, and we are pleased to announce that we finally have a program that is as intense as interesting, running from Thursday morning on September 3rd to Saturday afternoon on September 5th.

Of the 13 sessions that were proposed in the Call for Contributions at the beginning of the year we will finally be arranging nine (9) sessions of which six (6) are single regular sessions of RN8 and three (3) are joint arrangements with three (3) other Research Networks, namely one together with RN24 Science and Technology on the one hand, and two sessions with RN6 Critical Political Economy and RN9 Economic Sociology on the other. As for the latter two we are pleased that we could arrange them as Joint Sessions in the end. We are especially pleased to have achieved these joint arrangements for this year's conference because we think that such "crossing" of sub-disciplinary thinking is fruitful to our understanding of disasters and crises.

We received 43 abstracts originally submitted for our CfP of which 40 were accepted. After a couple of transfers of papers to and from other RN's and a few last minute dropouts we finally have 46 papers to be presented, including those of the Joint Sessions (of which some abstracts were not submitted to our RN but to the other RNs). For those of you participating in the sessions, don't forget to send your full papers to the

session organizers latest by August 20th.

You will find the entire detailed program for the session below and you will soon have all information updated on the conference web page at <http://www.esa9thconference.com>.

For those of you that are attending the conference and are members of the network, please note that our Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 3rd at 17pm, right after having finalized our first day of work. It will be a special meeting since we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of our research network. Among other things we will be presenting the new web page of DSCRN that our Web Manager and Editor in Chief, Eduardo Runte, has designed. We will also vote for new members to constitute the Coordinating Committee for the upcoming period of 2009-2011. So, if you are a RN member and you are interested to work more actively in the network, don't miss the business meeting!

We are pleased to have had a great response to our CfP and we look forward to hear and discuss all the papers in Lisbon. We particularly welcome new participants that we hope will become members and engage in our RN.

On a more personal note I am at this very moment travelling from Argentina to Sweden. The Swine Flu, or Influenza A H1N1 as it is really called now, is striking hard in this austral country which is now the second country with most fatal victims (after the USA). The federal and provincial governments have taken several preventive and mitigative measures such as closing schools and day care centres, and issuing a general leave of absence for pregnant women.

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As is frequent in crises of this kind in which uncertainty is extremely prominent due to the inherent nature of a virus epidemic (which is a pandemic by now), rumoring and speculating about the extent and magnitude of the epidemic is widespread. The particular social and political context of Argentina, characterized by extremely low trust in governmental institutions, helps to reinforce this sense of crisis and general fear. The different mass media report more or less seriously on this matter but are all in all focused on the flu, which also makes this matter the centre of attention to virtually all Argentines, even in the most remote areas. The outcome of this crisis is yet to see.

In order to conclude I wish to thank all those who have submitted session proposals, to all those who submitted abstracts and to all the members in the Coordinating Committee for working to make the best out of this meeting! Looking forward to meet you in Lisbon!

Best regards from Argentina

//Susann

## Editor's Note

**Eduardo Runte**

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As you certainly noticed, we did not issue a newsletter in April. The present newsletter covers the whole period from January to June 2009. We call your attention to the [program](#) of our sessions at the 9<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference in September. On Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'll be holding our Business Meeting, at which we'll elect the new Coordinating Committee. All DSCRN members are invited to participate. We look forward to seeing you there and in the meantime, enjoy the reading!

Eduardo

## D&SCRN Web Manager report (January – June, 2009)

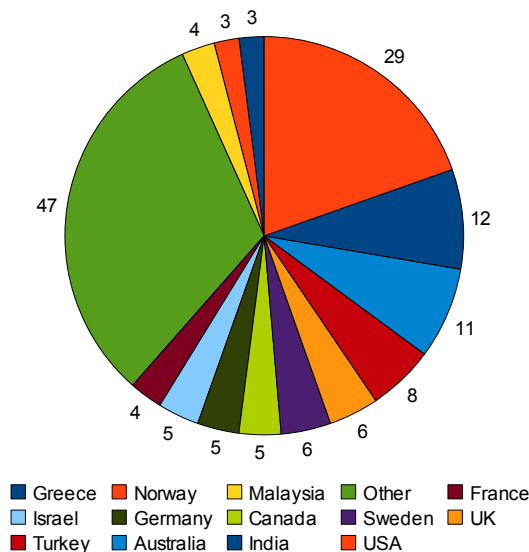
**Eduardo Runte**

[dscrn.website@gmail.com](mailto:dscrn.website@gmail.com)

1. **New members:** Please join me in welcoming the new D&SCRN members: (1) **Fernando Briones Gamboa** ([briones@cieras.edu.mx](mailto:briones@cieras.edu.mx)), researcher at the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, Mexico. Gamboa has interests in social construction of risk, climate perception,

adaptability and resilience; (2) **Ana Arzoumanian** ([arzoumana@gmail.com](mailto:arzoumana@gmail.com)), Lawyer. Ana works at the CAS-IDES, in Argentina. Her interests include genocide, diaspora and Armenian genocide; (3) **Sergio Eduardo Visacovsky** ([seredvisac@fibertel.com.ar](mailto:seredvisac@fibertel.com.ar)), from Argentina. Eduardo is interested in Economic and Social Crises: Cultural Reactions and Experiences (how people manage and give experience to economic and social crises); (4) **Mohamad H. Alzaghaf** ([malzagha@gmail.com](mailto:malzagha@gmail.com)), Head of Telecommunications Office, Jordan. He holds a Master's Degree in Systems Engineering. The title of his Master's dissertation is *Analysis of Jordan's Proposed Emergency Communication Interoperability Plan (JECIP) for Disaster Response*; (5) **Naeem Shahid** ([drnaeem\\_shahid@yahoo.com](mailto:drnaeem_shahid@yahoo.com)), Researcher, founder of the think tank "The Centre for Peace and International Security" in Pakistan.

2. **Website.** **Cecile Quesada** informs her new e-mail address: [quesada.moaeteau@gmail.com](mailto:quesada.moaeteau@gmail.com); **Ilan Kelman** informs his new professional affiliation: Center for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo; **Andry Widjowijatnoko** informs his new email address, [andry.widyo@yahoo.com](mailto:andry.widyo@yahoo.com), and his recent research interest: Post Disaster Relief in Building and Infrastructure Using Appropriate Technology; **Sandrine Revet** informs her new email address: [revet@ceri-sciences-po.org](mailto:revet@ceri-sciences-po.org).
3. **DSCRN Membership.** As of July, 2009, the DSCRN has 148 registered members, coming from over 40 countries. The newsletter is distributed to approximately 200 people. The chart below gives a rough idea of the geographical distribution of our membership (countries with only 1 or 2 members were placed in the "Other" category for readability).



**Sandrine Revet**

[revet@ceri-sciences-po.org](mailto:revet@ceri-sciences-po.org)

Sandrine Revet, anthropologist and member of the network, has recently joined the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales (CERI) de Sciences Po (Paris), as a Research Fellow. She will develop new research projects on international organizations working on disaster and risk management, Venezuela risk and disaster policies and management, and new configurations about security (human security, global security). You'll find a presentation of her work on: <http://www.ceri-sciencespo.com/cherlist/revet.php>

Sandrine is also the actual president of the Association pour la Recherche sur les Catastrophes et les Risques en Anthropologie (ARCRA) who will organize an international symposium in Paris in June 2010. Please see the Call for contribution in this newsletter.

**Ana Arzoumanian**

[arzoumana@gmail.com](mailto:arzoumana@gmail.com)

Ana Arzoumanian has a Law degree and has carried out Postgraduate Coursework in Psychoanalysis. She is a writer with several published works including novels, poetry, and essays. The subject of her books is violence. Political or domestic violence over the body.

Ana works in Buenos Aires in an Anthropological Centre, CAS-IDES with the direction of Sergio Visacovsky. CAS-IDES is part of a group that work on disasters and social trauma. Ana's research is about genocide, and specifically Armenian genocide.

She would like to be in touch with others researchers of this item and share bibliography and works.

**Naeem Shahid**

[drnaem\\_shahid@yahoo.com](mailto:drnaem_shahid@yahoo.com)

Naeem is a researcher of International Security/Counter-terrorism, and founder of think tank "The Centre for Peace & International Security" here we work for global peace and security.

He participated in an "International Crisis Management" Course at "Swedish National Defence College, Stockholm" in 2008. He is an innovator as well, and has designed a "Suicide Bomber Vehicles Prevention Security & Tracking System" for Pakistan.

He is the author of two books, both winners of the National Award from the National Book Foundation, Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan.

Books, articles, reports, and recent studies by DSCRN members and colleagues. Book prices reflect prices at the time of survey. DSCRN is not affiliated with Amazon.com and cannot guarantee the prices informed. Prices in US dollars.

**Organizations under Siege: Innovative Adaptive Behaviors in Work Organizations**

By Avi Kirschenbaum & Carmit Rapaport, Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

[avik@tx.technion.ac.il](mailto:avik@tx.technion.ac.il)

(For more information about this study, please contact Dr. Kirschenbaum at the email address above)

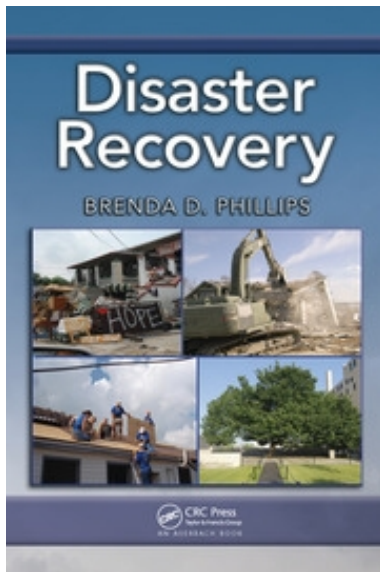
By examining the actual behavior of both managers and employees in work organizations during a crisis, we were able to better understand conditions facilitating an organization's ability to maintain operational continuity. Building on theories of organizational and disaster behavior, a working model was developed and tested from evidence acquired from work organizations that were subjected to massive Katyusha rocket bombardment of Northern Israel in 2006. The results support the notion that organizational response to a disaster includes a social process of innovative behavioral adaptation to changing and threatening conditions. Based on both perceived and actual financial performance levels during the crisis, we discerned that on the one hand, the organization's managers react within the administrative constraints of their organizations according to their perception of its performance. The day-to-day operations, however, are maintained as employees' adapt their own behavior to the changing demands of the situation. The analysis further shows that although plans, drills and emergency regulations are important for performance behaviors during the emergency, it was employees' innovative adaptive behaviors that contributed to maintaining actual organizational performance. These adaptive work behaviors depended on a series of social process predictors such as the levels of emergent and prosocial behaviors as well as the densities of social networks at the workplace. The findings both support and focus on the role that external organizational disruption can have on innovative organizational adaptation and change.

## Disaster Recovery

By: Brenda Phillips

CRC Press, 2009

Amazon.com price (July 2009): \$69.95



Disaster recovery is a vital element in the emergency management life cycle; it is the key stage where services and funds are applied to affected cities, states, and regions to get the corresponding businesses and communities up and running again. Currently, no textbook exists solely on the topic of recovery for the over 120 degree and certificate programs in emergency management.

Disaster Recovery will serve as a core text that tackles the myriad recovery issues faced by federal, state, and local emergency managers as well as voluntary and social service agencies and organizations in a disaster situation. The book provides a holistic approach and covers all recovery components professionals and students need to understand including recovery planning, housing, debris removal, business and private sector recovery, governmental recovery and operations, environmental resources, social and psychological recovery and services, voluntary non-governmental organizations, federal assistance programs and donations management. Numerous recent case studies are provided throughout to ground theoretical concepts to real-world application.

### Key Features:

- The first comprehensive textbook on disaster recovery
- Integrates concern for vulnerable populations in to each chapter.
- Links recovery to environmental sustainability and green rebuilding.
- Connects recovery to mitigation strategies that foster disaster resiliency.

- Addresses theoretical models and real-world examples to emphasize key points.
- Emphasizes recovery as a partnership effort.

Each chapter features pedagogy to encourage learning and retention including chapter objectives, practical applications, review questions, a summary, and a resources section. The book takes a cross-disciplinary approach that will also be of interest to voluntary aid organizations, emergency management agencies, social science professionals, and public officials.

### Contents:

- Part I: Understanding Disaster Recovery \* 1 Introduction \* 2 Frameworks and Approaches to Disaster Recovery \* 3 Disaster Recovery Planning \*
- Part II: Dimensions of Disaster Recovery \* 4 Debris Management \* 5 Environmental Recovery \* 6 Historic and Cultural Resources \* 7 Housing \* 8 Business Recovery \* 9 Infrastructure and Lifelines \* 10 Social Psychological Recovery \* 11 Public Sector Recovery \*
- Part III: Recovery Resources \* 12 Donations \* 13 Community Resources \* 14 Voluntary Organizations \* 15 Financing Recovery

### Author:

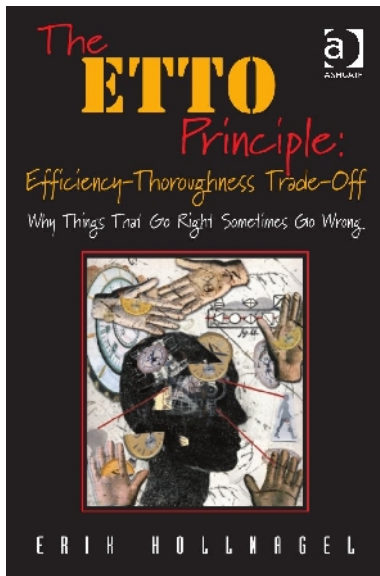
Dr. Brenda Phillips has conducted research, taught courses and presented talks on the topic of disaster recovery for many years. Her research is based on a wide variety of events and has resulted in hundreds of presentations and publications. She is a frequent speaker at conferences on disaster and community recovery and has spoken on the topic in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, the People's Republic of China, Germany, Mexico and the United States. Within the U.S., she has presented at the National Weather Service Training Center, the National Academies of Science, the Church World Services Disaster Ministry Conference, the National Hurricane Conference and dozens of state and local conventions. She currently teaches university courses on Disaster Recovery; Aim and Scope of Emergency Management; Community Relations, Mitigation and Recovery; and Populations at Risk as a Full Professor in the Fire and Emergency Management Program at Oklahoma State University She is also a Senior Researcher with the Center for the Study of Disasters and Extreme Events at OSU.

## The ETTO Principle

By: Erik Hollnagel

Ashgate, 2009

Amazon.com price (July 2009): \$39.95



The ETTO Principle looks at the common trait that people at work adjust what they do to match the conditions – to what has happened, to what happens, and to what may happen. It proposes that this efficiency-thoroughness trade-off (ETTO) – usually sacrificing thoroughness for efficiency – is normal. While in some cases the adjustments may lead to adverse outcomes, these are due to the very same processes that produce successes, rather than to errors and malfunctions.

### Contents:

Prologue; The need to understand why things go wrong; From rationality to ETTOing; Explaining human irrationality; Efficiency-thoroughness trade-off in practice; The usefulness of performance variability; ETTOs of the past; ETTOs of the future; Epilogue; Index.

### Author:

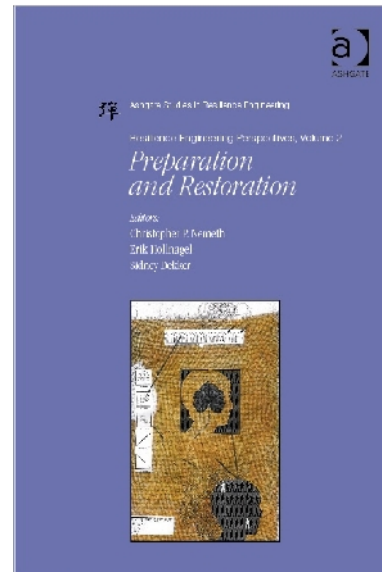
Erik Hollnagel (PhD, Psychology) is Professor and Industrial Safety Chair at MINES ParisTech (France), Professor Emeritus at University of Linköping (Sweden), and Visiting Professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim (Norway). Since 1971 he has worked at universities, research centres and industries in several countries and with problems from several domains, including nuclear power generation, aerospace and aviation, air traffic power management, software engineering, healthcare, and land-based traffic. His professional interests include industrial safety, resilience engineering, accident investigation, cognitive systems engineering and cognitive ergonomics.

## Resilience Engineering Perspectives – Preparation and Restoration

Editors: Christopher P. Nemeth, Erik Hollnagel, Sidney Dekker

Ashgate (Studies in Resilience Engineering), 2009

Amazon.com price (July 2009): \$99.95



Preparation and Restoration addresses issues such as the nature of resilience; the similarities and differences between resilience and traditional ideas of system performance; how systems cope with varying demands and sometimes succeed and sometimes fail; how an organization's ways of preparing before critical events can enable or impede restoration; the trade-offs that are needed for systems to operate and survive; instances of brittle or resilient systems; how work practices affect resilience; the relationship between resilience and safety; and what improves or erodes resilience.

### Contents:

*The ability to adapt*, Christopher P. Nemeth; Part I *Policy and Organization: The politics and policy challenges of disaster resilience*, Thomas A. Birkland and Sarah Waterman; *Resilience capacity and strategic agility: prerequisites for thriving in a dynamic environment*, Cynthia Lengnick-Hall and Tammy E. Beck. Part II *Models and Measures: An initial comparison of selected models of system resilience*, David D. Woods, Jason Schenk and Theodore T. Allen; *Measuring resilience*, John Wreathall. Part III *Elements and Traits: The 4 cornerstones of resilience engineering*, Erik Hollnagel; *Ready for trouble: 2 faces of resilience*, Ron Westrum; *Layered resilience*, Philip J. Smith, Amy L. Spencer and Charles E. Billings. Part IV *Applications and Implications: Notes from underground: latent resiliency in healthcare*, Shawna J. Perry and Robert L. Wears; *Cognitive underpinnings of resilience: a case study of group decision in emergency response*, David Mendonça and Yao Hu; *Restoration through preparation: is it possible?*

*Analysis of a low-probability/high-consequence event*, Martin Nijhof and Sidney Dekker; *Understanding and contributing to resilient work systems*, Emilie M. Roth, Jordan Multer and Ronald Scott; *The infusion device as a source of healthcare resilience*, Christopher P. Nemeth, Michael O'Connor and Richard I. Cook; *Bibliography; Index*.

#### Editors:

Dr Christopher P. Nemeth, Principal Scientist and Group Leader for Cognitive Systems Engineering, Klein Associates Division (KAD) of Applied Research Associates (ARA), USA, Professor Erik Hollnagel, Industrial Safety Chair at MINES ParisTech, France and Professor Sidney Dekker, Director of Research at Lund University School of Aviation, Sweden.

### **The Impact of Some Organizational Determinants and Demographic Characteristics on the Job Performance of the Civil Defense Men: A study from the Perspective of Sociology of Organization. (Ph.D. Thesis)**

By Dr. Nasser S. Al-Asiry, Department of Social Studies, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia.

[nsasiry@hotmail.com](mailto:nsasiry@hotmail.com)

The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship of some organizational determinants and demographic characteristics with job performance of the individuals and ranked officers of the civil defense administrations in Riyadh and Makah cities in Saudi Arabia, using the theories of Social exchange, Open System, and Contingency.

To achieve this objective, the study used data collected through the use of a questionnaire from a sample of 397 individuals and ranked officers of civil defense in Riyadh and Makah cities using a cluster sample technique. The questionnaire included some questions and items regarding demographic characteristics, and Likert type scales for organizational determinants: job satisfaction, organizational loyalty, job stress, and training, in addition to job performance. For the data analysis, the study used several statistical techniques including: frequency tables, mean, t-test, one-way ANOVA, correlation, and multiple regression.

The study reached several findings. The most important of them as follows:

- 1) There are statistically significant differences in job performance according to place of work, and benefit of training for those who work in Makah and those who see themselves as benefited from training.
- 2) There are positive and significant effects of job satisfaction, organizational loyalty, and training on job performance.
- 3) There is a negative and significant effect of job stress

on job performance.

Based on these findings, the study provided some recommendations for improving the job performance of the individuals and ranked officers of the General Directorate for civil defense in Saudi Arabia.

## **Upcoming Events & Calls for Papers**

### **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](mailto:DCS-IDMC09@ekgaon.com)

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 software; 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 and transmission 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 behavior 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 mechanisms would help in decentralization of risk governance with community level institutions, who would be better "prepared" and "equipped" to take mitigation steps.

#### **Disaster and risk: from empiricism to criticism**

International symposium – 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in Paris (CERI-EHESS)

Julien Langumier (RIVES, CNRS UMR EVS) : [langumier@yahoo.fr](mailto:langumier@yahoo.fr)

Cécile Quesada-Moaeteau (CREDO, CNRS UMR 6574) : [quesada.moaeteau@gmail.com](mailto:quesada.moaeteau@gmail.com)

Sandrine Revet (CERI, Sciences Po-CNRS) : [revet@ceri-sciences-po.org](mailto:revet@ceri-sciences-po.org)

The widespread media coverage of disasters and our growing and unavoidable awareness of their increasing frequency and intensity under the influence of global warming have been prompting social science to treat disasters and “at risk” situations as research questions

during the last two decades. Besides, a lot of studies – from the sociology of politics to the sociology of rights through the sociology of sciences or organizations – have developed in France during the last decade in order to understand risks generated by technological and industrial progress (GMO, mobile phones, nuclear....) and the social and political processes appearing in their wake on the public scene (“framing a public problem into collective risk”, mobilizations, formation of “victim groups”...). However, despite the relevance and importance of these studies, the angles chosen sometimes lead to a reduction of the analysis of disasters to presuppositions such as an exception or an emergency, and confine the understanding of risk to the practical categories of vulnerability / resilience / prevention. Moreover, the approaches focusing on the representations elaborated by the populations are sometimes used to propose a culturalist analysis that relies on a dichotomy between experts and laypeople. In order to go beyond these reductions and frontiers, this symposium proposes to consider disasters and risk as a continuum of construction (the disaster being presented as the horizon of risk), by dealing with the local processes that arise during such situations, and by highlighting the complexity of involved dynamics. The “local” is here considered in a permanent interaction with other scales (global or national through the post-emergency assistance world and the operational systems of prevention, care or reconstruction....).

It is still common to notice, in some studies on disasters, that attention focuses first on the emergency and then on the first aid and immediate assistance activities, underlying the exceptional attributes of the situation and the freezing of crisis time. In the same spirit, a lot of studies focus on the prevention activities that follow a disaster, thus also defining the time frame as exceptional and often failing to recognise the ordinary time and daily routine involved. However, the notion of a “frozen time” before a “return to normal life” should be questioned in the light of field research and empirical bodies (contemporary or historical) that beg to integrate disasters into longer time frames and deal with the daily life recreated by local actors. Thus, emergency situations caused by disasters of any kind give birth to a specific time frame during which many issues and social dynamics emerge and new configurations arise between groups. Notably, the interventions of States and charitable or humanitarian actors on behalf of populations, as well as the implementation of prevention plans, modify local context. The interaction between the practices of populations and those of the aid or risk prevention institutions involve a confrontation between different worlds, between institutional actors and inhabitants, between humanitarian actors and beneficiaries, between media stories and experience, between local and global. From that perspective, the “return to normal life” may appear as the first fiction of



disasters.

“At risk” situations and disasters also often involve culturalist interpretations that rely on the generic and opposing concepts of victim and rescuer, fatalism and management, rational and irrational. We can also find this dichotomy in the studies that deal with interpretations of disasters and contrast the concept of “calamity” to the post-modern concept of “risk”. However, the concepts of “risk culture” and “disaster sub-culture” are not sufficient to interpret all the empirical data. On the contrary, ethnographic investigations or, in a historical perspective, archive research, reveal hybrid processes between different logics and ancient practices of risk management relying on know-how born from an empirical knowledge of the environment as well as complex belief systems. The logic of “coping with” risk and disasters leads all the actors (inhabitants, institutional authorities, managers...) to perpetual compromise, questioning the boundaries some studies draw in terms of “culture”, thus participating in a kind of ideal invention of the collective drama.

Finally, the disaster is often considered as an event that puts the vulnerability of a system to the test or reveals the resilience potential of a society or a social group. However, the notions of resilience and vulnerability seem unlikely to convey the proliferation of these local reconfigurations, of the many definitions elaborated by the inhabitants of territories affected by disasters or qualified as “at risk”. The issues of resettlement, reconstruction and housing; the uses of identity resources and disaster politics by the “victims”, or of the resources of prevention plans by the “vulnerable populations”; the normative and competitive interventions of humanitarian actors, rescue organizations and prevention actors; the entry on the political scene of different groups; the reconfiguration of collective memories through a renewed relationship with the past; the quest for explanations through logics of blame attribution and the search for people responsible for the drama represent so many complex dynamics that are fundamental to understand. All these issues must be put into perspective with larger dynamics that can be observed in interactions with the sphere of international actors that intervene in risk and disaster situations, unveiling the contemporary transformation of the notion of security. Thanks to empirical bodies, social science provides vital knowledge about these rich and complex contexts.

The symposium thus calls for social science research (contemporary and historical) that relies on empirical studies (fieldwork, research in the archives...) to study the social and political dynamics involved in these situations and more specifically analyze the interactions between populations and the different actors that intervene to prevent or manage collective drama. The

reflection will be organized along three main lines:

### *1. From the event to the research object*

Research will be presented that aims at restoring the density and depth characterizing disasters and risk situations by reinserting them inside dynamic and heuristic scales, that is, by analyzing these events and situations from perspectives that articulate micro and macro, local and global, long time frames and emergency, small disasters and big catastrophes, etc.... The methodological reflections on corpuses, on the practice of fieldwork in these specific contexts, or on the archives chosen to investigate these topics also help to understand how a research object is constructed from the themes of risk and disaster.

### *2. Beyond the “risk culture”: confrontation and circulation of knowledge and practice*

We will introduce studies that analyze hybrid practice, reconfiguration and adaptation born from disaster and risk situations. Hoping to go beyond a certain form of “culturalism” that leads to simplistic dichotomies between “expert” and “profane” knowledge and practices, we encourage papers that investigate confrontation between different types of knowledge and analyze the circulation of tools, actors or practice between the different interacting social worlds.

### *3. The politics of disaster and risk*

By reintroducing the analysis of the dynamics that are born within risk or disaster situations, we want to understand the political use of these situations by different actors. Notably, what are the resources they use to elaborate critiques, rally together and develop forms of appropriation or of resistance against “governance” operations, often presented, by their instigators, as outside the political field, or analyzed by social sciences in terms of “bio-politics”? By observing, from local fields, the interventions of different national and international actors (States, International Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations) we will question the transformations of the concept of security these interventions – and their legitimization processes – contribute to.

#### Organization of the Symposium:

Association for the Research on Catastrophes and Risks in Anthropology (ARCRA): <http://www.arcra.fr/>

Julien Langumier (RIVES, CNRS UMR EVS): [langumier@yahoo.fr](mailto:langumier@yahoo.fr)

Cécile Quesada-Moaeteau (CREDO, CNRS UMR 6574): [quesada.moaeteau@gmail.com](mailto:quesada.moaeteau@gmail.com)

Sandrine Revet (CERI, Sciences Po-CNRS): [revet@ceri-sciences-po.org](mailto:revet@ceri-sciences-po.org)

#### Scientific Committee

- Olivier Borraz, sociologist (CSO, Sciences-Po-

- CNRS)
- Thierry Coanus, urban engineer (RIVES, UMR CNRS EVS)
- Nicolas Dodier, sociologist (GSPM, EHESS)
- Virginia García Acosta, anthropologist (CIESAS, Mexico)
- Claude Gilbert, politologist (PACTE/MSH-Alpes, CNRS)
- Julien Langumier, anthropologist (RIVES, UMR CNRS EVS)
- Anthony Oliver-Smith, anthropologist (University of Florida)
- Grégory Quenet, historian (Université Versailles Saint Quentin)
- Cécile Quesada-Moaeteau, anthropologist ('Atenisi Institute(Tonga)-CREDO, UMR CNRS 6574)
- Sandrine Revet, anthropologist (CERI, Sciences Po-CNRS)
- Françoise Zonabend, anthropologist (LAS, EHESS)

#### Practical details and schedule

Paper proposals, in French and English, must be sent to the symposium organizers before the 30th of June 2009. They must imperatively mention:

1. The title of the communication
2. A summary from 300 to 600 words maximum
3. The last name and first name of the author or of the co-authors
4. Their position
5. Their discipline
6. Their institution
7. Their electronic mail

The proposals must be sent to:

[langumier@yahoo.fr](mailto:langumier@yahoo.fr)

[quesada.moaeteau@gmail.com](mailto:quesada.moaeteau@gmail.com)

[revet@ceri-sciences-po.org](mailto:revet@ceri-sciences-po.org)

The scientific committee will select the communications and announce its choice no later than the 15th of October. The final papers must be sent before the 15th of March 2010. The symposium will take place in Paris on the 18th and 19th of June 2010.

## XVII International Sociological Association

World Congress of Sociology

Gothenburg, Sweden



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

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/>

More than 70 persons have already signed up as joint members of the International Sociological Association (ISA) and the International Research Committee on Disasters (IRCD) which means there will be at least 14 disaster sessions at the World Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden, July 11-17, 2010. The draft program can be located on the ISA web site, and is shown as the program for Research Committee # 39. If 15 more persons join – as seems quite possible – we will add two more sessions.

Those who are joint members – members of the ISA and IRCD – will be given first opportunity to present at the Congress. Others will be offered a chance to present if there is still room after that.

The ISA allocates sessions based on the number of joint members; so the committee has to ask people to join if it hopes to have sessions at a World Congress.

Anyone wishing further information should contact one of the two organizers – Joe Scanlon [jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca](mailto:jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca) or Lori Peek [lori.peek@colostate.edu](mailto:lori.peek@colostate.edu).

### 9<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference – RN8 Program



*(Final Program as of July 13, 2009)*

**Thursday, 3 September**

**9:00 - 10:30**

#### 1) Disaster and Risk – Concepts and Perspectives

(Paper session + Single RN session)

Session Organiser: Benjamín González Rodríguez

Chair: Ariadna Rodríguez Teijeiro

*Main insights in risk research in Spain: conceptual,*

*methodological and applied research advancements* (Benjamín González Rodríguez, Andrés García Gómez)

*The sociopsychological capacity to be resilient* (Carmen Diego Gonçalves)

Perceiving terrorism: media coverage and emotional responses to the Gungoren and Aktutun (Ferzan Ozyasar, Aylin Demirli Yoraz)

**13:30 - 15:00**

### 2a) Disaster, Risk and Communication

(Paper session + Single RN session)

Session organiser: Benjamín González Rodríguez

Chair: Manuel Pereira

*Effects of media communication in crisis or catastrophe situations* (Ariadna Rodríguez Teijeiro)

*Communication analysis of two Spanish political crises: the ecological disaster of the "Prestige" and the terrorist catastrophe of "11m"* (Juan de Dios Ruano Gómez,)

*Critical events information process: public image transmitted by the media of the institutions concerned in the Prat airport crisis* (Elvira Santiago)

*Extreme weather events: Disaster information or disastrously informed? A diagnosis of shortcoming in media reporting, media use habits and risk awareness* (Helena Zemp)

### 2b) Social Theory of the Financial Crisis

(Paper session + Joint session RN6+8+9)

Chair: Laura Horn

Discussant: Uwe Becker

*The Cultural Political Economy of Financial Crisis: the Paradox of "Responsible Competitiveness"* (Ngai Ling Sum)

*Everyday Finance in Varieties of Capitalism: A sociological analysis of the credit crisis* (Ben Jacoby)

*Financial Crisis Understanding the past, Raising the future* (Pedro Ferreira)

*Participation and self-management as a strategy for mitigation, reconstruction, prevention and social development in the 2008 global accumulation of capital systemic crisis* (Vera Vratuša)

**15:30 - 17:00**

### 3a) Perceptions of Risk and Security

(Paper session + Single RN session)

Session Organiser: Benjamín González Rodríguez

Chair: Elvira Santiago

*Risks and catastrophes: Attitudes and behavior in*

*society* (Andrés García Gómez)

*The implementation of new security technologies: The Spanish case* (Manuel Pereira Puga)

*Risk Perception, Extreme Events and Institutional Trust in Portugal* (José Mendes, Alexandre Tavares, Lúcio Cunha, Eduardo Basto)

*Nuclear culture in Spain* (Benjamín González Rodríguez)

### 3b) Comparative Perspectives on the Financial Crisis

(Paper session + Joint session RN6+8+9)

Chair: Nicholas Petropoulos

Discussant: Magnus Ryner

*Financial Crisis, Financialization and Comparative Capitalism* (Andreas Nölke, Marcel Heires)

*Back to the Future: Can American-Style Consumer Capitalism Be Saved? Should It Be Saved?* (Maria N Ivanova)

*Fractionalization, Governance and the Economic Crisis in Europe* (Elias Kikilias)

*Delegation of Regulatory Authority to Transnational Standard-Setters and the Changing Macroeconomic Architecture of Advanced Capitalist Systems* (Andreas Kruck)

**17:00 - 17:30**

*RN 8 Business Meeting*

## **Friday, 4 September**

**9:00 - 10:30**

### 4a) What Difference do International and Cross Disciplinary Teams make to Disaster Research Practice?

(Paper session + Single RN session)

Session Organiser: Maureen Fordham

Chair: Susann Ullberg

*What Difference Do International and Cross Disciplinary Teams Make to Disaster Research Practice?* (Maureen Fordham, Supriya Akerkar, Manuela Scharf)

*Social Impact of Disasters in Holistic Perspective* (P.C. Joshi, D. Guha Sapir)

*Collecting Quality Data: Do Researcher Profiles and Training Avoid or Create Bias?* (Laura Irvine, Maureen Fordham)

*Social impact assessment for natural disaster management* (Rauno Sairinen)

### 4b) Science and Technology: their Role in the Generation and Prevention/Mitigation of Crises and

## Disasters

(Paper session + Joint Session with RN24 'Science and Technology')

Chairs: Eduardo F. A. Runte & Aaro Tupasela

*Towards Ontological Empiricism in Crisis Management Training* (Joseph Richard Yves Gaston Pollack)

*Planning for Sustainable Settlements along the River Bengawan Solo, Java Island, Indonesia* (Lina Gregersdotter Höglund)

*Helping water to flow: institutional context of solutions strengthening permeability* (Piotr Matczak, Adam Chorynski)

*Technological dangers and challenges. Science and Technology Professors on the Social Impact of Modern Technology* (Janusz Mucha)

*X-radiation exposure in medical imaging* (Mei Zhou)

**13:30 - 15:00**

### 5) Maintaining Safety in the Risk Society

(Paper session + Single RN session)

Session Organiser & Chair: Eduardo F. A. Runte

*Defining criteria to characterise activity domains: refining Perrow's assumptions* (Damien Fabre, Luigi Macchi)

*Infrastructures and their failures: mobilizing various knowledges of risk* (Antti Silvast)

*Continuity of Services during Disasters: Innovative Organizational Adaptive Behaviors* (Alan (Avi) Kirschenbaum, Carmit Rapaport)

*An account of scientific transfer to the industry: the co-development of an incident analysis tool* (Denis Besnard, Damien Fabre, Wim Van Wassenhove, Eduardo F. A. Runte)

## **Saturday, 5 September**

**9:00 - 10:30**

### 6) Mass Urban Phenomena in Europe: Riots or Social Protests?

(Paper session + Single RN session)

Session Organiser & Chair: Nicholas Petropoulos

*Experiencing mass social riots or/and protests: the collapse of the Greek parliamentary democracy for a month in December 2008* (Anastasia Marinopoulou)

*Built utopias: the rise and fall of large-scale collective housing in Serbia* (Milica Stojic)

*Exterminism or Utopia: E. P. Thompson's pacifist strategy* (Ricardo Muller)

**11:00 - 12:30**

### 7) Politics and Practices of Remembering Disasters

(Paper session + Single RN session)

Session Organiser & Chair: Susann Ullberg (susann.ullberg@fhs.se)

*The Distomo Slaughter: Memory, politics and the struggle for closure* (Nicholas Petropoulos)

*Ways to remember disasters? Inclusions, exclusions and hierarchies* (Nina Blom Andersen)

*When public policies demand local populations remember previous flooding: an interdisciplinary research* (Cécilia Claeys, Martine Chalvet, Claire Demontis, Christine Voiron, Jérôme Dutozia)

**13:30 - 15:00**

### 8) Disasters between Memory and Oblivion

(Paper session + Single RN session)

Session Organiser: Susann Ullberg

Chair: Maureen Fordham

*Speeches and silences of the disaster. Ethnography of the 1999 floods in Cuxac d'Aude (France)* (Julien Langumier)

*From forgetting to remembering disaster: the controversial construction of 'discreet memory' in Seveso* (Laura Centemeri)

*Commemorating La Tragedia. Public and Private Memorial Strategies of the 1999 Floods in Venezuela* (Sandrine Revet)

*Watermarks Floods and Memoryscape in Santa Fe (Argentina)* (Susann Ullberg)

**15:30 - 17:00**

### 9) Disaster Management at Large: From Humanitarian Interventions to First Responders

(Paper session + Single RN session)

Chair: Sandrine Revet

*Resettlement and violence: collateral damages of a well intended humanitarian intervention in Maratane refugee camp* (Filipa Cardoso)

*The Tsunami Factor: A Natural Disaster acts as a moderator of the strength of intention behavior relations in the field of money donations* (Jochen Mayerl)

*Survivors' and Relatives' Perceptions of Justice in Post-Disaster Trials* (Nicholas Petropoulos)

*Professional emergency responders and unorganized volunteers: incident sites as meeting places* (Roine Johansson)

## 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. 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