



# **SRA 2017**

## **RISK ANALYSIS**

The Profession · The Practitioners · The Research

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Plenary Panel  
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Risk Analysis:  
An Obsolete Profession?

NO

# What Is Risk Analysis?

- A profession?
- A discipline?
- A framework for thinking about problems with potential negative outcomes?
- An interdisciplinary “add-on” to other disciplines?

# What Is Risk Analysis? It depends on the context.

- A profession?

Yes

- A discipline?

Yes

- A framework for thinking about issues and problems and what to do about them?

Yes

- An interdisciplinary “add-on” to other disciplines?

Yes

# Is Risk Analysis In Decline? **NO**

- Many other “traditional” societies and disciplines now have a strong component of risk analysis within them: INFORMS – IE/OR, ASCE – CEE, environmental science and policy, sustainability studies, etc.
- NSF has multiple programs that deal explicitly with risk analysis, though often imbedded within broader disciplinary programs: HDBE, CIS, DRMS, etc.
- Risk Analysis is having a substantial impact. We have been successful enough to be incorporated into other more “established” disciplinary programs and societies.

# So What Is The Problem?

- Do others perceive risk analysis methods as established, leading them to focus on contributions in application domains rather than risk analysis itself?

How deeply immersed in the science and methods of risk analysis are they?

Is this leading to a decline in membership in SRA relative to what it could be?

- Are the foundations of the field of risk analysis being given short-shrift?

How do we draw those using risk methods in other domains into a deeper discussion of the science of risk analysis within SRA?

# Some Opportunities

- Data – data science, data analytics, big data
  - What are we, as risk analysts, doing in this domain? Does the data “revolution” change what we do and how we do it? How can we leverage it?
- The other emerging/slowly maturing frameworks touching on related issues – resilience, sustainability, etc.
  - How can we better integrate with these complimentary approaches to dealing with issues of risk? How can we help developments in these other areas be more well-grounded?
- Climate adaptation: One of the biggest societal challenges we face, and one deeply linked with risk
  - How can we better help frame and inform this debate? How can we help provide actionable information firmly grounded in sound risk analysis science and approaches?