



SRA 2017

RISK ANALYSIS

The Profession · The Practitioners · The Research

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Plenary Session
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**Risk Analysis:
An Obsolete Profession?**

Obsolete Profession?

Wrong question, let's take stock instead

- Where are we?
- Where do we want risk analysis to go?
- How do we get there?

Where are we - Same key challenges (Thompson et al 2005)

- **Defining terms**
- **Distinguishing risk analysis as an academic discipline and certification**
- **Establishing SRA policy statements**
- **Performing work supported by grants**
- **Spinning off of clusters**
- **Measuring impact**
- **Thinking strategically**
- **Globalizing**

More challenges as of today

- **Competition from other fields that characterize risk (e.g., epidemiology, biostatistics, economics)**
- **Not sufficiently comprehensive to cover all integrated methods (e.g., INFORMS providing umbrella for analytics, others) – “too narrow”**
- **Communication of impacts of risk analysis contributions difficult (valuing prevention hard, failures highly visible)**

More important than ever

- **Growing population and stakes**
- **Increasingly complex and integrated systems**
- **Communication of risks**
 - **critical to improve decisions, particularly in the context of significant uncertainty and opportunities to obtain better information**
 - **complicated by overwhelming number of opportunities for communication and culture of “fake news”**

Where do we want to go?

- Do we really want a distinct field or is it better for everyone to develop their risk analysis skills (separate and distinguished vs. integral part of everyday life)?
- Stable SRA population size or growth?
- How many (expert/specialized) risk analysts does the world need?

How do we get there from here?

- **Build a critical mass, including a body of excellent work to point to as foundational examples**
- **Begin/improve integrating risk analysis training into all levels of education (why start at the college level?)**
- **Certification?**
- **Others?**

Thank you

Where are we?



2 Examples

Where Go From Here?

- Identify source of problem
 - Lack of understanding?
 - Lack of interest?
- Implement solutions
 - Better training?
 - Better selling?