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Message from the President

A new Specialty Group (SG) on resilience analysis was approved by the SRA Council on December 10, 2017. It is highly welcomed. Several of the current SRA SGs address resilience analysis and management; however, none of these SGs has resilience as its focus area. By establishing a new SG in resilience analysis, we acknowledge the importance of this area for the further development of risk analysis. Resilience has become an important concept in safety and risk research and applications. The issue is how we can make a system (interpreted in a wide sense) able to sustain or restore its functionality and performance following a change in the condition of the system (disruption, threat, opportunity). Resilience analysis and management constitute a main strategy to meet risk and in particular unforeseen and potential surprises. Many people and organizations today call for a shift from risk to resilience, and considerable resources are devoted to the development of methods and models for supporting resilience analysis and management. A new type of expertise is growing: professionals in resilience analysis and management.

The focus on resilience represents an opportunity for advancing risk analysis and embraces a new group of

professionals working on safety and risk related topics. By establishing the new SG, we seek to obtain new growth for SRA, scientifically and by enlarging our community. I would like to thank Igor Linkov, Myriam Merad, Benjamin Trump, Giovanni Sansavini and Jim Lambert for taking the lead and making this important contribution to bringing resilience closer to risk analysis and SRA.

The call for a shift from risk to resilience does not mean that risk is no longer relevant. It will always be important to assess threats and hazards. More knowledge can show that an identified threat does not really represent a problem. And there are always resource constraints; we cannot be highly resilient to everything. We must prioritize, and then we have to assess risk in some way. It is not about quantifying all risks but conducting broad judgments about risks where uncertainties are an integrated aspect.

Resilience-based thinking is a fundamental strategy within risk analysis and risk management, but many people seem to interpret the risk world as being linked to a rather narrow probabilistic risk assessment approach. This is problematic. The risk community loses relevancy and people. The message must be that risk and resilience are not in conflict. The new SG is based on the conviction that resilience analysis is strengthening and supplementing risk analysis — we need both.

We now have 16 SGs, some addressing generic risk analysis subjects, others linked to specific applications, as illustrated in Figure 1. The relatively high number of specialty groups reflects the fact that risk analysis covers many different scientific topics and is used in different sectors and areas. There are historical reasons why these 16 SGs have been developed in SRA; see Thompson et al. (2005). However, today we can question why, for example, there are no specific SGs addressing transportation, food, aerospace, natural hazards, information technology and telecommunications, enterprise risk management and finance. For sure, there is a potential for the further development of SRA in many directions. SRA is a society for all those who are interested in risk analysis, and, as we know, in SRA, risk analysis is defined as including risk assessment, risk characterization, risk communication, risk management, and policy relating to risk, in the context of risks of concern to individuals, to public- and private-sector organizations, and to society at a local, regional, national, or global level. Maybe in five years' time, many new and active groups will have been established. This is how SRA is growing. Individuals with the energy, drive and vision build new environments for the further enhancement of risk analysis. A special procedure has been developed for the generation of new SGs; see the explanation on the SRA [website](#).

Best regards,



Terje Aven

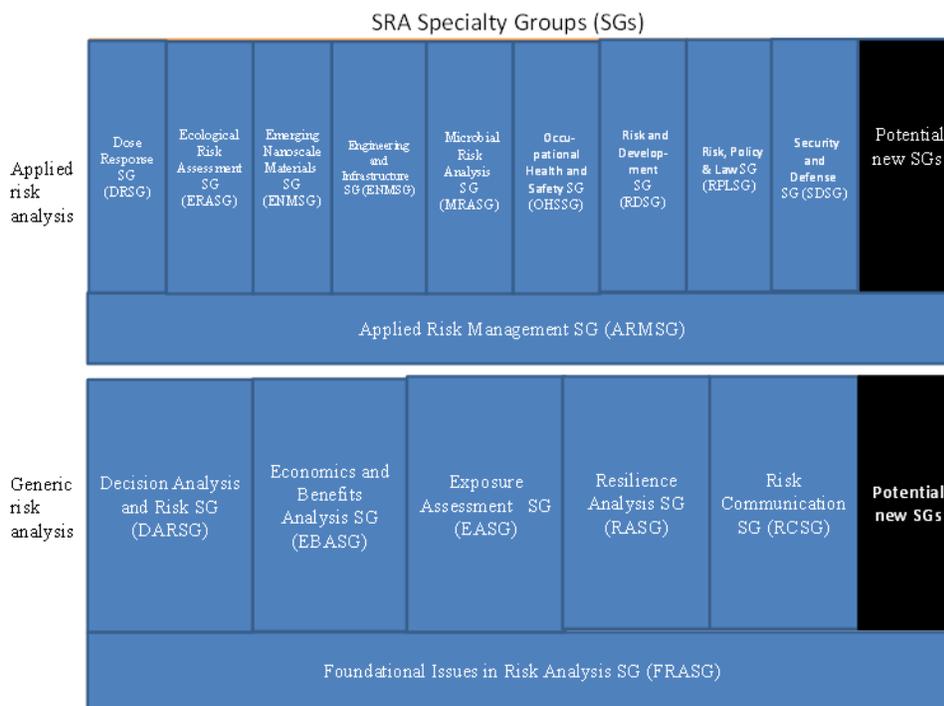


Figure 1: Illustration of the structure of current SRA Specialty Groups (SGs)



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



FIFTH WORLD CONGRESS ON RISK
DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENCE
May 6-8, 2019 • Cape Town, South Africa

The Society for Risk Analysis invites your abstracts for presentations at the Fifth World Congress on Risk in Cape Town, South Africa, May 6-8, 2019.

The Fifth World Congress on Risk will focus on “Development and Resilience” and aims to stimulate dialogue and education on risk issues of worldwide interest. SRA welcomes contributions on any topic related to risk assessment, risk characterization, risk perception, risk communication, risk management, risk governance, and policy relating to risk, in the context of risks of concern to individuals, to public and private sector organizations, and to society at a local, regional, national, or global level.

SRA is particularly interested in receiving submissions from outstanding researchers doing work in risk analysis from Africa, Asia, Oceania, Middle East or Latin America and will aim to support

their travel to present at the World Congress. The organizing committee welcomes proposals for a variety of session formats: poster-platform presentation, oral presentation and symposium presentation.

[Click here for complete submission guidelines and to submit your abstract.](#)



**The Society for Risk Analysis,
Asia Conference 2018**
13-14 March 2018 Osaka, Japan
**“Communication and collaboration
in diversity of risk researches in East Asia”**

日本リスク研究学会
The Society for Risk Analysis
Japan

Register for the 2018 SRA Asia Conference

March 13-14, 2018 at Kansai University, Osaka, Japan

The theme of the conference is "Communication and collaboration in diversity of researches in East Asia." We have variety of risk issues to analyze: natural disasters, climate change, accidents by science and technology, chemicals, radiation, EMF (electromagnetic field), food safety, insurance, risk administration of governance and business, war, terrorism, consensus formation, and so on. The regional SRAs in Asia each have their specialty. Natural disaster research in China, toxicology in Korea, public health in Taiwan, and risk communication in Japan. The diversity in the regional SRAs in Asia will be a trigger of our success, and we sincerely welcome all of you to the SRA Asia Conference 2018.

[Register here.](#)

Register for the 2018 Benelux Chapter Meeting

March 26, 2018 in Mol, Belgium

This conference provides a forum for exchanges between experts (researchers, students, professionals) on the changing nature of risk analysis, management, and policy in the face of societal shifts (e.g. institutional, technological, environmental). Theoretical, methodological and empirical perspectives on these topics will be presented and debated. During this event, the following topics will be treated:

- The changing nature of risk analysis, policy, and management in the face of societal shifts.
- Risk research and understanding of risk analysis techniques and approaches.
- Research and improving our understanding, and the practical application, of risk analysis and risk management.
- Issues common to Benelux countries in the field of risk research.

[Register here](#) before March 2, 2018. Attendance is free of charge but limited to 100 participants.



Register for the 2018 SRA Europe Conference

June 18-20, 2018 in Östersund, Sweden

The special theme of the conference, "Risk & Uncertainty – From Critical Thinking to Practical Impact" reflects the current need to persist the phenomenon of knowledge resistance and alternative facts, as well as to develop applied research for risk analysis in open and democratic contexts.

The conference will be held at Mid Sweden University in Östersund, a small town close to the mountains in the north of Sweden. During the conference you will experience the longest day of the year when the sun rises at 2.50 a.m., only a few hours after it sets.

This conference gathers academics, policy makers, and practitioners interested in risk research, policy, and practice, including members of the SRA-E, SRA International and other regional SRA organizations.

We hope you will take the opportunity to visit our beautiful town, take part in the conference, and listen to inspiring speakers.

[Register now](#) to take advantage of early-bird pricing.

SRA Member Spotlight: Robyn Wilson, PhD, recipient of the Chauncey Starr Distinguished

Robyn has spent the past year working on understanding risk management decisions in agricultural landscapes as they relate to nutrient loss and water quality. She recently completes a NSF Coupled Systems project in which she sought answers as to whether or not we could offset the negative impacts of climate changes on Lake Erie through upstream changes in human behavior. This year, she will be working on an EPA project focused on evaluating the effectiveness of EPA investments in water quality in the Great Lakes, and another NSF project focused on the impacts of deglobalization on the sustainability and resilience of the Great Lakes megaregion.



Each month the SRA newsletter will feature one of its members and their work in the spotlight section. If you would like to nominate a member, please email [Melanie Preve](mailto:Melanie.Preve).

Save the Date! Upcoming Webinars

*An additional email will be sent to all members
with a registration link*

New Webinar Series: Core Subjects of Risk Analysis

April 9 at 10am ET: Risk Assessment
with Seth Guikema

Coming in 2018:

*Risk Perception & Communication with
Katherine McComas*

*Risk Management & Governance with Frederic
Bouder and Terje Aven*

*Solving Real Risk Problems & Issues with
Willy Røed*

Risk, Causation and Decision with Tony Cox
Selected Topics in Risk Analysis with Ortwin

Dose Response Specialty Group 2018 Teleseminars (12-1pm ET)

March 6: Jackie MacDonald Gibson, PhD-
(UNC) *Machine Learning & SR-Translating
Science to Decision*

April 3: Richard Judson, PhD- (EPA) *New
Data for Dose Response*

Aug. 7: Scott Auerbach, PhD- (NTP) *The
NTP Proposed Approach to Genomic Dose-
Response Modeling*

Oct. 2: Nathan Schachtman, Esq. (RP&L
specialty group) *“Law differences between
scientific, legal, and public policy uses of
probability”*

For more information, visit the group's [website](#).

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If you or your specialty group has an idea for a webinar or is interested in hosting, please contact [Scott Dotson](#). All of our past webinars are available [here](#) for members.

Are you a member of another organization that could benefit from co-sponsoring an event with SRA?

For more information, and to apply for co-sponsorship, [click here](#).

The Risk Policy & Law Specialty Group would like to formally introduce its 2018 officers:

- [Dominic Balog-Way](#) - Chair
- [Charlene Liu](#) - Councilor at Large
- [Yvonne Stevens](#) - Secretary/Treasurer
- [Kirk Hartley](#) - Past Chair

For more information on this specialty group, visit their [website](#).

Are you a regular contributor to an online publication or blog?

We want to help share your content! If you contribute to a publication, please email [Melanie Preve](#) and we'll be sure to share your pieces on SRA's social media channels.



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