



Newsletter Contents:

- [Letter from the President, Terje Aven](#)
- [Register for the 2018 Annual Meeting](#)
- [Earn Your Digital Badge at This Year's Annual Meeting Workshops](#)
- [2019 World Congress: Late-breaking Abstract Submission Open](#)
- [Download New Podcast Episodes!](#)
- [Call for abstracts: 2019 SRA-Benelux Annual Conference](#)
- [Register for the SRA-Nordic Chapter Meeting - Save With Early-Bird Pricing Until 10/16!](#)
- [Upcoming SRA Webinars](#)
- [SRA Member Spotlight - Meet Charlotte Heinzlef](#)
- [2017 Annual Meeting Raffle Winner, Divinia Ries, Recaps Trip to Norway](#)
- [New Study: Do Rock Climbers Seek Out High Risk Climbs?](#)
- [Upcoming SLC webinars](#)
- [Interested in having an event co-sponsored by SRA?](#)
- [Are you a regular contributor to a blog or online publication? We want to hear from you!](#)

Message from the President

I had the pleasure of attending the SRA Australia-New Zealand conference in the last week of September. It was a long journey to Sydney but very rewarding: a beautiful city. Sandra Seno-Alday, the current President of SRA-ANZ Regional Organization, and her team had done a terrific job to make the event an interesting one; see detailed information about the conference elsewhere. The participants discussed risk analysis issues related to different types of applications, including food safety, bio security, fire risk and supply chains. We also discussed some fundamental questions related to risk analysis. What is the core of this field and science? And is risk analysis really a distinct science? There were different views and the temperature was high, but the atmosphere was good. I think such discussions are important. We need to reflect on who we are and what we are doing. As you may know, I strongly believe that risk analysis is a

distinct science, although it is not yet broadly recognized as such, and more work is needed to strengthen its foundation. In my view, risk analysis cannot really grow and have an impact without the field being a science per se, with study programmes and academic positions at our universities similar to those of other sciences – for instance statistics. The current situation strongly hampers the further development of risk analysis, for example by reducing the possibilities of obtaining research funding and of young scholars having opportunities to pursue a career in risk analysis.

I acknowledge that the discussion on whether risk analysis is a distinct science or not is very much about the perspective taken. Some may consider a pure probabilistic framework as their basis to understand and assess risk – with or without a utility-based approach adopted to cover the ‘what to do’ part of risk analysis. Others have a risk perception and behavioural decision analysis perspective on their work, or a risk governance perspective, or an uncertainty analysis perspective. Yet others frame their studies within a resilience-based perspective. The list is long – many other relevant perspectives could be mentioned. Research and development within all these areas contributes to advancing risk analysis, but risk analysis, as understood by SRA since its origin in 1980 and reflected by our journal *Risk Analysis*, extends beyond all of these perspectives (see also sra.org/resources: Core subjects of Risk Analysis). For example, it does not restrict uncertainty characterizations to probability quantification, or risk decision-making to expected utility theory. It acknowledges the importance of these perspectives but stimulates research that can further develop such characterizations and decision-making. We seek new knowledge (concepts, theories, frameworks, approaches, methods and models) on all aspects of risk analysis (risk assessment, characterization, perception, communication, management and policies), relevant for different types of applications. Many other sciences address risk-related issues, but only risk analysis has the main goal of producing scientific knowledge according to such a scope. A scientific field needs to be sufficiently large and strong to merit the status of a distinct science. Probabilistic risk analysis is surely too small. I find risk analysis, as defined here, to have the scope and breadth needed, but extensions could also be considered, for example by referring to risk and uncertainty analysis.

I am confident that, in the future, risk analysis in some form will be broadly recognized as a distinct science. But it will take time. And it will require a lot of work, energy and drive, as many people remain sceptical.

Best regards,



Terje Aven



REGISTER TODAY

SRA 2018

RISK ANALYSIS · The Many Faces of Risk

December 2 - 6 · New Orleans, LA

It's time to make plans to join SRA in New Orleans, LA, December 2-6, for the 2018 Annual Meeting. Registration for the meeting is now open and we encourage you to [register](#) early to take advantage of early-bird pricing!

It's not too late to submit an abstract for a poster presentation! Late-breaking abstract [submission](#) is still open until November 1.



SRA to Introduce Digital Badges at the 2018 Annual Meeting

This year, individuals who participate in a workshop at the Annual Meeting will be eligible to receive a digital badge. Digital badges are web-enabled versions of a certification or learning outcome which allows you to manage, share and verify your competencies. Badges provide your peers and employers with concrete evidence of what you've completed to earn the badge and your new capabilities. You can easily share your badges online through LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and email, and you can embed it in a personal website or your email signature.

SRA's badge program will be managed online through Credly's Acclaim Platform. These badges will be provided to you for no additional cost upon completion of this year's workshops. If you have any questions about these badges, please reach out to [Melanie Preve](#) or [Heide Rohland](#).

Ready to earn your badge? [Register](#) for a workshop today! Use code **news18** to **save 10% when you register before October 17.**



**Update on the SRA Fifth World Congress on Risk
Cape Town Convention Centre, South Africa, May 6–8, 2019**

Join us for the SRA Fifth World Congress on Risk in Cape Town! Previous SRA World Congresses convened in Brussels (2003), Guadalajara (2008), Sydney (2012) and Singapore (2015). The program Committee, led by Dr. Igor Linkov, is continuing to review late-breaking abstracts until the third week of November.

Financial sponsorship of exhibits, receptions, banquets and registration/travel costs of participants from lower-income regions will be prominent in the event program, website and event media.

Notifications of early acceptance were sent to authors beginning in September with additional notifications to follow. The event registration will open in early December 2018.

The next World Congress Program Committee and organizing/interest meetings will occur in December 2018 in New Orleans at times/places to be identified in the meeting program.

World Congress Executive Committee: James H. Lambert (USA), chair; Mary Gulumian (South

Africa), co-chair; Igor Linkov (USA), program chair; Shital Thekdi (USA), finance chair;
Aleksander Jovanovic (Germany), organizing chair

For additional details, please visit our [website](#).

SRA podcast series

"LET'S TALK RISK" IS AVAILABLE TO
LISTEN ONLINE & DOWNLOAD

Let's Talk Risk with the Society for Risk Analysis, the world's leading authority on risk science and its applications, helps bring clarity to the world of risk, uncertainty, and ambiguity. Visit www.sra.org for more information on the topics discussed in these episodes and for more studies found in Risk Analysis: An International Journal.

Episodes available for download:

Ep. 1: [The Uncertainty Component](#)

Ep. 2: [We've Been Underestimating Climate Change](#)

Ep. 3: [The Preservation of a Culture](#)

Ep. 4: [Clearing House at the EPA: An Attack on Science](#)

Ep. 5: [Infrastructure Management: Communities Can Profit From Disaster](#)

Ep. 6: [Boundaries in Risk Analysis: What's In and What's Out?](#)

Ep. 7: [Power Systems Resilience: Can We Rely on Renewables?](#)

Ep. 8: [Emotions Control Your Appetite for Risk](#)

Ep. 9: [A Paradigm Shift in Injury Risk Reduction](#)

Ep. 10: [Risk Science & the Regulatory Environment](#)

Ep. 11: [Building Urban Resilience](#)

Ep. 12: [How Do We Determine If Our Food Is Safe?](#)

Ep. 13: [Facing Extreme Weather: How do YOU Prepare?](#)

Ep. 14: [Risk Communication on Social Media: Making Your Messages Go Further](#)

**Call for Abstracts: 2019 SRA-Benelux Annual Conference
March 25-25, 2019, University of Luxembourg**

The 2019 SRA-Benelux Conference focuses on the theme: “**Reasoning with Uncertainty.**” Experts, practitioners and policy makers often have to make decisions under conditions of uncertainty. This sometimes leads to catastrophic outcomes, but often also results in averted disasters, innovation and unexpected discoveries. This conference, is devoted to how risk research(ers) can better inform decision-making in the face of uncertainty, anticipate negative outcomes, increase the propensity for positive outcomes, and better communicate uncertainty.

SRA-Benelux invites contributions that reflect on the conceptual and practical dimensions of uncertainty; uncertainty issues that have been neglected; new and innovative approaches to understanding and dealing with uncertainty; how policy makers, industry decision-makers, and practitioners can make better decisions under uncertainty; and uncertainty communication. Papers that address the following topical areas (in relation, but not limited to, Benelux countries) are especially welcome:

Papers that address the following topical areas (in relation, but not limited to, Benelux countries) are especially welcome:

- Systemic risks
- Brexit and future stability of the EU
- Climate change
- Health and safety
- Cybersecurity
- Artificial intelligence
- Smart cities and urban development

Abstracts can be submitted to [Dr. Catherine Wong](#) until December 1, 2018

Register: SRA Nordic Conference
University of Stavanger, Norway, November 8–9, 2018

The theme of the conference is the intersection of risk, safety, security and resilience as well as the relationship between these areas of research.

Keynote Speakers: Erik Hollnagel, Seth Guikema, Karen Lund Petersen, Frederic Boudier, Genserik Reniers, Odd Einar Olsen and Per Brekke.

Register now to take advantage of early-bird pricing until October 16. For more program information, and to register, visit the [conference website](#).

SRA Member Spotlight: Charlotte Heinzlef, PhD student in geography and architecture at UMR Espace-University of Avignon and Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of Mons, recipient of the 2018 SRA-Europe Conference Scholarship Award.

Charlotte's work revolves around the studying the resilience concept in relation to urban floods. Defending the idea that resilience should approach urban territories in all its components (social, urban, technical), Charlotte is building a decision support system to increase territory's resilience by defining resilience characteristics. Her goal is to measure Avignon's current resilience and the impact of future floods on city dynamics. After building and testing these indicators and advising Avignon's managers, Charlotte would like to test her methodology in Cannes, France, and Mons, Belgium.



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](#).

Save the Date!
Upcoming Webinars

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

**Upcoming Scientific Liaison
Coalition (SLC) Webinars**

November 27: [Systematic Review Webinar](#)
[Series: Practical Application of SR in the U.S](#)

Core Subjects of Risk Analysis

Series

November 7: *Inclusive Governance of Risk: The Incorporation of Stakeholders in Risk Management with Ortwin Renn*

Other Webinars

October 24: *Writing Guidelines for Risk Management: Lessons and Questions from 3 Examples*

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](#).



A Trip To Norway

by Dr. Divinia Ries, winner of the 2017 Annual Meeting Raffle

First, thank you to Dr. Terje Aven, the SRA, and those who donated their time on the idea. Winning this raffle was a huge surprise. I still could not believe it!!

Now, I share my trip and how it highlighted my life both as a lucky SRA member and a travel-eager

person. Stavanger, Norway is a picturesque city, like San Francisco but better – tranquil, less crowds, and loads of history.

My hosts at Stavanger were our SRA President, Professor Terje Aven, and his lovely wife, Anne Grethe. I could not have had better hosts. Terje kept my husband and I wide awake on our first day (Norway is 6 hours ahead of EDT) by providing Norwegian meals (brown goat cheese is now my favorite), walks to the top of the huge boulder (beside their cottage) and a boat ride to the local lighthouse landmark.

The University of Stavanger (UiS) is located on top of a hill and the view from the observatory tower of the city is simply beautiful. Did you know that Terje is the “lord” of risk analysis and risk management studies at UiS? I like the friendly students at UiS, which appear to have the same diverse makeup as US universities.

[Click here](#) to read more about Dr. Ries' trip.

Last month, the Communications Committee selected an article from the journal for further media coverage. The selected article featured a new study on rock climbing sites and the welfare gains associated with increasing safety for climbers.

Do Rock Climbers Seek Out High Risk Climbs?

A study published in Risk Analysis: An International Journal finds a majority of rock climbers are more likely to visit sites with more routes and less risk.

The sport of rock climbing is gaining international attention, having been approved for inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Games. But news headlines about the sport are still dominated by reports of gruesome injuries and near-death falls. Are rock climbers going out of their way to seek these risks? A new study published in Risk Analysis: An International Journal reveals that decreasing the level of injury risk at a climbing site generates substantial welfare gains for climbers.

Risk of injury or death is an intrinsic part of rock climbing, whether done for sport or recreation, but not all climbers are thrill-seeking adrenaline junkies. The study, “Valuing the benefits of rock climbing and the welfare gains from decreasing injury risk,” shows that these risks can heavily impact where individuals choose to climb.

The team of researchers, Lea Nicita and Giovanni Signorello, from the University of Catania, and W.

Douglass Shaw, from Texas A&M University, applied the Kuhn-Tucker approach (conditions for an optimal solution in nonlinear programming) to estimate the demand for rock climbing in Sicily, Italy, to reveal the recreational value of various sites and the value to climbers of a reduction in injury risks. In addition to the degree of difficulty at the sites, climbers also consider length and quality of the climb, approach time, crowding and scenic quality, and travel costs, as well as variables that control for other unknown site-specific influences, when selecting a site to visit for climbing. [Read more.](#)

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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