



SRA-Supported NATO Advanced Research Workshop “Sustainable Cities and Military Installations: Climate Change Impact on Energy and Environmental Security”

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The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) was among supporters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Advanced Research Workshop “Sustainable Cities and Military Installations: Climate Change Impact on Energy and Environmental Security” held 3–6 June 2012 in Hella, Iceland. The objectives of the workshop were to review the state of the science in order to identify and evaluate energy, water, and infrastructure sustainability initiatives that are resilient in the face of multiple challenges and uncertainties and allow for collaboration and collective learning among attendees, facilitating discussion of current and emerging technologies and long-term and sustainable strategies. Application of these technologies and strategies is expected to benefit environmental sustainability, increase energy and resource security, and reduce vulnerability of both military installations and small cities.

Access to reliable and affordable energy, water, and services is an important determinant of the prosperity of cities, along with effective mission sustainment at military installations. Both military and civilian organizations alike are actively pursuing locally oriented strategies to address the sources of energy production, the quality and quantity of energy and water, use and reuse of natural resources, and capable infrastructure systems needed to maintain safe, reliable, and resilient communities. For example, the U.S. Department of Defense is developing a comprehensive strategy for energy, water, and waste sustainability at military installations that is expected to include increased conservation and efficiency measures, alternative fuels and energy sources, and organizational/behavioral or programmatic features. A key concern for planners, however, is how climate change and other environmental stressors may radically impact the efficacy of sustainability strategies at both military installations and cities. In the face of changing climate and an uncertain future of resource availability, ways in which military installations and small cities can integrate energy, water, and infrastructure sustainability strategies into broad management plans that factor in future changes and potential stressors must be explored

[Workshop continued on page 2](#)

Inside Risk

President’s Message	7	<i>Risk Analysis</i> Journal	10	News and Announcements	18
2012 SRA Annual Meeting	8	Specialty Groups	11	What Do We Do?	22
<i>Risk Analysis</i> in the News	9	Regional Organizations	13	2012 SRA Contacts	26

“Smart Grid Technology May Help Sustain Vital Social Services During Blackouts”—report on page 9



NATO Advanced Research Workshop

to minimize vulnerability and increase overall resilience. Current and emerging technologies, methods, and frameworks for energy, water, and other resource conservation and increased efficiency and reliability must be explored within the context of future uncertainties, with an emphasis on environmental impacts, security, resilience, and military readiness and effectiveness.

To discuss and develop expert strategies to address these challenges, the workshop brought together approximately 50 scientists, engineers, and policy makers from 16 different nations and multiple fields, reflecting the global and interdisciplinary nature of sustainability research and application. The workshop was chaired by SRA member Dr. Igor Linkov and Dr. Abou Bakr Ramadan and was hosted jointly by the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center and the University of Iceland. The meeting was supported by the NATO Science Programme, the SRA, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Department of Energy, NORD-STAR, Novus Environmental, Bioengineering Group, Lockheed Martin, and Environ Inc.

The workshop focused on ways in which military installations and small cities can integrate energy, water, and waste sustainability and reliable infrastructure system strategies into comprehensive management plans that include threats posed by climate change and other potential stressors. The complexity of the problem, the time and spatial scales of relevance, and the uncertainties associated with long-term planning present critical challenges to current analytical approaches for informing sustainable management decisions. The workshop had four primary purposes:

- Summarize the state of the science in areas related to sustainability in cities and military installations.
- Share and develop strategies, methodologies, and frameworks for achieving long-term sustainability in cities and military installations.
- Define how energy, water, and infrastructure technologies and management strategies can be integrated in sustainable management plans.
- Identify specific research needs for improving sustainability and resiliency in the face of climate change and other constraints and stressors.

Former Icelandic Minister and Ambassador to the United States Mr. Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson opened the workshop with a plenary speech followed by discussion on the worldwide importance of sustainability and need for collaboration and change. In their keynote addresses, Dr. Beth Fleming (director of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center [USACE ERDC] Environmental Lab) discussed research priorities and current USACE initiatives, and Dr. Danka Svihlova



NATO Advanced Research Workshop

(professor at Matej Bel University and NATO Independent Scientific Evaluation Group representative) shared the NATO Science for Peace and Security Program's purpose and priorities to guide workshop objectives. Plenary sessions were designed to summarize the state of the science in the field, as well as to present new strategies, methods, and tools for achieving sustainability. Panel discussions on Sustainable Energy Development, Sustainable Water Supplies, Sustainable Infrastructure, Climate Change Impacts, Methods and Tools for Achieving Sustainability, and Policy, Stakeholder, and Governance Challenges to Achieving Sustainability allowed participants to engage field experts and discuss specific challenges and possibilities. Participants were organized into three working groups (WGs) to address sustainability in the realms of (A) energy, (B) water, and (C) infrastructure and integration. The following are summaries of the WG discussions.

A. Energy



Chairmen of the Energy Working Group, Jatin Nathwani (center) and Michael Case, meet with their group.

The energy WG discussed energy in a broad context, including electrical energy as well as heat and fuel. Given the unique needs of military installations and small communities, energy security and resilience were highlighted as priorities in energy planning. In general, it was noted that energy solutions tend to focus only on one or a few technologies instead of long-term, multifaceted solutions. For example, just putting renewable energy on an installation won't increase energy security or sustainability in the long run if decision makers don't first think about what needs to be accomplished. The group emphasized that comprehensive solutions must be tailored to the needs of each particular community, which leads

to the need for a set of universalized metrics designed to evaluate energy systems. These metrics should encompass a wide array of both quantitative and qualitative considerations above and beyond engineering and cost specifications.

Key concepts explored in the meeting included the need for an integrated systems approach to planning, exploration of energy and energy quality analysis, relationship with the energy water nexus, the need for resilience, reliability, and security and how those are measured, challenges due to resource constraints, and the unique challenges of sustainable mobility. In addition to technical solutions, such as conversion, storage, distribution, and control technologies, implementation strategies involving behavioral, social, political, regulatory, and financial aspects were discussed as well. Additional research

NATO Advanced Research Workshop

areas that were identified include scalable energy networks, macro-level decision models for resilient communities, convergence on energy-related standards, data mining to enable real-time analysis and decision making, advancements in DC networks, and research on modifying behavior and decision making.

B. Water



Water Working Group members (left to right) Wendi Goldsmith, Beth Fleming, Margaret MacDonell, and Abou Bakr Ramadam listen to ideas about water sustainability from fellow group members.

The water WG explored strategic needs for risk management of water resources in the perspective of “net zero” and related initiatives across all of energy, water, and waste. The members of the WG had expertise across the domains of risk analysis, natural resources management, decision analysis, and strategic planning and investment. Their findings relate to the several scales and time horizons at which such approaches can be effective: individual, residence, building, campus, installation, city, region, and national and international levels. Methods that were discussed in the context of risk analysis include value engi-

neering and management, community engagement, land-use forecasting, scenario analysis, second-law thermodynamics, and visualization of large datasets. Applications that were addressed include water availability, desertification, water conservation, urban groundwater, landfills, and arctic pollution. The dissemination of the identified needs and results is ongoing in the Stockholm World Water Forum, the 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Watershed Management, and various other sustainability activities of professional and military organizations and nations.

C. Infrastructure/Integration

Infrastructures are central to all cities, communities, and military installations. Past dramatic experiences (e.g., disruptions, terrorist actions of 9/11, extreme weather events such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005, economic collapses following the U.S. financial crisis and the collapse of the U.S. automobile industry in 2008, etc.) have shown how infrastructures are highly interconnected and have illustrated the necessity of considering infrastructures in an integrated way. Indeed, infrastructures are complexly interrelated and interdependent, subject to cascading impacts as disruptions of one infrastructure spread through extensive networks of interconnections. Such cascading impacts can result in unexpected but

NATO Advanced Research Workshop



The Infrastructure/Integration Working Group discusses sustainability of infrastructures.

very serious effects on communication, water, and public-health infrastructure sectors, at least in the short term. These interconnections, for instance between energy and communication, are the reason that integrated perspectives are needed when sustainable infrastructures are being assessed for cities and military installations.

The WG on integrated perspectives on sustainable infrastructures for cities and military installations has focused its attention on three main areas:

- **Framing.** Based on feedback experiences, the notions of “sustainability of infrastructures” and of “systems of infrastructures” were discussed in the context of cities, communities, and military installations. Special attention was given to exploring how the sustainability of cities, communities, and military installations depends on integrated complexes of interconnected and interdependent infrastructures; to identifying the greatest threats to sustainability from infrastructures that are not sufficiently resilient to potential threats; and to determining what an integrated perspective contributes to identifying, reducing, and responding to these potential threats.
- **Solving.** Current methodological forces and deficiencies to achieving integrated infrastructure sustainability were discussed. A multicriteria mapping of the overall methods and tools was suggested according to the nature of data, the level and the nature of uncertainties, the time dynamic, the decision maker, and the infrastructure consumers, etc. Due to the complexity of the integration and infrastructure issues, the WG has insisted on the need to use multi- and transdisciplinary approaches to deal with sustainability perspectives. The group was especially interested in multicriteria decision analysis (MCDA) approaches and tools.
- **Questioning.** The WG also had the opportunity to think about the “sustainability” of solutions when dealing with complex systems. The two main questions were what the limits of an integrated approach to sustainability of infrastructures were and what actions should be considered to improve integrated infrastructure resilience as a key component of sustainable cities, communities, and military installations. A need for new research and development (R&D) contributions to



NATO Advanced Research Workshop

decisions (e.g., how to identify critical infrastructures, etc.) and technology (e.g., sensors, materials, etc.) was a final conclusion of this productive workshop.

Proceedings of the workshop will be published in a book by Springer in 2013. More information will be available at <http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/training.cfm?Topic=Workshop&List=11JunNATO> by mid-August 2012.



Workshop participants, including scientists, engineers, and policy makers from various countries and disciplines, gather in Hella, Iceland, for the NATO Advanced Research Workshop “Sustainable Cities and Military Installations: Climate Change Impact on Energy and Environmental Security.”

Pantheon of Risk Analysis



photo by John Collings

The Pantheon of Risk Analysis, launched in 2008, honors deceased giants in the field on whose shoulders we now stand and showcases how high-quality risk analysis can advance knowledge and the public good.

Any Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) member may nominate a candidate to the past president; the SRA Council selects the inductees.

In 2008, the SRA inducted 35 initial honorees into the Pantheon of Risk Analysis. In 2011, the SRA added two new inductees nominated by SRA members: Lester Lave and Stan Kaplan.

The full list is on the SRA website, at www.sra.org/about_pantheon.php, with links to the relevant Wikipedia page on each honoree. Links are provided for biographies of 2011 honorees Drs. Lave and Kaplan.

New nominees are welcome. To nominate other legends in the field, please contact Past President Rachel Davidson (rdavidso@udel.edu).



President's Message

Ann Bostrom



At the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Council meeting in June, discussions of association membership trends and globalization were lively. This newsletter amply illustrates the vigor of SRA regional organizations around the world, large and small, informal and institutionalized, and growing!

However, many regional members are not members of SRA international at present, and international travel is difficult for many members, if not impossible due to financial barriers despite SRA international travel support. We will continue these discussions at the World Congress in Sydney with regional leaders, as we look for ways to support regional initiatives and activities and to strengthen ties, in order to build a sustainable international SRA that is effective in advancing risk analysis globally. The current chairs of the Regions Committee are Ortwin Renn and Jo Anne Shatkin, but you may email any one of us on Council ([contact info on page 26 of this newsletter](#)).

Send us your ideas about the best ways of achieving this, and tell us how you would like to help.

Share News and Information on the SRA LinkedIn Group

Discuss professional interests and activities, post job openings or inquire about job opportunities, share your research questions, and announce risk-related events with the SRA LinkedIn group at <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-Risk-Analysis-4265467>.

Share Your SRA Photos



Send us your photos of SRA members and activities to post on our Flickr site (http://www.flickr.com/photos/society_for_risk_analysis). If you have SRA-related photos to share, please email them to Mary Walchuk, newseditor@sra.org.



Society for Risk Analysis

Risk Newsletter

July/August 2012

2012 SRA Annual Meeting

“Advancing Analysis”

9–12 December 2012, San Francisco, California



SAVE THE DATE! The 2012 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco 9-12 December 2012. This year’s theme—“Advancing Analysis”—highlights the ways SRA members are pushing forward our field and advancing the use of risk analysis for important decisions. Join over 700 colleagues from government, the private sector, nonprofits, and academia dedicated to advancing analysis.

STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS. The SRA is committed to supporting and mentoring students and young professionals in risk analysis in their academic and professional careers. The annual meeting is a great place to meet other students, young professionals, and the leading experts in risk. SRA will also be hosting its third annual career fair in San Francisco, providing opportunities for both job seekers and those looking to fill job positions with the next generation of risk analysts. Students can also take advantage of the numerous workshops or attend specialty group mixers to meet future colleagues.

SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS. To be a sponsor of the 2012 SRA Annual Meeting, sponsor your organization’s exhibit booth, or include your book in the book exhibit, please contact Erin Johnson at ejohnson@burkinc.com no later than 30 September 2012.

THANKS!! Many thanks to the members of the Annual Meeting Program Committee who worked diligently to organize over 600 submitted abstracts into an exciting and informative annual meeting program: President-elect George Gray (chair), Stanley Levinson, Steve Bennett, Gail Charnley, Alison Cullen, Julie Fitzpatrick, Royce Francis, Sally Kane, Jennifer Kuzma, Jim Lambert, Rachel Lange, Steven Lewis, Margaret MacDonell, Greg McDermott, Cristina McLaughlin, Bob Ross, Robert Scofield, Aylin Sertkaya, Craig Trumbo, Jane Van Doren, and George Woodall.



Risk Analysis in the News

Smart Grid Technology May Help Sustain Vital Social Services During Blackouts

“Keeping the lights on” can be a challenge during extreme weather and other disasters like those affecting the East Coast of the United States this summer, but real options may be available to avoid some of the power-related crises that follow upon such events. Leading researchers from Carnegie Mellon University suggest that rethinking the solution to sustaining electric power—namely, starting small—could keep critical services going, even when the high-voltage “grid” is crippled.

This natural disaster demonstrated that, despite ongoing efforts to improve electric power transmission reliability, the risk of prolonged regional blackouts remains a significant concern. To combat future widespread and extended power outages, Carnegie Mellon University researchers have devised a strategy to use local distributed electricity generation—called “distribution automation”—and smart meters to form small electricity “islands” that would support critical social services in the event of a substantial disruption resulting from extreme weather, terrorism, or other causes.

Distributed generation (DG) collects and distributes electricity from many small energy sources rather than relying on large centralized power facilities. Carnegie Mellon University researchers Anu Narayanan and Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) member M. Granger Morgan examined the incremental cost of adding DG units and smart meters to a hypothetical community of 5,000 households covering an area of 5 km². The research was conducted with funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and Carnegie Mellon University. The study, titled “Sustaining Critical Social Services During Extended Regional Power Blackouts,” appears in the July 2012 issue of SRA’s journal, *Risk Analysis*.

Strategically constructing regional DG circuits may help to reduce the effects of catastrophic electricity failure resulting from natural or human-triggered events, ensuring that critical services necessary for the health and safety of communities will be provided. The authors note that this strategy would be most effectively implemented on a statewide or regional level to prevent the influx of citizens from neighboring communities that lack such an emergency power procedure to ensure critical social services.

Narayanan notes, “There are currently a few obstacles to implementing such a strategy, including state laws that prevent the deployment of cost-effective combined heat and power (CHP) ‘microgrids,’ and the lack of incentive for power companies to invest in such a system. We have the technology to make our critical services less vulnerable to large blackouts. What we need now are the right policy initiatives to make it happen.”



Risk Analysis in the News

The full article about the study is available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1539-6924.2011.01726.x/full>.

A press release describing the study and directing readers to the study was picked up by more than 300 online and print media outlets that included newspapers, trade publications, news and information services, and television stations.

The Wall Street Journal "Market Watch" and *CNBC* were among those who carried the press release on 9 July (<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/smart-grid-technology-may-help-sustain-vital-social-services-during-blackouts-2012-07-09> and <http://www.cnbc.com/id/48120183>).

An opinion piece by Morgan and Narayanan in *The Washington Post*, "The Next Outage Doesn't Have to Be This Bad," describes the importance of their research and their paper in *Risk Analysis* (http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-next-outage-doesnt-have-to-be-this-bad/2012/07/06/gJQA7PUc-SW_story.html).

The complete press release is available at <http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/591140>.

In future installments of "Risk Analysis in the News," we will continue to bring you updates about the ways articles in the SRA journal are being shared by media to bring risk analysis information to people throughout the world.

Risk Analysis Journal

Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg and Managing Editor Karen Lowrie

We hope that members enjoyed reading our article featuring the 10 greatest accomplishments in risk analysis over the past three decades. We have received positive feedback on the article, and we are beginning to work on a series of perspective papers in response to each of the 10 accomplishments in the essay. We hope to have them appearing in the journal in 2013.

Also, as the special monograph organized with the National Cancer Institute on tobacco control and lung cancer should be arriving in your mailboxes soon (see May/June 2012 *Risk Newsletter*), we alert readers to look for our next upcoming special issues on risk of extreme events and on financial risk analysis applications. We are grateful to Yacov Haimes and his colleagues (risk of extreme events) and to Tony Cox and Arcady Novosyolov (financial risk) for all of their work in organizing and managing the papers in these series.



Specialty Groups

Risk Communication Specialty Group

Craig Trumbo, Chair

The Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG) has done its typically robust job of providing a wealth of material for the 2012 Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. Many thanks to the scholars who prepared abstracts, poster proposals, and symposia. In total, RCSG provided 131 submissions that included seven symposia and 22 requested poster presentations. While, as of this writing, the convention planning continues and formal notifications are pending, RCSG is poised to field 15 sessions and up to 70 posters. This includes a very respectable contribution by student authors as well. It's my hope that all members will be able to accept their invitations to present.

Organizing and selecting abstracts for the convention is a nontrivial task that takes place over a short time period. While the volume of material is wonderful, it also makes this an especially challenging task, particularly in deciding which abstracts get slated for oral presentations and which are accepted but reassigned to poster presentations. This is, of course, further complicated by our tradition of organizing sessions into thematic areas. Without question, there are some abstracts that merited oral presentations that ended up as posters. To those authors I ask your forbearance.

Also, because of an unusual number of five-author sessions and symposia proposed, we ended up with five sets of schedule conflicts. The five-author sessions ended up occupying all of the later-afternoon time slots, limiting our flexibility to avoid conflicts. But two of these are joint sessions and, given the size of our group's membership, I do anticipate a good audience for all sessions.

Looking forward to the balance of the year, there are a few activities to mention. First, we have a good number of applications for the student paper award. Bob Griffin has again graciously agreed to coordinate the review. Students will be notified that a complete paper must be submitted in the fall. If you're willing to assist in this effort, please contact Bob at Robert.griffin@marquette.edu.

Second, we're also operating in the absence of approved bylaws. Past Chair David Berube provided a draft, based on other SRA bylaws. This will be examined for completeness over the coming months and will be made available for the membership to review. I would anticipate a vote in December at the annual meeting. Also, the RCSG website requires some attention. It seems the underlying code is obsolete (stale HTML?). We'll be looking at that as well, while SRA concurrently upgrades the organization's website.



Specialty Groups

Finally, I'd like to solicit author(s) for the two remaining *Risk Newsletter* articles. I had the privilege of teaching a graduate seminar in the social processes of risk last semester. One of the interesting threads of discussion through the semester highlighted missing areas of inquiry in the risk literature. This would be a useful theme for a couple of short essays (400-word max). Let me make two suggestions and encourage any of our members to offer to take these up or to offer some other such topic.

There seems to be a lack of historical perspective on the broader concept of risk. Peter Bernstein's *Against the Gods* is an excellent work. But more could be offered and more attention could be given to the development and current nature of risk in nonwestern societies. It might be quite interesting to create a graphic depicting a timeline of the development of the concept and treatment of risk. Professor Michael Friendly at York University has a website offering a wealth of examples of historical visualization through timelines at <http://www.datavis.ca/gallery/timelines.php#past>.

Another observation made by the class is the lack of a feminist perspective on risk. This discussion logically arose as we discussed the work surrounding the "white male effect." For example, a deconstruction of the gender-based characteristics of risk psychology, analysis, management, governance, and so forth might provide valuable insights into future pathways for research.

Please send any ideas or other comments my way at ctrumbo@mac.com.

Dose Response Specialty Group

www.sra.org/drsg

George Woodall, Chair

The Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) continued its 2012 tele-seminar series with a presentation by Justin Teeguarden, "Evaluating the Plausibility of Estrogen Receptors as Mediators of BPA Toxicity in the Context of Human Serum Concentrations of Unconjugated BPA." The next tele-seminar is anticipated to be in either September or October, on the first Tuesday; updates and more details can be found on the "calendar" from the DRSG website (www.sra.org/drsg).

DRSG has developed a group on LinkedIn to help facilitate communication and outreach: http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4353900&trk=hb_side_g. Please consider joining our LinkedIn community, as well as the long-standing Yahoo Group – <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DRSG/>. We are hoping that increasing our online presence will increase awareness of our activities, especially with students. Please contact Kan Shao (shao.kan@epa.gov) if you have suggestions or would like to assist in his efforts to increase student involvement in DRSG.



Regional Organizations

SRA-China

Chongfu Huang, President

Early in 2011, the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)-China and Atlantis Press (Paris, France) agreed to start the publication of the *Journal of Risk Analysis and Crisis Response (JRACR)*.

The first issue was published in July 2011, and two other issues were published—in November 2011 and May 2012. *JRACR* expects to publish four issues per year.

As a promotion, all papers of *JRACR* are freely accessible, so please feel free to visit the site and check out the papers at <http://atlantis-press.com/publications/jracr>.

Following the successful First International Conference on Risk Analysis and Crisis Response (RACR-2007) in Shanghai (China), RACR-2009 in Beijing (China), and RACR-2011 in Laredo, Texas (USA), SRA-China is organizing RACR-2013. It will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, 27–29 August 2013, hosted by Istanbul Technical University, which is one of the best technical universities in Turkey.

Istanbul is an old city with the remains of many ancient civilizations and a culture in harmony with Turkish culture. Istanbul is a world metropolis and the only city that combines two continents, built on seven hills in Asia and Europe. It is the capital of three empires: the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, and the Ottoman Empire.

For more information about RACR-2013, please feel free to send an email to hchongfu@gmail.com.

SRA-Europe

www.sraeurope.org

Margôt Kuttschreuter, President

Over 200 participants at the 2012 SRA-Europe Annual Meeting in Zurich

The 21st Annual Meeting of SRA-Europe took place 17–20 June 2012 in a very sunny Zurich. The theme of the SRA-E conference was “Risk and Society: Decisions & Responsibilities.” The conference attracted over 200 participants from 28 countries. The conference brought together researchers as well as representatives from government, business, and nongovernmental organizations for three days of intensive discussions.



Regional Organizations



Taking a break between sessions during the 21st Annual Meeting of SRA-Europe in Zurich

The conference started with a welcome reception at the restaurant Rigiblick on Sunday, 17 June 2012. The welcome reception was open to all conference participants and provided the opportunity to meet other conference participants at a great location with stunning mountain views.

The scientific program was particularly fascinating this year—with excellent, well-received keynote speeches from Professors Valerie Reyna (Cornell University), John Adams (University College London), John Graham (Indiana University), Adrienne Grêt-Regamey (ETH Zürich), Michael R. Greenberg (Rutgers University), and Wolfgang Kröger (ETH Zürich).

Other invited speakers at the conference included Ortwin Renn, Ragnar Löfstedt, Raffaele Chiacchia, Bruno Merz, Pius Krütli, and Niels Holthausen.

At the SRA-E annual General Assembly meeting, the SRA-E student scholarships were awarded to three PhD students who wrote excellent papers: Madeleine Baker-Goering (Duke University, United States), Jessica T. Castillo-Rodriguez (Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain), and Rachel Southworth (Cardiff University, United Kingdom).

On Monday, 18 June, a poster session was accompanied by a reception. During the session, participants could vote for their favorite poster. The “Best Poster Award” was presented to Mary Collins (University of California).

The conference dinner was held at the Acqua, a beautiful restaurant on the left shore of Lake Zurich. The location of the dinner allowed for a nice walk to get some flavor of the city.

The 22nd SRA-E conference is already in the planning stage. It will take place in Trondheim, Norway, 17–19 June 2013.



Regional Organizations

SRA-Japan

<http://www.sra-japan.jp/english>

Yasunobu Maeda, Vice President

SRA Japan held its 2012 Annual Business Meeting and 2012 Spring Symposium on 17 June 2012 at the University of Tokyo. At the business meeting, we appointed new officers:

- President Michiaki Kai
- Vice President Yasunobu Maeda
- Secretary General Takehiko Murayama
- Councilor Sumire Hirota
- Councilor Reiko Kanda
- Councilor Noritaka Katatani
- Councilor Atsuo Kishimoto
- Councilor Hideya Kubo
- Councilor Kiyotaka Tsunemi

The theme of the 2012 Spring Symposium was “Another Way to Cope with LPHC Risks: Utilization of Financial Functions.” Hideya Kubo (Shiga University) organized this symposium. Four speakers gave talks about how the central bank and insurance companies have worked for recovery from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and how catastrophe bonds can support recovery from disasters: Kazuo Fukuda (Bank of Japan), Hiroaki Tanase (The Life Insurance Association of Japan), Yasushi Kuriyama (The General Insurance Association of Japan), and Michio Matsuda (Munich Re Japan Service).

In addition, the 2012 SRA-Japan Annual Meeting will be held 9–11 November at Shiga University in Hikone, a scenic city on the shore of Lake Biwa, the biggest lake in Japan. Details of the events will be on the SRA-Japan website, <http://www.sra-japan.jp/english>.

SRA-Australia/New Zealand

<http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/index.html>

Rochelle Christian, President

With support from the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Council and the Speakers Bureau, SRA-Australia/New Zealand (SRA-ANZ) hosted two SRAonCampus events during July 2012 to inform and promote the SRA down under.



Regional Organizations

The first, on Friday, 13 July, at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, involved five speakers, followed by the workshop “The Intersection of Social Values and Risk Analysis.”

The second, on the afternoon of Tuesday, 17 July, at the University of Sydney, Australia, involved three speakers followed by the panel discussion “Dialogue on Frontiers of Risk Analysis.”

At both events, Scott Ferson (RAMAS) presented “Biology and Evolution of Risk and Uncertainty Perception.” National speakers at each event came from a range of disciplines. In Sydney, Steve York (Director of Strategic Risk Solutions) presented “Crisis Management and Communication” and Peter Fraser (SR7) presented “Social Media Risk.” The events were open to all interested parties and aimed to recruit university staff and students to SRA and SRA-ANZ.

At the World Congress on Risk we are hosting the symposium “Risk Analysis Tools for Biosecurity” on Friday, 20 July.

Alongside the World Congress in Sydney, we also held two other events on Tuesday, 17 July. Our Annual General Meeting was held at the University of Sydney, and an SRA-ANZ dinner was held at a Darling Harbour restaurant after the opening reception of the World Congress.

Further details will be provided soon on our website.

As signalled in the last *Risk Newsletter*, several other initiatives are about to come to fruition. A small membership fee will soon be implemented to help us better identify our membership and fund additional SRA-ANZ activities, including a newsletter.

New England

www.sra-ne.org

Debra Kaden, President

The New England Regional Organization of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA-NE) closed its academic year with the final seminar on 21 June 2012: “Incinerator and Combustion Risk Assessment.” We heard two presentations: “Comparative Risk Studies Help Designers and Regulators Control Risks from Trace Metals and Persistent Organics from Combustion Sources,” by Douglas G. Smith (AECOM), and “Cremation, Air Pollution, and Special Permitting: A Case Study,” by Laura Green (Cambridge Environmental).



Regional Organizations

This has been a great year for SRA-NE! We have held six seminars, with topics ranging from risk assessment methods to creative application of risk assessments. We have considered the effects of chemical and lifestyle risks. We have networked with each other, with local universities, and with Massachusetts Licensed Site Practitioners. We have explored new technologies for connecting, including social media (please consider joining our LinkedIn group!), and webinar access to presentations. We have seen our network expand, with many new attendees and members joining the regional organization. And as I end my term as president, I feel confident that I am leaving the post in good hands with incoming President Eric Ruder (Industrial Economics). Eric and I are already discussing our first seminar of the fall!

SRA-NE seminars are free and open to the public (the joint seminars are free to members). These seminars provide an opportunity for those interested in the science and policy of risk assessment to hear about current issues, research, and initiatives. Please continue to check the SRA-NE website (<http://www.sra-ne.org/>) or our LinkedIn group for periodic further details about these events, as well as postings on our other activities.

National Capital Area

www.sra.org/ncac

Sally Kane

We are happy to welcome Dr. Erik Janus (executive officer in the National Capital Area, Society of Toxicology) and Dr. Wendy Hillwalker (board member of the Chesapeake-Potomac Regional Chapter, Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) as liaisons to the National Capital Area Regional Organization of Society for Risk Analysis (SRA). We are jointly planning a program for early fall (2012).

Several National Capital Area Regional Organization members are participating in the Third World Congress on Risk taking place 18–20 July 2012 in Sydney, Australia. The list below reflects the variety of topics and interests of our membership.

- Robin Cantor: Chairing the session “Product Liability in a Global Marketplace.” Presenting “Product Liability: An Overview of the Emerging Issues” and “Climate Change and Human Health: A Sleeping Giant?”
- Genya Dana: Chairing the session “Synthetic Biology and Emerging Risks: Part I.” Presenting “The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Initial Discussions Related to Synthetic Biology.”
- Sally Kane: Chairing the session “Perception and Communication: Waste Incineration, Sustainable Remediation, Natural Disasters, and Environmental Risk.” Presenting “Social Science of Natural Disaster Risk.” Presenting “Reflections on Book Reviewing for *Risk Analysis: An International Jour-*



Regional Organizations

nal: Enhancing Dialogue and Communication within the Risk Community.”

- Charlie Menzie: Chairing the session “SETAC Symposium: Human and Ecological Implications of Climate Change.” Presenting “Environment, Health, Toxicology, and Natural Resource Issues Relating to Climate Change: An Overview.”
- Bob O’Connor: Chairing the session “Framing the Risks of Climate Change.” Presenting “Risk Perceptions, Causal Thinking, and Policy Preferences for Climate Change: A Six Nation Survey.”
- Rick Reiss: Presenting “Measuring Risk Exposure When Using Global Suppliers.”

News and Announcements

Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)

Call for Applications: Visiting Professorships for Senior International Scientists

The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme (IRDR) (www.irdrinternational.org) is pleased to announce a call for applications for Visiting Professorships for Senior International Scientists for 2013, supported by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Visiting Professorships for Senior International Scientists are open to international scientists with distinguished scholarly accomplishments and who have the same or similar research interests as IRDR.

Objectives

The IRDR call for Visiting Professorships for Senior International Scientists aims to identify a senior scientist to work with the IRDR International Programme Office (IRDR IPO), IRDR Science Committee, and IRDR Working Groups to:

- Contribute to IRDR’s strategic work plan development.
- Identify and organize integrated research projects on disaster risk.
- Expand IRDR’s collaboration network at the global level.
- Generate research findings to support IRDR’s objectives.
- Make other contributions beneficial to promoting science development and cooperation between IRDR, CAS institutes, and collaborating agencies.

Requirements

The expected applicants should:

- Be an established scholar in social science, natural science, engineering, and other fields related to disaster risk research or practice.
- Hold at least a PhD degree, with academic standing as a professor, associate professor, or the equivalent.



News and Announcements

- Have good command of English or Chinese, able to communicate independently in their place of work.

The applicants will be chosen on the basis of the following criteria:

- Research experience, past performance, recent progress
- Originality, scientific significance, proposed research work with IRDR
- Impact of the research work on IRDR
- Proposed scope of work

Grants

Provided grants will be:

- For visits of 2–12 months' duration.
- 400,000 to 500,000 RMB (Chinese currency, pretax) per year.

Application procedure

- Completed application form and detailed curriculum vitae with a full list of publications and ongoing projects submitted to IRDR by 30 July 2012
- Review and selection by IRDR by August 2012
- Submission to the Bureau of International Cooperation, CAS, by September 2012
- Final selection by CAS

Information and contacts

Regarding information and regulation of the Visiting Professorships for Senior International Scientists Programme (CAS), please refer to the website: http://english.bic.cas.cn/AF/Fe/200906/t20090615_6358.html.

Regarding application procedures and facilitation, please contact the IRDR IPO through Ms. Yaoying Cheng, yaoying.cheng@irdrinternational.org, phone/fax: + 86-10-8217 8917 (direct).

Regulatory, Academic, Industry, & NGO Scientists Enhance a Framework to Conduct Chemical Risk Assessments of the 21st Century

On 22–24 May 2012, over 50 sponsors of an Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA) project, “Beyond Science and Decisions,” participated in a workshop to enhance a framework of chemical risk assessment methods used by government and other scientific organizations to solve current risk-management problems. The 50+ sponsors and collaborators included over 12 each of government agencies and



News and Announcements

industry groups and seven or more each of scientific societies, nonprofit organizations/consortia, and consulting groups (http://www.allianceforrisk.org/ARA_Dose-Response_Sponsors.htm).

The workshop was the fourth of the series that was initiated to continue the discussion set forth by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) *Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment* (2009). The workshops are led by an expert panel of toxicologists and risk assessors (<http://www.allianceforrisk.org/Workshop/Panel.htm>).

At the first workshop, thought leaders in the field of risk assessment provided a variety of perspectives on issues raised by the NAS report and discussed possible case studies to address them. These case studies were then developed and evaluated during a second workshop. In the third workshop, additional case studies showing advanced risk-assessment methods were presented and experts discussed practical considerations for problem formulation, use of mode of action, and background exposures. The fourth workshop introduced a standing science panel, included additional case studies, and also discussed improvements to the developing framework that showcases this work, which is now found on the National Library of Medicine website (<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/toxweblinks.html>).

Julie Fitzpatrick, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Risk Assessment Forum, reflected, "The case studies being developed by this workshop series will be useful to the Agency as it moves forward in addressing the recommendations presented in the NAS report *Science and Decisions*."

From a state perspective, Dr. Michael Honeycutt stated: "In this time of limited resources, a collaboration that organizes and synthesizes information among experts of different backgrounds to create a product that state risk assessors can use is especially helpful. Not only does it help us keep pace with rapidly changing information, but it also gives a practical framework for our decision making process to protect people."

Scientists and managers recognize a variety of situations where risk methods are needed. Using the problem formulations of the NAS report as a start, the ARA expert panel developed a framework applicable to different risk-management needs, including qualitative, screening, and in-depth assessments. Case studies are linked to these different risk settings to provide examples of the range of suitable methods. This methods compendium illustrates specific dose-response techniques for different management problems. Recent case studies included value of information, screening tools for biomonitoring data, and use of mode of action for risk assessment with chloroform as the example. All the case studies and associated information are posted at the ARA website (www.allianceforrisk.org).



News and Announcements

Public Health and Risk Science Management Course

The Society for Risk Analysis is sponsoring the George Washington University (GWU) School of Public Health and Health Services course “Environmental & Occupational Health,” 18–20 September 2012 on the GWU campus in Washington, DC. Participants in this three-day course will learn about the scientific tools that help us measure and characterize risk and will explore methods for characterizing, communicating, and analyzing risk.

This course is aimed at professionals in the risk assessment and management communities. It is a great chance for those with a focus on risk policy and management to gain a greater understanding of the scientific basis of risk assessment. Risk assessors can increase their knowledge of the technical basis of risk assessment, including its strengths and limitations, see where the field is going, and further develop their understanding of the role of risk assessment in addressing public health risks. The course faculty is drawn from GWU as well as from other academic institutions, federal agencies, and various organizations in the risk analysis world. Attendees of this course will be given printouts of the presentation slides to take notes on and keep. We also offer help to those who wish to pursue continuing education credits.

We have received very positive feedback from those who attended the course in previous years. Specific feedback from past participants and information on how to register can be found at go.gwu.edu/riskcourse.

Future Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meetings

9–12 December 2012
San Francisco, California

8–11 December 2013
Baltimore, Maryland



What Do We Do?

— a look at the incredibly diverse field of risk analysis —

Stijn Pieters



What is your job title?

I am managing partner and senior advisor at PM, a consultancy firm in Belgium in the domains of risk, crisis, and change.

How is risk analysis a part of your job?

Eighty percent of my advisory work consists of explaining how to manage and to communicate acute or smoldering crisis situations. Risk analysis is mostly the prequel of my work in crisis management and communication. Starting out with a robust and consistent risk program grants us (and our clients) the opportunity to capitalize sympathy from different stakeholders. By getting a good sense of awareness, we can use that level of sympathy to buy some time to act and communicate during a crisis in a more appropriate way.

How did you decide to pursue this career?

Starting out as a digital and visual communication consultant, back in 1999, I soon learned the necessity of moving my company toward a more strategic consultancy level. That meant fewer people on the payroll to manage and more time to get my hands dirty on the things I really liked: “Getting messages out with a long-term vision.” Back in 2004, a major client in the oil and gas industry suffered a severe tragedy. Due to construction work, a high-pressure gas pipeline exploded and caused 24 deaths and 132 heavily injured. Our company was hired to guide the crisis teams for a full 24 days in a row. This experience was our tipping point to dedicate ourselves to all things related to risk, crisis, and change.

What got you to where you are in the field of risk analysis today?

Teaming up with three geniuses at a very young age (20) gave me a vast amount of opportunities in the field. I have taken every opportunity in that field. And most I learned the hard way. The decision to focus solely on risk, crisis, and change in a very competent and low-cost organization made us well known in Belgium and the Netherlands. However, our ambition is passing the local borders. Being a young entrepreneur and experienced practitioner in the field, I have been able to present a lot of cases as a lecturer in different countries over the world. In the last few years, I have had the opportunity to participate in exciting research while bringing this knowledge into practice by advising organizations on the use of social media in risk, crisis, and change programs.



What Do We Do?

What is the most interesting/exciting part of your job?

Two things. First, our 24/7/365 emergencies phone. If the phone rings, you know a client is in trouble. Picking up that phone on a Saturday night and starting to tackle crisis issues is a very thrilling experience. The second one has to do with designing the perfect crisis exercise. Starting from analyzing the major consequences of specific risks, over determining the goals for the internal and external stakeholders, until getting them all together to play out a major crisis scenario, is a satisfying and gratifying part of my job.

What would you recommend to those entering the field of risk analysis interested in a job like yours?

Surround yourself with a very competent, flexible, and complementary team. Specialize while broadening your scope. Put practice into academia and academia into practice. Challenge everything and everyone, including yourself. Surprise yourself, but surprise others even more with a mix of irrefutable evidence and practical experience. Reinvent yourself and your field. And start playing chess.

How long have you been a member of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) and what led you to join?

My business partner, Hugo Marynissen, is doing an executive doctorate at Cranfield University in the United Kingdom on risk communication, perception, and behavior in tightly coupled and complex interactive organizations. On his advice, we both attended the SRA annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, last year. As a practitioner with a broad professional interest in all kind of risks, I was looking for an intellectual challenge. While talking and listening to members of the SRA, I immediately felt I was among the right audience.

How has membership/involvement in the SRA helped you in your work?

Attending the annual conference in Charleston offered me some great insights, which I immediately put into practice. Some of them failed, but most ideas had a positive outcome. Being spurred into giving something back to the academic world, I started looking at my work differently. Having worked a lot with accepted wisdom, we successfully introduced academic findings into our risk, crisis, and change programs. I also started a research project on the use of social media before, during, and after a crisis with the ambition to get my findings from real live cases recognized on an empirical level.

In what ways are you involved in SRA as a volunteer?

After having an unpleasant, but still hilarious, epic discussion with some people at the Embassy Suites North Charleston Hotel about charging me \$400 for Internet access so I could tweet about the SRA annual meeting, I took the discussion to Felicia Wu (Communications Committee), who introduced me to Lisa Robinson (Communication Committee). She proposed I join the Social Media Subcommittee to keep this discussion alive. So I did.



What Do We Do?

After some constructive conversations with the other members of the subcommittee, it became apparent that if we want to promote the SRA on social interactive platforms, evidence-based findings have to be provided. Therefore I submitted an abstract for the 2012 SRA Annual Meeting in San Francisco with the title “The Role of Social Media as a Trusted Risk Communication Tool.” I really look forward to presenting some exciting new data on this topic.

What is your role on the Social Media Subcommittee?

I became a member from the very beginning. I had the chance to participate in some great conversations about the website redesign and the relation with social media. It became apparent there is a need for an active and strong Social Media Subcommittee.

For the moment, all members of the subcommittee are gathered to form a mission and a strategy on social media. Together with Scott Ferson, I’m putting myself forward to keep things going and get results as soon as possible.

Has the use of social media changed the way societies like SRA communicate with members and with the public?

If you break it down, a society is a group of people who share common interests and discuss their points of view. The way in which we communicate has changed a lot since the Internet became more interactive. Societies who interact—instead of pro-act, act, or react—have a more lively and genuine audience. Therefore, getting interaction with each other on various topics has benefits. Individual benefits are multiple, such as announcing new research and interesting findings or getting comments on projects from the field. All these interactions are beneficial for the SRA as a whole. It will bring members together and it will attract new members who are interested in the same field. Social media gets our word out to a vast global audience.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of social media use by professional societies?

The biggest advantage is the creation of an ever-interacting global community of members talking about the shared topics of interest—sharing ideas, knowledge, insights, and expertise that provoke others to get interested and involved in the field. To name a disadvantage is difficult because social media is not a choice. It is already there, to stay, to evolve, and to be embraced. Let me give you an example. Wiley & Sons, the publisher of the SRA journal, is using social media and promotes the use of social media. Visit the Wiley & Sons website and convince yourself. Wiley & Sons is on board. At this very moment, Wiley is having a conversation about the SRA’s journal through social media. Saying that, the prerequisite of social media is that professional societies have to put resources into it. Decision makers are asked to put



What Do We Do?

resources into research, people, and tools without fully understanding the concept of social media yet. However, in my view, this is more a challenge than a disadvantage.

How can SRA best make use of social media?

By not trying to control it and by not forcing people to use social media. Encouraging people to share their thoughts on their work via interactive web pages is a great way to support the members. We already have some SRA interactive web pages out there: a LinkedIn group, a Twitter list with SRA members, the website . . . Although these tools are works in progress, we see progress and there is still room for a lot of improvement.

What are your interests outside of work?

I like a nice game of chess with a Belgian beer on the side. I started playing at the age of four, but still have to learn a lot. Another interest is playing the saxophone. Jazz and blues are my favorite styles to play. My girlfriend is a “piano playing singer songwriter.” Now it’s so much easier to find some rehearsal time! Finally, I’m running an amateur soccer club with friends. Being a soloist in chess and sometimes with the sax, it’s great to be a team player on the soccer field.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

First, everyone who reads this and has a hunch he/she is doing a great job . . . well, get the word out! Share your work through interactive pages on the Internet. Make people want to know more about it. Confront policymakers, academics, captains of industry, the men and women around your corner. Tell everyone you did some great research on risk analysis. Speak, let them speak their minds, and get the research into practice. Embrace criticism. Second, visit the SRA LinkedIn page at http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-Risk-Analysis-4265467?gid=4265467&trk=hb_side_g, and if you have a Twitter account, post your user name on the LinkedIn page. And finally, if you have some remarks on this interview, share the conversation! You can reach me at Twitter via @StijnPieters.

Member News

If you have written a book, received a job promotion or award, or participated in an event that you would like other Society for Risk Analysis members to know about, send a paragraph or two (150–200 words) and a photo to Mary Walchuk, *Risk Newsletter* editor, at newseditor@sra.org.



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Society for Risk Analysis

Risk Newsletter

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The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) is an interdisciplinary professional society devoted to risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.

SRA was founded in 1981 by a group of individuals representing many different disciplines who recognized the need for an interdisciplinary society, with international scope, to address emerging issues in risk analysis, management, and policy. Through its meetings and publications, it fosters a dialogue on health, ecological, and engineering risks and natural hazards and their socioeconomic dimensions. SRA is committed to research and education in risk-related fields and to the recruitment of students into those fields. It is governed by bylaws and is directed by a 15-member elected Council.

The Society has helped develop the field of risk analysis and has improved its credibility and viability as well.

Members of SRA include professionals from a wide range of institutions, including federal, state, and local governments, small and large industries, private and public academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations, law firms, and consulting groups. Those professionals include statisticians, engineers, safety officers, policy analysts, economists, lawyers, environmental and occupational health scientists, natural and physical scientists, environmental scientists, public administrators, and social, behavioral, and decision scientists.

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Deadline for Risk Newsletter Submissions

Send information for the **September/October 2012** SRA *Risk Newsletter*, which will be on the SRA website **mid-September**, to Mary Walchuk, *Risk Newsletter* Editor (115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; email: newseditor@sra.org) no later than **20 August 2012**.