

News and updates from the Society for Risk Analysis

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Photo: Dr. Gerd Gigerenzer, SRA President Margaret MacDonell and 2017 SRA-E Organizer Rui Gaspar at the SRA-E Conference

New this year: Annual Meeting Images of Risk Competition

SRA invites you to submit an original image (maximum 2 entries per person) which you have created to communicate an interesting aspect of risk or risk analysis. The image may be a photograph, drawing, or diagram. We especially welcome images related to the theme of this year's meeting, "Risk Analysis - the Profession, the Practitioners, the Research." Visit

our [website](#) for more information about the competition, including how to enter.

Entries are due by October 31, 2017.

Save the Date! Upcoming Webinars

An additional email will be sent to all members

with a registration link

July 25: *Measles and Rubella (in conjunction with the release of the Journal's Measles and Rubella special issue)*

September 23 at 12/noon ET: *Writing Domain-Specific Guideline for Analytic Support of Risk Management: Issues and Arguments*

If you or your specialty group is interested in hosting a webinar, please contact [Robin Dillon-Merrill](#). All of our past webinars are available [here](#) for members.

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.

Are you also a member of the Association for Psychological Science?

APS is looking to spotlight members in an article, "Practice of Psychological Science," in their fall newsletter. The intent is to highlight the application of psychological science methods and theory to illuminate non-academic career trajectories for graduate students and young professionals and to develop strong partnerships between SRA and organization in the social behavioral and economic sciences. Inquiries should be sent to [Matthew Wood](#).

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](#).

Each month the Communications Committee selects an article from the journal for further media coverage. Last month's selected article featured a new study on providing backup services during an electrical outage.

New Studies Reveal Customer Demand and Cost of Supplying Power During an Outage

Long-lasting electrical outages can lead to severe individual and societal impacts, including significant economic losses and even death. A set of companion papers recently published in *Risk Analysis* found that it would be economically feasible and socially advantageous for electrical companies to provide a partial backup service to customers during a blackout.

Against a backdrop of economic, environmental and security-related challenges, the aging U.S. power system must continue to provide reliable service to customers. A string of natural disasters and prolonged blackouts have motivated consumers to invest in personal generators at unprecedented rates, but a low-amperage backup service would better serve the people and their wallets.

The pair of papers, “[Assessing the cost of large-scale power outages to residential customers](#)” and “[Providing limited local electric service during a major grid outage - A first assessment based on customer willingness to pay](#),” examined residential power users’ willingness to pay (WTP) for full or partial backup services during a theoretical 24-hour blackout and then determined the investments required by the electrical provider to implement these services. [Read more.](#)

SRA members and friends had a great time at this year's SRA-Europe Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. Check out [photos](#) from the presentations and social programs at the event. Please feel free to share the photos with your friends and colleagues.

SRA-Taiwan Holds 2017 Joint Assembly and Annual Meeting in Cooperation with Taichung City Government

By Tailin Huang

On May 25-26, 2017, SRA-Taiwan held the 2017 Joint Assembly of Taichung Forum on “Smart City & Risk Governance” and the Annual Meeting of the Taiwan Chapter of Society for Risk Analysis at Taichung City Hall. This Forum was co-organized by SRA-Taiwan and Taichung city government, with joint efforts from many governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and universities, as well as supports from research institutes and industrial partners. The event was chaired by legislator Kuen-Yuh Wu, the former president of SRA-Taiwan and hosted by Mayor of Taichung City, Chia-Lung Lin.

A variety of issues were covered during the 2-day meeting and exhibition, including risk governance, food safety, environmental risk, disaster prevention, risk communication, occupational safety and health, and cyber security.

The Forum had seven main sessions: (1) risk governance in the 21st century, (2) food safety, (3) environmental risk, (4) disaster prevention, (5) risk communication and risk assessment certification, (6) occupational safety and health, and (7) information security. It is a platform for international and national experts from academy, industry, government agencies, and non-profit organizations to share novel knowledges and experiences in risk assessment, risk management, risk communication and risk governance.

Visit [SRA-Taiwan website](#) for more information.

SRA Europe holds its 26th Annual Meeting on the theme “New Challenges, New Threats: Resilience and Adaptation in a Risky World”

By Randa Kachef

From June 18-21, SRA Europe held its 26th Annual Meeting in Lisbon Portugal. The context for this year’s meeting could not have been more appropriate for the growing role risk and resilience are playing in current political debates.

The meeting theme of “New Challenges, New Threats: Resilience and Adaptation in a Risky World” proved to be overwhelmingly topical as fire raged through the Pedrógão Grande municipality of Portugal. The fire caused many deaths and property damage, while the media criticized the command of emergency services as their failures in resilience protocol resulted in the inability to communicate the risks posed to those affected.

Against this backdrop, risk practitioners from all over the globe met in Lisbon’s beautiful Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian Museum to enjoy heated discussions. Resilience based debates ranged within a variety of topics; from innumeracy in decision making, to the use of social media as a risk communication tool and the upcoming importance of resilience in an uncertain future plagued with issues brought on by climate change, population growth and many other factors.

The meeting kicked off with a keynote from Dr. Gerd Gigerenzer, an expert in risk literacy and the understanding of uncertainties. Dr. Gigerenzer’s presentation focused on innumeracy within the medical sector, highlighting that a misunderstanding of probabilities through reporting of relative over absolute statistics results in unnecessary tests and augmented stress among patients. Dr. Gigerenzer explained that paternalism and nudging don’t encourage risk literacy, and ultimately when a patient takes control of their health by informing themselves, they are able to avoid the “white coat heuristic,” such as blindly agreeing

to treatments or medications that may be motivated by financial gain.

Day one of the meeting progressed in parallel sessions where topics covered perception in climate change, discussions on collaborations between crisis and risk communicators and an extension of conversations on vaccinations sprung from the Benelux chapter meeting earlier this year in Bilthoven, The Netherlands. The day ended as drinks and canapés were enjoyed during the poster session, where research on a variety of topics was eagerly presented and discussed among peers, as well as across disciplines.

The second day of the meeting featured a keynote from Dr. Margôt Kuttschreuter, an SRA Fellow. Dr. Kuttschreuter argued that resilience cannot simply be applied to challenges and threats posed by social and environmental factors, but that new technologies present a variety of issues in their own right. The focus was to examine how best to leverage social networking sites in terms of risk communications, and the effect that social networking has on the amplification of certain risks. Additionally, Dr. Kuttschreuter introduced the use of serious gaming as an effective tool to train risk and resilience through the process of decision making and simulation within a game environment.

The second keynote of the day was given by Dr. Maria Eduarda Gonçalves who presented how the European Union has taken a risk-based approach to its upcoming reform on data protection legislation. The new policy will be implemented in 2018 and has sprung a variety of debates such as the loss of positive outcomes to data sharing as well as a discussion on methods of enforcement.

SRA Europe chapter meetings took place over lunch and featured the inception of a third European chapter, the Iberian Chapter, devoted to showcasing risk-related work within Spain and Portugal, as well as fortifying links with the SRA Latin America regional organization. The schedule of the day ended with presentations on trans-border resilience policy as well as a variety of studies on current resilience and risk legislation on pharmaceuticals and food safety within the EU.

Attendees were then treated to the much-anticipated gala dinner, held at the beautiful Casa Ermelinda Freitas Vineyard. A guided tour of the grounds and wine making facilities was enjoyed by all, including a tasting in their garden followed by a lavish dinner overlooking the lush countryside.

Meeting goers convened on Wednesday morning for the final two keynotes of the schedule. Dr. Igor Linkov, head of the Risk and Decision Science Team and Focus at the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center, was the first to begin the discussion on risk based approaches to resilience. Dr. Linkov set the history of the balance between risk and resilience, citing examples from the 1755 Great Earthquake of Lisbon, as well as how lack of attention to resilience caused the demise of Napoleon. Dr.

Linkov spoke of current efforts within the US Government to improve resilience policy as well as the need for an integrative approach to resilience that encompasses emerging as well as known risks.

The final keynote of the meeting was presented by past SRA Europe President, professor José Palma-Oliveira from the University of Lisbon. Professor Palma-Oliveira expressed his concerns that the term 'resilience' is being over or misused within the field; that many times exposure to different stressors and risks hardens a system, causing natural resilience that often does not translate to being a good system.

Risk and resilience towards emerging technologies dominated parallel sessions of day three, where new tools, decision making processes and issues associated with development were discussed. Cian Ryan of Limerick University discussed emerging risks within the field of driverless cars and Ganna Pogrebna of University of Warwick discussed the influence of children and their gender on risk acceptance and decision making.

Many thanks to Rui Gaspar, José Manuel Palma-Oliveira and the rest of the organizing committee and volunteers for an informed and entertaining meeting.

Highlights of the SRA Policy Forum on Risk Governance for Key Enabling Technologies, Venice, Italy, March 1-3, 2017

On March 1-3, 2017, the Society for Risk Analysis hosted a Policy Forum in Venice, Italy, on "Risk Governance for Key Enabling Technologies" co-chaired by Drs. Linkov, Hristozov and Marcomini. The forum was endorsed by the large-scale EU research project SUN and supported by the US Army Corps of Engineers and caLIBRAte research. It brought together more than 140 delegates from around the globe in a dialogue on the risk governance in the areas of micro and nanoelectronics, nanotechnology, industrial biotechnology, advanced materials, photonics, and advanced manufacturing. This dialogue contributed not only to a better understanding of the major challenges emerging from uncertain technology risks, but also to developing ideas on how to overcome those across different industrial sectors. In this way, the forum provided important input to the evolving research agenda for developing safer and more sustainable Key Enabling Technologies (KETs).

The development and commercialization of KETs raise fundamental environmental health and safety challenges for industries and regulators across sectors of vital importance for the economy. While existing practices for risk assessment and management are applicable to these technologies, their implementation requires information that is difficult to obtain. There is limited availability of quantitative data to populate

models corresponding to material exposure, hazard, and consequences. With this challenge, the forum participants exchanged views on how governance of the KETs will be carried out within and across jurisdictions, while accounting for risk, cost, benefit, resilience, and societal implications.

Session discussion on various emerging and enabling technologies ranged from nanotechnology to emerging biotechnologies to the potential for artificial intelligence and self-driving cars. Specific lessons included insight for the risk management of emerging threats such as the Zika virus, to needs for theory and principles of risk governance of KETs into the future. Future approaches were debated by Dr. Bernard Goldstein and Dr. Igor Linkov, with points raised in favor of updating and improving conventional approaches (Goldstein) to fostering a novel approach to risk governance altogether (Linkov).

The Forum showcased current efforts put towards addressing the risks of emerging technologies featuring a key note plenary talk given by LTG (retired) Thomas P. Bostick, Ph.D., of Intrexon Corporation, who discussed the promise and difficulties of particular applications of synthetic biology to meet ongoing complex challenges in public health. More plenary and panel discussion on governance, communication, and stakeholder engagement involved SRA Past-Presidents James H. Lambert and Ortwin Renn, SRA-Europe Past-President José Palma-Oliveira, Dr. Georgios Katalagianakis, Prof. Antonio Marcomini and Drs. David Berube, Christopher Cummings, and Ineke Malsch, among others.

Several participants compiled viewpoints on KET governance to a publishable manuscript that is currently under review. The manuscript articulates the need to address uncertainties inherent to emerging technologies and complicating to traditional risk assessment. The authors discuss the merits of a comparative, multi-perspective approach to technology governance until sufficient quantitative information comes available to populate traditional risk assessment.

The SRA Policy Forum is key in a series of worldwide events leading to the SRA Fifth World Congress on Risk on the theme “Development and Resilience” to convene at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa, on May 6-8, 2019. Information for co-sponsorships, exhibits, and other engagements with the World Congress should be sent to Dr. Linkov (Program Chair), Patrician Nance (Finance Chair), Aleksandar Jovanović (Organization Chair), or Dr. Lambert (General Chair).



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