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Message from the President

Some of you may remember the lunch speech, delivered by Anne Michiels van Kessenich from the Netherlands, at the SRA Annual Meeting last year. She talked with passion and enthusiasm about teaching children and youths about risk and risk analysis. Her work is important, and I am happy to see projects emerging that are aimed at getting something to happen on this topic. For example, a workshop is to be organised in Leiden in the Netherlands in early October this year to discuss how we should best proceed. For me, key questions to discuss are: What are we to teach the kids? What are the core subjects to be included in the curriculum? We cannot sell the idea of classes in risk analysis to school administrators and bureaucrats if we do not have a crystal-clear idea of what we wish to obtain, from a short- and a long-term perspective, and what topics should be covered, and how. As a field and science, risk analysis has a way to go to obtain broad consensus regarding what represents the core of the discipline – particularly for teaching children and youths – but we are making progress, and the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) has a leading role in this work. We need thorough discussions on the matter and, as for all fields and sciences, we need to highlight an understanding of fundamental concepts – including risk, uncertainty and probability. A second area concerns seeing the difference between professional risk and uncertainty judgements, on the one hand, and risk perceptions, which also reflect aspects like fear, on the other. It is also important to understand that risk is something that is at the same time positive and negative – and

we need to find a balance between taking risk (creating values) and reducing risk (protection). And it is essential to see the different perspectives of individuals, organisations and society. From such pillars, we can formulate learning objectives or outcomes, for example that the pupils should be able to discern the difference between professional risk judgements and risk perception.

We are seeing the contours of something big here. A lot of work is needed, but we have started. If you would like to hear more about the initiatives taken on this topic, and/or like to be involved in the activities, please contact Professor Frederic Boudier at fredreric.boudier@uis.no.

Best regards,



Terje Aven

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 (NEW!): [Building Urban Resilience](#)



Aus-NZ Conference 2018

September 26–27, 2018 in Sydney, Australia

The theme of this year's conference is "Risk Prisms: Exploring the Multifaceted Nature of Risk." In the field of optics, a prism is a transparent object with at least two angled sides that break up white light into its constituent colours (1). In the same way that a single beam of light is in reality made up of different colours, the systems-based approach to risk analysis proposes that risk is likewise composed of different elements. These individual elements in turn are combined into a range of subsets, each associated with a range of different probabilities (2, 3).

While the rapid growth of risk research across multiple fields over the past few decades has successfully produced a large and rich body of literature, it has also resulted in diverse but disconnected perspectives on risk (4-6). This is because different disciplines have undertaken independent investigations into the nature of risk and its measurement. While discipline-specific lenses are certainly important in obtaining a deep understanding of risk, this is akin to passing a beam of light through individual panes of glass: that is, passing light through a single pane of glass does not refract it into its constituent colours. Therefore, observing light as it passes through different individual lenses effectively deprives scholars of the opportunity to gain rich insights into its multifaceted nature.

It is proposed that the way to creatively and insightfully extend the boundaries of the field is for scholars from different disciplines to collaboratively work together to act as a prism for risk. An important characteristic of prisms is that at least two of its surfaces need to be angled in order to have refractive capability. Therefore, 'refracting' risk requires at least two different disciplines offering at least two different angles or perspectives of the same risk. Indeed, bringing together more than two disciplines can

potentially offer even richer insights into the complexity of risk.

[Early-bird registration ends August 10, 2018](#)

SRA Member Spotlight: Cristina McLaughlin, senior economist at the U.S. FDA, recipient of the 2017 SRA Outstanding Practitioner Award.

As an FDA economist, McLaughlin's work involves preparing economic impact analyses for a wide variety of regulations aimed to reduce consumer health and safety risks. In 2017, she was mostly involved in the development of regulations affecting FDA's enforcement activities and in estimating the potential risk reduction of food borne illnesses resulting from FDA's enforcement activities.



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*

Core Subjects of Risk Analysis Series

September 5: *Solving Real Risk
Problems & Issues with Willy Røed*

October 3: *Risk, Causation and Decision
with Tony Cox*

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

Other Webinars



Save the Date!

Registration for the 2018 SRA Annual Meeting opens next week!

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

September 12: *Toward Safer Consumer Products: Exploring the Use of Multi-Criteria (MCDA) and Structured Decision Making (SDM) Approaches for Chemical Alternatives Analysis*

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.

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

If you haven't renewed your SRA membership for 2018, please take a moment and renew [online](#).

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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