

SRA statement – James Hammitt

SRA is a central part of my professional life. I am running for Councilor to help sustain and enhance the activities and world-wide membership of our society.

I remember discovering the journal Risk Analysis in a university library sometime in the mid-1980s. There could not have been many issues. I was struck to discover a journal where so many of the articles were about problems that intrigued me and used approaches that were congenial to my applied mathematics and decision analysis background. I spent several happy hours reading and skimming that afternoon.

My first SRA conference was in 1989, in a San Francisco recently scarred by the Loma Prieta earthquake; I have been a regular participant ever since. I have published in Risk Analysis, reviewed for it, and serve on its editorial board. With growing seniority, I have been honored as a Fellow and recipient of the Distinguished Achievement award.

Beginning in 1980, I worked at the RAND Corporation on motor-vehicle injuries, environmental policy (including stratospheric-ozone depletion and climate change), food-borne risks, and the value per statistical life. In 1993, I had the good fortune to join the faculty of the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis. HCRA has been an incubator of leaders in risk analysis and I have been lucky to collaborate with many of them. I have been director since 2003 and continue to head our long-running executive education course in risk analysis.

Risk analysis is a peculiar field; it is not a traditional discipline but draws from engineering, many natural and social sciences, and even humanities. It is concerned with critical practical problems that have challenged humanity since antiquity. Its strength is in bringing together people from multiple disciplines keenly interested in deeply understanding and prudently managing fundamental problems of human existence. I look forward to continuing to learn through our society, and to offering that learning to others – especially to students and young professionals who are just discovering our field.

JAMES K. HAMMITT

Professor of Economics and Decision Sciences
Department of Health Policy and Management and Department of Environmental Health
Director, Harvard Center for Risk Analysis
Harvard University, T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Education

Ph.D., Public Policy, Harvard University, 1988.
M.P.P., Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 1981.
Sc.M., Applied Mathematics, Harvard University, 1978.
A.B. *magna cum laude*, Applied Mathematics, Harvard College, 1978.

Professional Experience

1993–Present — Associate Professor, Professor of Economics and Decision Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.
2003–Present — Director, Harvard Center for Risk Analysis.
2016 — Visiting Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Berkeley.
2014–2015 — Senior Advisor, Office of Science Policy, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
2010–2014 — Visiting Professor, Toulouse School of Economics, Université Toulouse 1 Capitole.
2005–2006 — Pierre-de-Fermat Chaire d'Écellence Université Toulouse 1 Capitole.
1981–1993 — Associate Mathematician, Mathematician, Senior Mathematician, RAND, Santa Monica, California.

Service (selected)

Editorial Board, *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis*, 2016–Present.
Editorial Board, *Risk Analysis*, 2013–Present.
Committee on Assessing Approaches to Estimates of the Social Cost of Carbon, National Academies of Sciences, Medicine, and Engineering, 2015–2017.
Board of Directors, Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis, 2014–2015.
Committee on a Framework for Assessing Health, Environmental, and Social Effects of the Food System, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, 2013–2015.
Environmental Justice Technical Guidance Panel, Science Advisory Board, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2012–2014.
Science Advisory Board, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2006–2012.
Chair, Advisory Council on Clear Air Compliance Analysis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2006–2010 (member, 2000–2010).
Chair, Expert Elicitation Advisory Panel, Science Advisory Board, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2008–2010.
Scientific Advisory Board, European Value of a Quality Adjusted Life Year (EuroVaQ), University of Newcastle upon Tyne, 2007–2010.
Environmental Economics Advisory Committee, Science Advisory Board, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2003–2009.
Committee on Health, Environmental, and Other External Costs and Benefits of Energy Production and Consumption, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, 2008–2009.
American Statistical Association Committee on Energy Statistics (Advisory Committee to the U.S. Energy Information Administration), 1998–2003.
Committee on the Implications of Dioxin in the Food Supply, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, 2002–2003.

