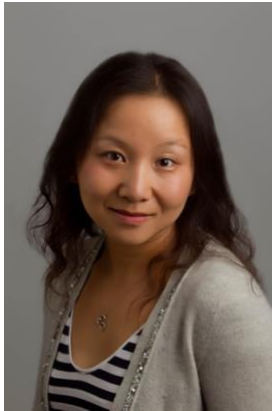


## SRA Councilor Nomination Bio



Janet Z. Yang, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Communication  
University at Buffalo

Janet Yang has been a member of the Society for Risk Analysis since she first attended SRA as a doctoral student in 2006. SRA has been her primary professional society due to the Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG)'s close connection with her research area and the strong network she has developed through SRA meetings over the years.

As a member of SRA, Janet has served the society primarily through RCSG and the journal *Risk Analysis*. As a student member, she received the ExxonMobil Student Paper Award in 2008. She served as the student representative for RCSG from 2007 to 2008, chair elect from 2014 to 2015, and chair from 2015 to 2016. Since 2017, she has been organizing the student paper competition for RCSG, which involves lining up reviewers, facilitating the double-blind review process, and selecting the winner based on reviewer scores and comments. Janet has served on the Editorial Board for *Risk Analysis* since 2018. She also serves on the Editorial Board for *Science Communication* and is currently an Associated Editor for *Environmental Communication*. Janet received the best reviewer recognition from *Risk Analysis* in 2019.

Janet has published 50+ peer reviewed journal articles and several book chapters. Her primary research interest is in the communication of risk issues in a broad range of environmental and health contexts, with a special focus on cognitive and affective determinants of risk perception and their impact on information seeking, information sharing, and information processing. In particular, some of her recent projects examine public risk perception and communication behaviors related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ebola outbreak, climate change, air pollution, and Hurricane Harvey. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, among others. Janet has served on the expert panel for the National Science Foundation, and she also served as a science advisor for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Singapore National Research Foundation.

Janet received a B.A. in Journalism from Fudan University in Shanghai, China, an M.A. in Communication from Marquette University, and a Ph.D. in Communication from Cornell University.

## **Statement of Goals**

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the SRA Council. SRA has been an important part of my academic career, helping me to disseminate my research among a larger interdisciplinary audience, allowing me to receive invaluable feedback from other experts, and enabling me to introduce graduate students and other young scientists into the exciting world of risk analysis. If I am elected Council, my goals would be to 1) support the Executive Committee to navigate the increasingly uncertain world around us; 2) increase the visibility of SRA and foster closer connection among members throughout the year.

Goal 1: As stated in the SRA bylaw, the Council has the power of management and supervision of the property and affairs of the Society. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more crucial for the society to adapt to the constantly changing situation to ensure that our members can continue to participate and benefit from their involvement in SRA. To this end, I have already participated in a planning meeting for this year's conference in April, 2020 with the goal of improving sustainability of our December meeting. Now, with the fate of the meeting uncertain due to the outbreak, I believe the Council needs to come up with creative ways to assist the Executive Committee to program and organize the meeting so that our members can participate effectively either in-person or virtually.

Goal 2: On March 12, 2020, I participated in an SRA webinar as one of the discussants titled Risk Perspectives on Coronavirus Outbreak that was very well-attended. I enjoyed the conversation with other discussants representing a wide range of disciplines. Since then, there have been several webinars on this topic that were well publicized through the SRA website and newsletters. I believe strongly that SRA should continue to take part in the national dialogue surrounding COVID-19, as well as many other risk issues that are shaping the way we interact with each other and how policies are formed. To this end, as a member of the Council, I want to make sure similar activities are planned in the future so that SRA members can interact with each other not only at the December meeting, but also throughout the year. I believe SRA can utilize various social media more effectively and increase the reach of our webinars through other professional societies to which our members belong.