

Bio Marja Ylönen

Marja Ylönen is Doctor of Social Sciences and working currently as Senior Scientist on safety and risk topics at the Technical Research Centre of Finland. She is immediate past president of the Nordic Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis Europe (2017-2019), and is a current board member of the SRA Europe and the Nordic Chapter of the SRA Europe. She has also leadership experience from other scientific organizations, such as the European Reliability and Safety Association (ESRA), where she is currently co-chair of a technical committee on Organizational Factors and Safety Culture. In the period of 2014-2018 she was a board member of the Research Committee on Environment and Society of the International Sociological Association. Ylönen has broad experience in organizing conferences, the most recent ones being the SRA Nordic Chapter conference on risks and security in Espoo, Finland in 2017 and the SRA Europe conference on The Discipline(s) of Risk Science, in Espoo, Finland in 2020 (postponed to 2021 due to pandemic). She has organized and chaired a number of conference sessions, including two roundtables at the SRA annual meeting (2018 on Resilience and risk, and 2019 on Safety culture and risk analysis). She enjoys working with international, multicultural and multidisciplinary contexts, and connecting people from various backgrounds. Ylönen is currently working with safety critical organizations, such as the nuclear industry and chemical industry. She is leading an international research project on Integrated Management of Safety and Security in Seveso plants. Examples of activities include safety culture evaluations for the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, and conduction of safety culture training programs. She has presented a number of papers at scientific conferences and published several papers in high quality journals like Reliability Engineering and System Safety. Her publications cover topics like risk interpretation of sociotechnical perspectives, risk and resilience, knowledge and risk, and safety culture and risk.

Goals

It would be an honour to serve as member of the SRA Council. I strongly believe that SRA can play an important role in enhancing risk analysis as a science and profession worldwide, and I cannot see any better way of contributing to this end than being involved in the Council work. SRA has recently developed a strategic plan, which clarifies the organization's vision and main goals/prioritizations. As a Council member I will do my best to support both the creation and realization of activities meeting the objectives formulated in this plan. I consider the overall discussion on what to prioritize as very important as we have limited resources, but equally important is the need for taking responsibility for specific activities, from early planning to actual implementation. I am strongly motivated to work with the leadership of the Society to identify activities where I can contribute. From my SRA related work, I have made many reflections on what are the most pressing issues to deal with for SRA. These correspond very well with the findings of the recent SRA Strategic planning. I would just like to highlight one point here. It bothers me that so few people working with risk analysis are aware of the risk science fundamentals (concepts, principles). Despite continuous discussions there exists some state-of-the-art knowledge that forms a reference for high quality risk analysis. SRA can play an important role in clarifying what this knowledge is. I am happy to see some initial work by SRA on this, but more is needed. A number of different means can be used for this purpose, ranging from guidance documents, to videos and education material. I hope the SRA council will continue to back the realization of activities on this topic, and if I become a Council member I will do my best to promote this type of efforts.

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