



Risk Newsletter

Volume 32, Number 2
March/April 2012

Published by the Society for Risk Analysis

Inside Risk

<u>President's</u>	
<u>Message.....</u>	3
<u>2012 Annual</u>	
<u>Meeting.....</u>	4
<u>Japan</u>	
<u>One Year Later</u>	5
<u>Pantheon.....</u>	10
<u>Award</u>	
<u>Nominations.....</u>	11
<u>Officer</u>	
<u>Nominations.....</u>	11
<u>Risk Analysis</u>	
<u>Journal</u>	12
<u>Committees</u>	13
<u>Specialty</u>	
<u>Groups.....</u>	15
<u>Regional</u>	
<u>Organizations.....</u>	19
<u>What Do</u>	
<u>We Do?</u>	23
<u>Member</u>	
<u>News.....</u>	24
<u>Announcements...</u>	25
<u>2012 SRA</u>	
<u>Contacts.....</u>	28

Japan One Year Later
SRA-Japan's
Report
Page 5

SRA World Congress on Risk “Risk and Development in a Changing World”

Sydney, Australia, 18-20 July 2012

Register now at <http://sra.org/worldcongress2012>



Photo courtesy of Sally Mayman, Destination New South Wales

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) will hold its third in the series of World Congresses on Risk 18–20 July 2012 at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre in Sydney, Australia—one of the most beautiful cities in the world. This major global event is held in a different region every four to five years; the first two World Congresses on Risk were held in Brussels, Belgium, in 2003 and in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2008.

The overall theme of the 2012 World Congress is “Risk and Development in a Changing World.” Daily sub-themes are:

- “Disasters and Resilience”
- “Global and Emerging Risks”
- “Risk and Sustainable Development”

Featured plenary keynote speakers will include:

- Dr. Antoine Flahault, French National School of Public Health
- Dr. Robert Friedman, J. Craig Venter Institute
- Dr. Michele Garfinkel, European Molecular Biology Organization
- Dr. Pierre-Alain Schieb, OECD
- Dr. David Zhang, University of Hong Kong
- And more to be added soon

Continued on page 2

SRA World Congress on Risk

March/
April 2012

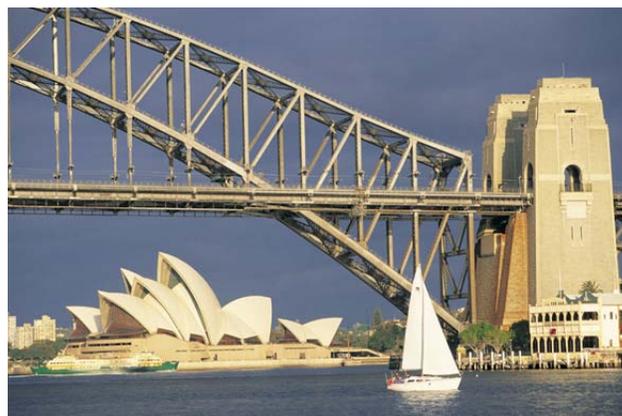
Society for
Risk Analysis

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The World Congress will feature a wide array of exciting sessions on every aspect of risk assessment, risk management, risk perception, and communication. SRA has already received more than 400 abstracts from experts all around the world. Special sessions will address, among other topics:

- Earthquake, tsunami, and radiation risks after Fukushima
- Synthetic biology – the challenges and opportunities
- Emerging risks
- Air pollution in Asia
- Chemical risk assessment
- Climate change risks
- Trust and risk perception
- Food safety
- Global catastrophic risks
- Early warning systems
- The future of energy
- Influenza and infectious disease
- Microbial risk assessment
- And many others ...



Sydney Harbor Bridge and Opera House

Photo courtesy of Destination New South Wales

Registration is now open! Please visit <http://sra.org/worldcongress2012> and click on the "Registration" link to register now. Speakers must register by 22 March 2012. Discounted registration rates are available for early registrants (participants registering before 15 May 2012), as well as for students and participants from developing countries. (Speakers who are students or from developing countries can also apply for travel support.)

The registration page will soon show information about a range of hotel options for lodging in Sydney and about side trips to explore Sydney and Australia.

The co-chairs of the SRA World Congress 2012 are Professor Alison Cullen, University of Washington, United States; Dr. Daniela Leonte, Australian Department of Health and Aging; and Professor Jonathan Wiener, Duke University, United States. If you have questions about registration, please contact Lori Strong at the SRA Secretariat, lstrong@burkinc.com.

See you in Sydney!



Manly Beach

Photo courtesy of Sally Mayman, Destination New South Wales



Sydney

Photo courtesy of Destination New South Wales

Page 2

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
i

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N

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s

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e

t

t

e

r

Page 3

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

President's Message

Ann Bostrom



On the anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, members of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA)-Japan have composed a special report to the newsletter, in which they describe their new blog and contributions to coordinating and advancing related risk research in Japan. Their report provides personal and professional insights into the earthquake and ensuing tsunami and nuclear power plant disasters, the challenges these pose for risk governance, and the shifts in societal structure that these disasters could trigger.

Like SRA-Japan, our SRA regional organizations and chapters serve as risk analysis coordinators and meeting conveners in their regions, with regular meetings and even region-sponsored risk journals, complementing their contributions to SRA international and our journal *Risk Analysis*.

This year SRA is looking to strengthen regional organizations and the relationships between them and with SRA international. Regions committee co-chairs Ortwin Renn (ortwin.renn@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de) and Jo Anne Shatkin (JAShatkin@clf.org) welcome your proposals and contributions to this effort.

Upcoming SRA meetings present excellent opportunities to explore how we can prepare for and respond better to natural disasters and to bring new voices into those discussions. Bring a new member to an SRA meeting this year! Between regional meetings, the World Risk Congress in Sydney, and the annual meeting in San Francisco, there are many opportunities this year to introduce your colleagues to the professional and intellectual resources SRA creates for members.

President-elect George Gray is working diligently to put together the best SRA annual meeting ever at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco 9–12 December, with the theme “Advancing Analysis,” emphasizing the role of risk analysis in sustainability. Consider coordinating and submitting a symposium or developing a workshop for the meeting; the call for papers will be out soon. If you are a student, consider preparing to submit an entry in one of the specialty groups’ student paper competitions.

Registration is open on the SRA website for the World Risk Congress meeting in Sydney 18–20 July and for the SRA-Europe meeting 18–20 June.

Membership Co-Chairs Seth Guikema (sguikema@jhu.edu) and Marcelo Wolansky (mjwolansky@gmail.com) are analyzing membership trends and welcome your suggestions for strengthening membership and expanding member benefits.

It was a great pleasure to meet many SRA colleagues as well as doctoral students from Scandinavia, Germany, and Delaware at the well-organized and stimulating inaugural Åre Risk Event hosted by Mid-Sweden University’s Risk and Crisis Research (RCR) Center earlier this month. You may recall that Åre RCR Center Director Anna Olofsson won a 2011 *Risk Analysis* best paper award for her paper with Saman Rashid.

In this newsletter, SRA specialty groups, regions, and chapters report on other risk meetings around the world. Look for details on upcoming meetings in the pages that follow and on the SRA website.

2012 SRA Annual Meeting

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

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t
t
e
r

Page 4

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)



Photo by Genevieve Roessler

“Advancing Analysis” 9-12 December 2012 San Francisco, California

Join us in the City by the Bay for the 2012 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting, focused on the theme “Advancing Analysis.” We will be planning sessions identifying ways that risk analysis is advancing in research, practice, and application to important social decisions. We will be putting a special emphasis on the role of risk analysis in sustainability. The call for papers will be on the SRA website very soon (www.sra.org).

The 2012 SRA Annual Meeting program will feature outstanding plenary sessions, symposia, and oral presentations, along with our always-popular poster session. Come and meet your colleagues at the specialty group meetings, take part in our professional-development opportunities for students and young risk professionals, or check out the job fair. This year we will be offering support for students in exchange for volunteering at the meeting. We also have sponsorship opportunities including social functions, award presentations, and the poster session. It is a great chance to let SRA members know about your organization and support the Society.

Anyone interested in sponsorship opportunities or exhibiting at the annual meeting should contact Lori Strong (lstrong@burkinc.com).

SRA in San Francisco has something for everyone!

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

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e
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Page 5

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

Japan One Year Later

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Issues of Risk Governance and Risk Communication in Complex and Multiple Low Probability/High Consequence Types of Disasters

A Report from the Society for Risk Analysis-Japan

SRA-Japan President Dr. Toshiyuki Nagasaka and officers of SRA-Japan

Introduction

The Great East Japan Earthquake of 11 March 2011 cast light on a variety of risk-related social issues that have been either ignored or inadequately addressed by the Japanese society in the past. It is not yet possible to fathom the effects that this earthquake will have on Japanese society, and the course of Japan's future may well be decided by its response. In this paper, we would like to examine the significance of this disaster in terms of risk studies, as determined from the time of the earthquake disaster until the present.

Catastrophic Outcomes of the Earthquake, Tsunami, Nuclear Plant Accident, and Radioactive Contamination beyond the Scope of Traditional Risk Management



Sendai, Japan, 12 March 2011

Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy

Tsunami damage affected the entire Pacific coast from Hokkaido to Kyushu, but was particularly destructive in coastal areas in the three prefectures of the Tohoku region (Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima). The word "unanticipated" was heard constantly as the nation witnessed the dreadful power of nature beyond human understanding.

By 1 March 2012, the National Police Agency reported that 15,854 people died and 3,276 people are still missing after the disaster. Three hundred and ninety thousand people left their homes because they lost their houses or were forced to leave by the government command to evacuate after the nuclear power plant accident. Many towns and cities were completely devastated by the tsunami and still cannot recover from the damage. Local governments lost their facilities and functions, and their economy has been facing difficulties in reviving because of financial problems and others. For example, their restoration plans have not been established since a consensus among residents cannot be obtained with regard to where to locate housing. The fear of the next tsunami attack prevents easy reconstruction in the original sites. Government aid has not been implemented effectively owing to bad coordination among ministries, in addition to current legal constraints and, furthermore, strict judgments by economical sectors on the loan.

Japan One Year Later

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

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e
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Page 6

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

It has become clear that in relation to earthquakes and tsunamis as actual phenomena, we lack adequate scientific knowledge concerning damage prediction itself as the basis for disaster-prevention measures. Major revisions will be needed in assumptions concerning the scale and spread of disasters. Meanwhile, two nuclear power plant sites in Fukushima Prefecture experienced unanticipated circumstances, with even more serious consequences. The Fukushima Daiichi and Daini nuclear power plants are both owned by Tokyo



Cranes erected near Reactor Unit 3 at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Photo by Giovanni Verlini/IAEA

Electric Power Company (TEPCO) and supplied power primarily to the Tokyo area, not the Tohoku region in which they are located. So far, it is explained that the power plants stood up well to the strong earthquake movements, but electric generators for cooling stopped working as a result of the subsequent tsunami, leading inevitably to melt-down of the nuclear reactors. A hydrogen explosion occurred in the Unit 1 reactor building and, as a result, radioactive substances were released into the atmosphere and dispersed over a wide geographic area, causing widespread radioactive contamination. After events such as the Chernobyl accident, the Three Mile Island accident, and the criticality accident at the JCO nuclear fuel plant in Japan, it was claimed by proponents of nuclear power plants that the risks of nuclear power facilities had been thoroughly understood and that adequate safety measures were in place, which has been called a "safety belief myth" in the nuclear power plant. However, Japanese people were terrified by finding that this "safety myth" did not hold true.

Most residents of Japan did not see a map of the estimated distribution of radioactive substances released from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant until nearly two weeks after the earthquake. Ever since, Japanese society has faced the invisible threat of radiation. In the affected regions, surface soil is being scraped or mixed to remove contamination at government expense, but this is a difficult process, and there is still no telling when



Workers removing surface soil, dust, and small rubble in the parking lot in front of the Main Anti-Earthquake Building at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station to reduce radiation dose.

Photo courtesy of TEPCO

residents of areas closest to the nuclear power plants may be permitted to return to their homes. As the news media continue to report on radiation doses, using previously unfamiliar terms like "sievert" and "becquerel" on a daily basis, the problem of radioactive contamination has become part of our everyday lives.

It is clear that the topics of earthquake and tsunami natural disasters, nuclear power facilities, radioactive contamination, and the respective issues of risk in these areas have not been adequately debated in Japanese society, and after the chain of events since the earthquake along with the government's poor response to the situation after the earthquake,

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

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t
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Page 7

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

Japan One Year Later

there is still no resolution in sight. The people of Japan need to face this reality and engage in serious debate based on a deep level of concern regarding risk.

Studies and Endeavors in Risk Communication by the Society for Risk Analysis-Japan

Immediately after the disaster, the Society for Risk Analysis-Japan (SRA-Japan) began considering how it could contribute to society through its activities. In a country with a lack of dialogue concerning risk, the Society decided to first establish an Internet website dedicated to the disaster as a minimal venue for risk communication in order to bring ordinary residents and experts together in dialogue. Specifically, it established a Q&A site where experts who are members of the Society can provide answers to various questions from citizens about disaster risks. The questions were grouped by topic, and answers have been posted to 19 questions about the earthquake disaster and 20 questions about the nuclear power disaster.



Debris floating in off the coast of Japan, 13 March 2011.

Photo by U.S. Navy/Dylan McCord

The Q&A site of SRA-Japan (in Japanese, <http://311sra.ecom-plat.jp>) is a venue for free communication, involving members of the Society in a participatory model. The intention is to support a lively discussion, allowing participants to add new posts and make revisions to their answers as time passes. When a citizen sends in a question, any of the Society's members can voluntarily prepare a response and post it to the site, along with his or her own name and title. The content of questions changes with the passing of time, and the content of suitable responses also changes; therefore, members have the ability to revise their previous posts. The general principle is that Society members decide for themselves which questions they can answer and then assume responsibility for providing answers. When opposing viewpoints exist among members, these can be posted as differing opinions on the same site. This endeavor is still in its early stages because in a serious event such as long-term radioactive contamination, it is important to determine how society's risk perceptions are changing while maintaining risk communication over the long term.

In relation to the risk issues of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Power plant accident, the Japanese *Journal of Risk Analysis* published three editorial papers in 2011. The first is "Beyond the Scope of the Risk Scenarios out of the Framework of Risk Analysis?" by Dr. Saburo Ikeda, associated with risk assessment and risk communication of low probability/high consequence types of disasters, in May 2011. The second is "The Great East Japan Earthquake: Problems of Risk" by Dr. Teruo Oshima, in reference to lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear plant accident, and the third is "The Great East Japan Earthquake and the Informational Risk" by Dr. Noritaka Katatani, specifically discussing the ways of risk communication for tsunami disasters. Currently, of 24 articles published in the past year in three issues of the *Japanese Journal of Risk Analysis*, eight have been research articles on the Great East Japan Earthquake. Five articles are related to the nuclear power plant accident, and others are on the tsunami or risk assessment/communication. At the annual meeting of SRA-Japan last November, we had two special sessions to discuss the matters on the Great East Japan Earthquake, with six guest speakers and

Japan One Year Later

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R i s k N e w s l e t t e r

Page 8

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

two discussants. Among 64 papers presented in this meeting, more than half of the papers were on the subjects related to the Great East Japan Earthquake. Members of our Society are working enthusiastically now in elucidating the fundamental causes of the tragedy, in strengthening risk/crisis management, and also in implementing effective risk/crisis communication. Some researchers have been working in the suffering areas in collaboration with people there, and others are supporting in the background. Last summer, SRA-Japan established a special committee to cope with issues related to the Great East Japan Earthquake.



An aerial view of tsunami damage in an area north of Sendai, Japan, taken 13 March 2011.

Photo by U.S. Navy/Dylan McCord

It is not unusual for a scholarly association to provide support in the form of specialized knowledge at times of disaster, but there have not been many cases of scholarly associations establishing dedicated Q&A websites. Considering the lack of dialogue concerning nuclear power-related research and radiation risks, further study and improvement is needed with regard to the social role of scholarly associations in revising the risk management structure. SRA-Japan has played a central role in a project for collaboration among scholarly associations to consider what can be done from an academic standpoint in post-disaster reconstruction and future disaster-prevention policies, in cooperation with about 40 other scholarly associations that have been involved in efforts related to this earthquake disaster. This collaborative symposium of scholarly associations was held in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture, in October 2011, seven months after the disaster, on the theme of the roles of the national government and regional government organizations and the roles of the public and private sectors.

Risk Society and Changes in the Governance

The Great East Japan Earthquake involved a man-made disaster as well as a natural disaster. This has led to a renewed awareness of the risk society in which we live, as well as a renewed recognition of the importance of dialogue by experts concerning risks. Many earthquake scientists responded to interview requests from the mass media immediately after the earthquake, but were unable to comment on the nuclear power accident or its effects. Similarly, when nuclear power experts gave interviews, they were unable to adequately explain the issues of exposure to radiation and its future effects in a way that could satisfy the Japanese people. This has highlighted the difficulties of a compound disaster and left no doubt that we live in a risk society.

Research institutions have also gotten involved. For example, the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED), where current SRA-Japan President Dr. Toshiyuki Nagasaka is working, began its first-ever support plan for affected areas. To correct the lack of adequate information in affected areas, NIED established a portal site called ALL311 (cooperative information platform for the Great East Japan Earthquake: <http://all311.ecom-plat.jp>) as an information infrastructure to link affected and non-affected areas, and began using the e-community platform under development in the project to provide support to the affected areas. Specifically, to allow volunteers to smoothly enter the affected areas, NIED provided a dedicated site for social welfare councils established by each municipality in Miyagi Prefecture and developed an envi-

Japan One Year Later

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
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s
l
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t
t
e
r

Page 9

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

ronment for map work. In Iwate Prefecture, where municipal governments were severely affected by the disaster and in many cases were unable to function, NIED provided map tools that were useful in urgently needed work by local governments in the affected areas, such as issuing disaster-victim certificates and removing rubble. These services were not performed as ordinary operations of the research institute, but as support activities based on designated donations by private businesses and the like. NIED is a government-run research institute, but when it could not provide support directly because of circumstances beyond the scope of the national crisis management system, it provided support to affected areas while raising funds within a framework of cooperation with private businesses and the like, in an approach that is expected to lead to further developments in measures that will achieve broad changes not only in disaster prevention, but also in the risk-governance framework.

Need for a Risk Information Platform



A Japanese home in the Pacific Ocean, 13 March 2011
Photo by U.S. Navy/Dylan McCord

The disaster has shed light on more issues than just our inadequate understanding of risks from massive natural disasters. We must not overlook the fact that in the study of disaster-prevention measures in the past, problems were caused by the failure to accurately recognize the many uncertainties that are an essential part of the concept of disaster risk itself. For example, concerning storm-surge barriers constructed along the coast of affected areas in the future, debate based on vari-

ous risk levels is needed regarding the degree of significance of such barriers in terms of disaster-prevention effectiveness when the 2011 tsunami is taken as a criterion.

For society as a whole to understand these uncertainties of risk and the scope of risk that emerges as a result, and to develop communication on that basis, it is necessary to build an environment where any of the diverse members of society can obtain risk information whenever it is needed. With this goal in mind, a research project on a disaster risk information platform was begun in fiscal year 2008 as part of a government project to promote contributions to society in relation to science and technology. A variety of risk-related information already exists in society, and with the goal of providing one-stop access and allowing parties seeking such information to obtain it at any time, research, development, and practical applications are beginning first in the area of natural disasters.

The e-community platform developed by NIED has also been used in the Q&A site of SRA-Japan, as described above. A wide range of endeavors concerning various risks is underway, and we believe that it is desirable to engage in continuous dialogue concerning risk.

Summary: Development of Risk Governance

Japanese society can be expected to undergo major changes as a result of this disaster. At present, it is hard to predict just how this will look. After World War II, Japanese society did not undergo social turmoil, but entered a period of steady growth and rapid progress toward maturity. This disaster has occurred in the early part of the 21st century, as the so-

Japan One Year Later

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

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cial risks of an aging population are becoming a reality. The Great East Japan Earthquake has forced all of Japan's citizens to recognize the risks that they face. The affected areas will walk an unprecedentedly long and difficult path of reconstruction. This process will be accompanied by major social changes that the world has not yet experienced.

Faced with our risk society, we need to fundamentally reevaluate the approach to risk governance. The ultimate goal of developing a disaster risk information platform is to develop risk governance and support activities for building a better society, as diverse members of our society participate and communicate about risk from their varied perspectives. This means the rethinking and restructuring of existing risk governance.

In closing, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the related persons in every country that has reached out to support Japan in this disaster.

Acknowledgment

The contribution of current SRA officers, and members of the special committee to cope with the Great Earthquake and related matters of the SRA in preparing this report, is greatly appreciated.

Pantheon of Risk Analysis

The Pantheon of Risk Analysis, launched in 2008, honors deceased giants in the field on whose shoulders we now stand and showcases how high-quality risk analysis can advance knowledge and the public good.



photo by John Collings

Any Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) member may nominate a candidate to the past president; the SRA Council selects the inductees.

In 2008, the SRA inducted 35 initial honorees into the Pantheon of Risk Analysis. In 2011, the SRA added two new inductees nominated by SRA members: Lester Lave and Stan Kaplan.

The full list is on the SRA website, at www.sra.org/about_pantheon.php, with links to the relevant Wikipedia page on each honoree.

Links are provided for biographies of 2011 honorees Drs. Lave and Kaplan.

New nominees are welcome. To nominate other legends in the field, please contact Past President Rachel Davidson (rdavidso@udel.edu).

**Photos from the 2011 SRA
Annual Meeting can be
found at
[http://www.flickr.com/
photos/
society for risk analysis](http://www.flickr.com/photos/society_for_risk_analysis)**

Future Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meetings

**9-12 December 2012
San Francisco, California**

**8-11 December 2013
Baltimore, Maryland**

Page 10

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
i
s
k

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

Page 11

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

Call for Nominations for 2012 SRA Awards

Alison Cullen, chair of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Awards Committee for 2012, invites nominations for the following awards:

- The Distinguished Achievement Award, which honors any person for extraordinary achievement in science or public policy relating to risk analysis.
- The Distinguished Educator Award, which is given to “that teacher, author, or mentor who has contributed substantially to the training of new experts in risk analysis.”
- The Richard J. Burk Outstanding Service Award, which honors SRA members for extraordinary service to the Society.
- The Outstanding Risk Practitioner Award, which honors individuals who have made substantial contributions to the field of risk analysis through work in the public or private sectors. The 2012 award will be for the public sector.
- The Chauncey Starr Distinguished Young Risk Analyst Award, which honors individuals age 40 years old and under who have made exceptional contributions to the field of risk analysis.
- The Fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis Award, which recognizes and honors up to one percent of the Society’s membership whose professional records are marked by significant contributions to any disciplines served by the Society and may be evidenced by one or more of the following: (1) Recognized, original research, application, or invention, (2) Technical, scientific, or policy analysis leadership in an enterprise of significant scope that involves risk analysis in a substantial way, (3) Superior teaching or contributions to improve education and to promote the use of risk analysis that are widely recognized by peers and students, or (4) Service to or constructive activity within the Society of such a quality, nature, or duration as to be a visible contributor to the advancement of the Society. Nominees for Fellow must have been SRA members for at least five years and must now be members in good standing.

Please submit nominations by sending the nominee’s name, contact information, AND a brief paragraph supporting the nomination by 8 April 2012 to SRA Past President Alison Cullen, Awards Chair, by email at alison@uw.edu WITH a cc to David Drupa at ddrupa@burkinc.com.

Call for Nominations for 2012-2013 SRA Officers

The Nominating Committee invites nominations for the following officer and Council positions in the Society’s fall elections for 2012-2013:

President-elect Three Councilors

The terms of office and duties for each position, and the role of the Nominating Committee, are set forth in the SRA Bylaws (www.sra.org/about_bylaws.php). Active members of SRA may submit in writing to the Nominating Committee the name and proposed office for any qualified nominee. Please submit nominations by 1 May 2012 (preferably by email) to Nominating Committee Chair Rick Reiss, email: rreiss@exponent.com, AND to David Drupa, email: ddrupa@burkinc.com, phone: 703-790-1745.

Additionally, as provided in the Bylaws, any active member may submit a petition to list a candidate on the next annual ballot for one of the open positions. Such petitions must include the signatures of at least five percent of the current SRA membership (i.e., at least 90 signatures of other active members), and the completed petition must be received by the Council by 15 May 2012, in time for its June midyear Council meeting, for the candidate to be listed on the ballot.

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
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k

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

Page 12

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

Risk Analysis Journal

Call for Nominations: Deadline Extended until 15 April

Risk Analysis, An International Journal, is seeking to fill three area editor positions:

- Area Editor for Health Risk Assessment
- Area Editor for Engineering
- Associate Area Editor for Mathematical Modeling

Each position is a three-year appointment to serve on the editorial staff of *Risk Analysis: An International Journal*.

Health Risk Assessment

This position responds to the critical formative role of human environmental health in our multidisciplinary field. The journal expects applicants for this area editor position to have extensive professional experience, publications, and an advanced degree in one or more of the following fields: toxicology, epidemiology, and exposure assessment.

Engineering

This area editor position underscores the historically central role of engineering in risk assessment and risk management. Applicants are expected to have academic credentials (including a minimum of a master's degree), publications, and professional background in one or more relevant engineering specialties, including biomedical, civil, chemical, electrical, environmental, management, mechanical, nuclear, and/or systems engineering.

Mathematical Modeling

The associate area editor will work closely with Area Editor L. Anthony Cox, Jr., focusing on applications in security and terrorism. Applicants should have academic training in mathematics, operations research, and allied disciplines that place them in the forefront of this rapidly expanding field.

All Positions: Responsibilities

These new editors will work closely with Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg and Managing Editor Karen Lowrie to oversee the peer-review process for submitted manuscripts in this discipline area and make recommendations about the suitability of submitted manuscripts for publication in the journal. As prominent scholars in the field, they will be expected to invite submissions and to ensure that the journal is publishing high-quality articles on the most prominent topics in the field. The area editors are expected to be members of the Society for Risk Analysis and to meet for one half day at the Society for Risk Analysis annual meeting held each December to discuss their objectives for the coming year. They may have phone meetings at other times during the year. Each area editor position includes a stipend.

Nominations

Nominations for positions should include a CV and a brief statement of the nominee's qualifications, relevant experience, plans for the journal, and clear commitment to attend the annual editorial staff meeting. Please submit nominations by 15 April 2012 to Editor in Chief Michael Greenberg, Managing Editor Karen Lowrie, and Publications Committee Chair Rachel Davidson by email: mrg@rci.rutgers.edu, klowrie@rutgers.edu, rdavidso@udel.edu. The search committee has begun reviewing applications and nominations and will continue the search until the positions are filled.

We are pleased to announce that in the coming months, *Risk Analysis* will feature an article about the 10 greatest accomplishments in risk analysis from the past three decades, based on input from Society for Risk Analysis members and our editorial staff. Also coming to the journal this spring (April) is a special issue on “Risk Perception and Behavior: Anticipating and Responding to Crises,” organized by Bill Burns and Paul Slovic. Another special series of articles on risk perceptions and communication related to climate change, organized by Nick Pidgeon, will appear later this spring.

Committees

Conferences and Workshops Committee

Margaret MacDonell, Chair

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Conferences and Workshops (C&W) Committee sponsors continuing education courses for SRA members and others at the annual meeting and coordinates SRA recognition of further events throughout the year. The C&W Subcommittee for Workshops at the Annual Meeting (WAM) coordinates with workshop organizers to provide a wide variety of offerings on the Sunday and Thursday of the annual meeting week (2 December and 6 December 2012). The goal of these workshops is to provide SRA members, students, and other attendees the opportunity to learn about new areas of interest or increase their knowledge and skills in their fields.

The annual meeting workshops are organized and conducted by SRA members who volunteer their time. They consistently receive high marks for the quality of instruction and small class size (typically averaging about 10), which provides significant opportunities for individual questions and interactive discussions.

Via the Secretariat, the C&W Committee/WAM Subcommittee will soon be inviting prospective organizers to submit proposals for these educational workshops to be offered at the 2012 SRA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. (This call for proposals for educational workshops generally coincides with the Secretariat’s call for abstracts for technical sessions or symposia at the annual meeting, by early spring.)

All SRA members are welcome and encouraged to consider proposing an educational workshop for December, whether individually or in coordination with a particular SRA group (e.g., see Specialty Groups at http://www.sra.org/about_specialty_groups.php).

The WAM Subcommittee is chaired by Jacqueline Patterson and Jay Zhao. More information for the 2012 workshop proposal process will be available on the SRA website shortly.

Our C&W Subcommittee for Non-Annual Meeting Events (NAME) coordinates SRA recognition of conferences and workshops of interest to SRA members that are held at other times during the year. Requests for recognition of such events are submitted via the process indicated at the bottom of the Events section of the SRA website (<http://www.sra.org/events.php>). In addition to requesting permission for use of the SRA logo (per conditions identified on the request form), organizers can also request that their event be announced on the SRA website and/or in the SRA newsletter.

The NAME Subcommittee is chaired by Amber Jessup.

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R i s k N e w s l e t t e r

Page 14

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

Committees

Upcoming SRA-recognized events listed on this web page include:

- Analyzing Risk: Science, Assessment, and Management (Boston, Massachusetts, 19–22 March)
- Building for Better Decisions: Multi-Scale Integration of Human Health and Environmental Data (Society of Toxicology Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology [CCT] Workshop) (Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, 8–11 May)
- Effective Risk Communication: Theory, Tools, and Practical Skills for Communicating about Risk (Boston, Massachusetts, 14–16 May)
- Sustainable Cities and Military Installations: Climate Change Impact on Energy and Environmental Security (Hella, Iceland, 3–6 June)
- Isocyanates & Health: Past, Present, and Future (Bethesda, Maryland, 1–2 November)

Check the Events link at sra.org for breaking news of SRA continuing education and recognized events. Please contact C&W Chair Margaret MacDonell (macdonell@anl.gov) or the subcommittee chairs identified above if you are interested in joining and serving our SRA Conferences and Workshops Committee in 2012.

To include information about your committee, regional organization, or specialty group in *Risk Newsletter*, send your reports to Editor Mary Walchuk, newseditor@sra.org. The deadline for the May/June 2012 issue of *Risk Newsletter* is 20 April 2011.

Risk Newsletter is now being published six times a year, scheduled to be posted on the Society for Risk Analysis website mid-January, mid-March, mid-May, mid-July, mid-September, and mid-November.

Share your SRA photos and join our LinkedIn group!



Help us build our photo library on Flickr! We are looking for photos of Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) members and activities to post on our Flickr site (http://www.flickr.com/photos/society_for_risk_analysis). If you have SRA-related photos to share, please email them to Mary Walchuk, newseditor@sra.org.

Don't forget to visit the site often to see what your colleagues are doing; photos from the 2010 and 2011 annual meetings are now available.

Also, SRA is now on LinkedIn. Join us to discuss professional interests and activities, post job openings or inquire about job opportunities, and share your research questions. To join, go to <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-Risk-Analysis-4265467> (or search LinkedIn Groups for "Society for Risk Analysis"). Once you are on the SRA page, click on the large "Join Group" button, and you will be added as a member after your SRA membership is verified. If you have any questions about LinkedIn, please contact Jim Butler at webmaster@sra.org.

Specialty Groups

Dose Response Specialty Group

www.sra.org/drsg

George Woodall, Chair

The Dose Response Specialty Group (DRSG) is co-sponsoring the World Congress on Risk Assessment in Sydney, Australia, 18–22 July 2012. The co-sponsorship will consist of travel support for a former or present member of the DRSG executive council, with a competition to determine the beneficiary of this support.

DRSG has also decided to help support an 8–11 May 2012 workshop sponsored by the Society of Toxicology (SOT) in its series on Contemporary Concepts in Toxicology (CCT). The title of the workshop is “Building for Better Decisions: Multi-Scale Integration of Human Health and Environmental Data” and it will take place at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency facilities in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. More details on the workshop can be found online (https://www.toxicology.org/ai/meet/cct_b4bd.asp).

DRSG is investigating more inventive ways to elicit student participation during the year and competition for the travel award to the SRA annual meeting. DRSG Vice-Chair Kan Shao is leading the effort to increase visibility of DRSG among students and encourage more involvement from this untapped source of energy and innovation. Please contact Dr. Shao (shao.kan@epa.gov) if you have suggestions or would like to assist in his efforts.

DRSG is continuing its planning for a 2012 teleseminar series and anticipates up to three events: one in March/April; a second in May/June; and a third in September/October. Ideas for teleseminars and for workshops or symposia for the 2012 SRA Annual Meeting can be sent to incoming DRSG Chair-elect Julie Fitzpatrick (fitzpatrick.julie@epa.gov).

Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group

www.sra.org/rplsg

Jennifer Kuzma, Chair

The Risk Policy and Law (RPL) Specialty Group has been quite active in the months of January and February 2012, co-sponsoring two events with the National Capitol Area Chapter (NCAC) of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) and George Washington University.

The first—“Managing Nuclear Risk: Perception of Risks, Trust in Science and Government, Lessons from Fukushima, and the Growing Gap Between Policy and Politics of Waste Disposal”—was held on 26 January 2012 and involved a star-filled cast of former and current SRA officials, including Michael Greenberg of Rutgers University, Warner North of Northworks, and our subgroup’s own past-chair, Tee Guidotti.

On 28 February, RPL again partnered with NCAC on an event exploring the “Emerging Risks of Synthetic Biology.” Panelists included Theresa Good, National Science Foundation; Todd Kuiken, Woodrow Wilson Center; Eric Hoffman, Friends of the Earth; Jennifer Kuzma, University of Minnesota (current RPL chair); and Lynn L. Bergeson, Bergeson & Campbell. Both topical areas of activity for RPL, nuclear energy and synthetic biology, come with not only technical challenges in risk assessment, but also important ethical, legal, social, and public policy dimensions that need to be considered in parallel. Although the two sets of technologies are far apart on the development continuum, with nuclear

Specialty Groups

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

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energy having a relatively long history of use and synthetic biology just emerging, they share features such as failures that are likely of high consequence but low probability, public perception factors, and important potential benefits to society in meeting growing energy and resource needs. As such, we are pleased to be contributing to open dialogue about risk governance in these areas, and we thank Genya Dana and Sally Kane of NCAC for reaching out to us to partner on these important events.

It is not too soon to be thinking of the 2012 SRA Annual Meeting, as calls for abstract submissions are approaching. Please stay tuned to your email for special pleas for RPL-sponsored symposia and sessions. It should not be hard for RPL members to come up with several (and hopefully dozens!) of symposia for the next annual meeting. There are many important risk policy issues that are currently at the forefront of national and international debate, for example, standards of risk science in regulatory review, "burdens of proof" for risk-based regulation, and transparency and peer-review of data in risk analysis.

As always, we welcome partnerships and your ideas for helping to contribute to scholarship, dialogue, and practice at the intersection of risk, science, technology, and society.

Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group

Jim Lambert, President; Myriam Merad, President-elect; Chris Karvetski, Secretary/Treasurer

We are looking forward in the coming months to Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group (DARSG) proposals for papers, posters, symposia, workshops, joint specialty group initiatives, etc., for the 2012 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting to be held in San Francisco in December.

Faculty and research sponsors, please encourage students to submit their abstracts for the DARSG Student Merit Awards.

DARSG promises to have a strong showing at the World Congress on Risk, to be held in Sydney, Australia, in July 2012.

We continue to work on a workshop for supply-chain risk management. Interested DARSG members, please let Henry Willis (hwillis@rand.org) know your possible contributions.

Several DARSG members are expecting to take leadership of an updated Springer journal to be titled *Environment, Systems & Decisions*. Contact Dr. Igor Linkov or Dr. Jim Lambert or Dr. Jeff Keisler (or other DARSG members expected to join the editorial board to be announced soon) about your potential submissions or visit the Springer website. All of the usual and some emerging topics of DARSG will be welcomed for the inaugural issues. If you are interested in helping with the journal as a reviewer, contributor, or otherwise let us know.

Check the SRA.org website for details of Dr. Linkov's upcoming June 2012 NATO workshop in Hella, Iceland, in June 2012. The workshop will address risk and decision analysis in a context of Sustainable Cities and Military Installations: Climate Change Impact on Energy and Environmental Security (www.sra.org/events.php).

Let us know your wishes for the DARSG and the Society. We look forward to your comments and ideas.

Page 16

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

Specialty Groups

Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group

Royce Francis, Chair

The vision for the Engineering and Infrastructure Specialty Group (EISG) in 2011–2012 is to leverage our collective expertise in infrastructure risk analysis and reliability analysis to support sustainable development and rehabilitation of our 21st century infrastructure. As many of our lifeline infrastructure systems are reaching the end of their design lives, or confronting the opportunities presented by advances in the physics of networks and the information sciences, we are placed in a unique opportunity to make substantial innovation in the adaptability, security, and reliability of our infrastructure.

EISG has been at the vanguard of research and practice in cyber-physical infrastructure systems approaches that will enable the operational definition and measurement of these areas, especially concerning adaptation to natural and social hazards. Under the leadership of our new chair and vice-chair, Royce Francis and Cameron MacKenzie, the EISG will sustain the momentum demonstrated that we have built up for advancing methodologies that facilitate empirical and adaptive approaches to infrastructure management using artificial intelligence, data mining, advanced statistical methods, distributed sensing, advanced computing approaches, and innovative models of interdependencies, while partnering with other SRA specialty groups whose goals or expertise complement our own. Our members are involved in the Economics and Benefits Analysis, Decision Analysis and Risk, and Security and Defense Specialty Groups. Please contact Royce (seed@gwu.edu) or Cameron (cmackenzie@ou.edu) if you'd like EISG to formally pursue any cross-group initiative or activity.

Moreover, EISG has actively published in the Society for Risk Analysis flagship journal, *Risk Analysis*. The December 2011 issue included "Risk Analysis of Safety Service Patrol (SSP) Systems in Virginia" by Brett Dickey and Joost Santos; "QRA Model-Based Risk Impact Analysis of Traffic Flow in Urban Road Tunnels" by Qiang Meng and colleagues; and "Comparison and Validation of Statistical Methods for Predicting Power Outage Durations in the Event of Hurricanes" by Roshanak Nateghi and colleagues. Dickey and Santos integrate a probabilistic network model of the Virginia highway system partitioning normal traffic flows with extreme-event scenarios. Using their model, decision makers can determine more effective resource-allocation methods. Meng and colleagues also study traffic-flow patterns, developing quantitative risk assessment models to evaluate the safety levels of road tunnels based on traffic volume and the proportion of heavy goods vehicles. Nateghi and colleagues compare different statistical methods for modeling power-outage durations during hurricanes, finding that Bayesian additive regression trees yield the best predictive accuracy, while also identifying the most important variables that impact the power outage's duration.

Risk Communication Specialty Group

Craig Trumbo, Chair

Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG) member Katherine McComas writes to pass along information on an exciting opportunity offered by the National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network (NNIN) for conducting research on social and ethical issues (SEI) of nanotechnology. The NNIN SEI program offers travel grants for faculty and graduate students to travel to an NNIN site to collect data on an SEI topic (see http://nnin.org/nnin_site.html for a list of the 14 sites in the United States). This is a great venue to conduct research on scientists and engineers who use nanotechnology facilities.

Specialty Groups

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

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The NNIN is now accepting applications for travel grants to stimulate SEI research at NNIN. Specifically, the grant provides one-time, per-project funding (up to \$15,000) to support travel to one or more NNIN sites to conduct SEI research on NNIN users and technologies. NNIN is particularly interested in funding projects that capitalize on the unique characteristics of the NNIN user community, thus taking advantage of the nation's most diverse, dynamic, and ambitious nanoscale research enterprise.

Faculty members and graduate students working under close guidance of a faculty member are eligible to apply. Preference is given to those applicants who are not from an NNIN institution, but all may apply. The formal request for applications may be downloaded from http://sei.nnin.org/sei_spotlight.html.

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. An external panel of SEI researchers will review submitted proposals and select projects for funding. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Katherine McComas (kam19@cornell.edu), SEI coordinator, NNIN, and associate professor of communication, Cornell University.

Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group

Greg McDermott, Chair

A somewhat belated congratulations to Ryan Calder, the 2011 Ecological Risk Assessment Specialty Group (ERASG) Student Award Winner at the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. Ryan hails from Concordia University in Montreal and presented his paper titled "Decision Model for Management of Sewage Plumes in a Tidal Environment" in the Aquatic Ecological Risk Analysis platform session.

In other news from the 2011 SRA Annual Meeting, congratulations and thanks to Dr. Matteo Convertino, University of Florida, who was selected as the ERASG chair-elect for 2012.

ERASG would like to solicit ideas and volunteers to help in organizing an SRA workshop on the role of ecological risk assessment in sustainable development. Sustainable development implies integration of environmental, social, and economic considerations; moreover spatial and temporal dynamics plays a significant role in selecting management alternatives. Ecological risk assessment should be integrated in the mix of tools and methods required in environmental management, but current frameworks and applications are focused on assessment of contaminated sites and, to a lesser degree, other ecosystem stressors with metapopulation models. We would like to bring together scientists and engineers engaged in interdisciplinary studies of complex environmental systems, at different scales and stressors.

The workshop encourages the submission of any work about the understanding and risk assessment of complex systems from the microscale to the continental scale. Particularly, the workshop encourages studies about real issues and empirically supported studies, with focus on management and applications in a sustainability perspective. Examples of topics in which risk should be a central element are coupled dynamics of built and natural environments, socio-economical analysis and modeling of natural resources, nanotechnology and nanomaterials in the environment, life-cycle assessment, bacteria biodiversity and consequences for health and environment, epidemics spreading in human and natural ecosystems, and adaptive management practice. Your ideas and suggestions will help shape the workshop theme and approach appropriate sponsors. Contact Dr. Matteo Convertino (mconvertino@ufl.edu) and Dr. Igor Linkov (igor.linkov@usace.army.mil).

Page 18

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
i
s
k

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

Page 19

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

Regional Organizations

SRA-China

Chongfu Huang

The Society for Risk Analysis-China has learned from Atlantis Press - Amsterdam-Beijing-Paris that ISI (Institute for Scientific Information) has agreed to receive copies of SRA-China's official publication, the *Journal of Risk Analysis and Crisis Response*, and to track the citations in almost all of the scientific literature.

In light of this news, I encourage you to submit high-quality manuscripts for our international journal in the near future (<http://www.atlantis-press.com/publications/jracr>).

SRA-Europe

www.sraeurope.org

Simone Dohle, ETH Zurich

Registration for SRA-Europe Meeting 2012, Zurich, Switzerland, Opens Soon



ETH Zurich

More than 180 individual abstracts and 14 symposia abstracts were submitted for the SRA Europe Meeting in 2012, which will be held 18–20 June at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, Switzerland. The special theme of this conference will be “Risk and Society: Decisions & Responsibilities,” to reflect the fact that the analysis of risk is inextricably linked to the social context.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers are:

- Valerie Reyna (Cornell University)
- John Adams (University College London)
- John Graham (Indiana University)
- Adrienne Grêt-Regamey (ETH Zurich)
- Michael R. Greenberg (Rutgers University)
- Wolfgang Kröger (ETH Zurich)

Other invited speakers include Ortwin Renn, Ragnar Löfstedt, Raffaele Chiacchia, Bruno Merz, Roland Scholz, and Niels Holthausen.

Registration for the conference opened 1 March 2012. The deadline for early-bird registration is 15 April 2012.

Regional Organizations

New England

www.sra-ne.org

Debra A. Kaden, President

The New England Regional Organization of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA-NE) continues to have an active year this winter. SRA-NE hosts seminars throughout the year covering topics ranging from new risk assessment methods to hot topics in environmental and human health. The most recent seminar took place on 24 January 2012 and included two presentations related to risk assessment methods development. Dr. Michael Dourson of Toxicology Excellence in Risk Assessment (TERA) presented a summary of the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA) series of “Beyond Science and Decision” workshops, including a description of several risk assessment methods to assess non-cancer health effects. Dr. Meghan Lynch of Abt Associates presented a case study that estimates non-cancer human health risks associated with inhalation exposure to acrolein, using a “Straw Man” model. Three more seminars are already scheduled for the spring: Alberto Alemanno of HEC Paris will discuss lifestyle risks on 23 March, Susan Tierney of Analysis Group will talk about hydraulic fracturing as part the SRA New Initiatives program on 9 April, and Gerard Martin of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Health will discuss vapor intrusion guidance in a joint meeting of SRA-NE and the Massachusetts Licensed Site Professionals Association on 10 April. The free-standing SRA-NE seminars are free and open to the public; the joint seminars are free to members. These seminars provide an opportunity for those interested in the science and policy of risk assessment to hear about current issues, research, and initiatives.

In an effort to enhance communication, SRA-NE has created a LinkedIn group and, where available, provides webinar broadcast of seminars in order to enable those who cannot travel to seminars to participate and possibly partner with other regional organizations. Feel free to check the SRA-NE website (<http://www.sra-ne.org>) for periodic postings on our activities.

National Capital Area

www.sra.org/ncac

Sally Kane, President, and Genya Dana, Secretary

The National Capital Area Chapter (NCAC) held a timely panel program on nuclear energy risks on 26 January 2012 on the George Washington University campus. The event was hosted by the GW Regulatory Studies Center and co-sponsored by the Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group and was well attended. The program speakers were Warner North (Northworks), Michael Greenberg (Rutgers University and editor in chief of *Risk Analysis*), Tom Cochran (emeritus, Natural Resources Defense Council), and Tom Cotton (U.S. Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future). Tee Guidotti (Medical Advisory Services and NCAC officer) moderated.

Presentations and a lively panel discussion covered many themes. Michael Greenberg presented his recent research results on changes in the perception of nuclear risk and energy security in the United States and trust in science. Warner North discussed the growing gap between policy and politics in nuclear waste disposal and provided recommendations. Tom Cochran talked about the Fukushima nuclear disaster, implications for U.S. nuclear power reactors, and the difficulty of measuring safety, looking at frequency of partial meltdown. Tom Cotton presented the just-released recommendations from the

Regional Organizations

Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. ([Check the NCAC website](#) for program materials, and contact individual speakers with questions.)

A very popular program on Synthetic Biology took place 28 February 2012. The event had multiple co-sponsors (Risk Policy and Law Specialty Group, the Women's Council on Energy and the Environment, USDA Office of Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis) and two co-hosts (GW Environmental Law Program and the Wilson Center for International Scholars). Speakers included Mahmud Farooque (Arizona State University, DC office), Jennifer Kuzma (University of Minnesota), Eric Hoffman (Friends of the Earth), Theresa Good (National Science Foundation), Todd Kuiken (Wilson Center), and Lynn Bergeson (Bergeson and Campbell); the program was moderated by Genya Dana (AAAS Fellow, Department of State, and NCAC officer) and Jennifer Bowmar (GW Environmental Law Program). ([Check the NCAC website](#) for posted materials.)

A joint program with the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (Chesapeake-Potomac Regional Chapter) is taking place 23–24 April 2012 at the University of Maryland, College Park campus. We are inviting professionals at all levels, including students, who work on Chesapeake Bay issues to submit abstracts for oral presentation and posters. Watch for NCAC mailings to provide details on abstract submission and meeting logistics. This is a great opportunity to get involved with other professionals addressing issues of environmental health, sustainability, and management of the Chesapeake Bay.

Questions: contact Sally M. Kane, NCAC president (smkane55@verizon.net).

Upstate New York

www.sra.org/upstateny

Peg Coleman, President, and Changhyun Kwon, Secretary

Thanks to the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Council and current Regional Organization Committee chairs Jo Anne Shatkin and Ortwin Renn for their support of the New Initiatives grant SRAonCampus.

Six current or forming regional organizations, including Upstate New York (UNY-SRA), are organizing events at a university campus under the grant to pilot test a process for recruiting new SRA members. We also acknowledge generous support from the Metro NY/NJ/CT Regional Organization for funding raffles of free SRA memberships at each event.

UNY-SRA is welcoming SRA Fellow Bernie Goldstein (University of Pittsburgh) and news director Naomi Starobin (National Public Radio member station WSHU) to Syracuse University for a conversation on analytic-deliberative process regarding the controversial topic of risk analysis and "fracking" or hydraulic fracturing for natural gas extraction from Marcellus shale. The conversation will include perspectives from recent publications in *Risk Analysis* on this topic, as well as the New York State Revised Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.html>) and testimony to Congress.

The first three SRAonCampus events are scheduled in Northern Nevada (12 March), Upstate New York (20 March), and New England (9 April). For details about the SRAonCampus events, check out the UNY-SRA website (<http://www.sra.org/upstateny>).

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
i
s
k

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

Page 22

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

Regional Organizations

Research Triangle

John Grabau, Chair

Wan Jiao, a PhD student working with Dr. H. Christopher Frey in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at North Carolina State University, received the Student Merit Award from the Exposure Assessment Specialty Group of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) at SRA's annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, on 7 December 2011. Ms. Jiao presented the paper "Assessment of Inter-Individual, Geographic, and Seasonal Variability in Estimated Human Exposure to PM_{2.5}." PM_{2.5} refers to particulate matter in the air that is less than 2.5 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter. Ms. Jiao received Student Travel Awards from the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) and from the Research Triangle Chapter of SRA (RTC-SRA).

RTC-SRA sponsored a risk analysis best poster award at the 11th Annual Water Resources and Environmental Engineering Spring Symposium 16 March 2012 at North Carolina State University. The symposium included over 40 student posters in a wide variety of areas, including results of laboratory, field measurement, and computational research based on physical, chemical, and biological principles applied to a variety of environmental media and systems, including air, water, solid waste, groundwater, and coastal. The posters addressed the interface between natural and engineered systems, such as process technologies for pollution prevention, remediation, and control. Members of RTC-SRA participated as judges at this event.

St. Lawrence Chapter

www.chapitre-saint-laurent.qc.ca

Gaëlle Triffault-Bouchet, Présidente

The 16th annual conference of the St. Lawrence Chapter (<http://www.chapitre-saint-laurent.qc.ca>) will be held in Québec city 7–8 June 2012, under the theme "From Silent Spring to Emerging Contaminants: Challenges and Prospects 50 Years of Science in Environmental Contamination." Professor Sébastien Sauvé, from Montréal University, will be the chairman.

The year 2012 marks the 50th birthday of the publication of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Published in September 1962, this book describes the problems caused by DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane). By its content and the reactions it has raised, *Silent Spring* is considered a trigger for environmental awareness against chemical pollution. The famous cases of Seveso, Bhopal, and Love Canal gave to Carson's book a prophetic tone. Since the 1990s, an increasing number of compounds are detected in the environment, but emerging contaminants arise: phthalates, bisphenol-A, surfactants, nonylphenols, PBDEs (polybrominated diphenylethers), endocrine disruptors, perfluorinated compounds, pharmaceutical and personal-care products, nanoparticles, etc. Our ability to detect chemicals in various environmental media is greater than our understanding of the implications of these findings.

Where are we in 2012? What substances are of concern, and what are not? What are the real risks for the environment and human health? What are the trends? How do we choose given the many substances, questions, and possible courses of action? What tools do we need to answer these issues and make the right choices? Join us: submit an abstract before 30 March 2012.

What Do We Do?

— a look at the incredibly diverse field of risk analysis —

Amalia Turner



What is your job title?

I am a senior associate in the Environmental Risk and Toxicology line of business at ICF International in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. We are a global professional-services firm (based out of Fairfax, Virginia) that provides a range of consulting services to government and commercial clients.

How is risk analysis a part of your job?

My group at ICF focuses on health risk assessment; many of our projects involve modeling the potential impacts of chemicals when they are released from a source (e.g., emissions from a factory smokestack, chemicals migrating from a plastic container to your lunch in the microwave). We estimate what will happen to chemicals in the environment and what effects they might have on the things they come into contact with along the way. We then take the results and put them into context by preparing a risk assessment report.

My role is often to bridge the quantitative risk analysis (i.e., what are the numbers?) with the qualitative science communication (i.e., what are the implications?). My focus has recently been on compiling and synthesizing available data for case studies designed to inform nanomaterial risk assessment and long-term research strategies for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Center for Environmental Assessment.

How did you decide to pursue this career?

I graduated from the University of Maine at Farmington in 2006 with a BS in environmental science. Like most recent college graduates, I wasn't in any shape to actively pursue a career; I just wanted a job that would give me exposure to different topics and arm me with the tools I needed to identify a career worth pursuing. After two years (first as an unpaid snorkeler and educator and second as a small business owner spending most of my time on the phone with the Internal Revenue Service), I was still looking for the right job. After considering several environmental consulting firms, I found exactly what I was looking for in ICF: a dynamic environment that cultivates the strengths and interests of its junior staff into long-term, professional objectives. Fortunately, ICF liked me, too, and they hired me as a risk assessment analyst.

What got you to where you are in the field of risk analysis today?

Starting off as an untested risk assessor means climbing a steep learning curve to acquire the fundamentals and keeping up with new developments in this quickly advancing field. The knowledge I've gained is the result of consistently volunteering to get in over my head and facing challenges far bigger than I ever thought myself capable of overcoming.

What is the most interesting/exciting part of your job?

In my experience, no risk assessment project is straightforward. At first, everything seems overwhelming and insurmountable. Then the pieces start aligning, until they finally snap into place. That moment when the big picture comes into focus is my favorite part of every project. In between "eureka moments," the most exciting part of my job is working daily with an amazingly skilled group of colleagues.

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
i
s
k

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

Page 24

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

What Do We Do?

What would you recommend to those entering the field of risk analysis interested in a job like yours?

I would recommend that newcomers to the field continuously seek out new challenges; go out for dinner or drinks with seasoned professionals in the field, whenever possible; and take a few minutes to breathe deeply whenever your model run experiences a fatal error or the styles in your Word document start behaving erratically (this happens more often than not; don't let it get the best of you).

How long have you been a member of SRA and what led you to join?

This is my second year of membership with SRA; I joined in 2010 to attend the annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. Our group at ICF presented the outcome of one of EPA's nanomaterial case studies at a special symposium on nanoscale silver in 2010, and I attended primarily to see that symposium and the other presentations related to nanomaterial risk assessment.

How has membership/involvement in the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) helped you in your work?

My involvement in SRA has helped me to develop an unbeatable professional network. At the 2011 annual meeting, an SRA council member who was aware of my enthusiasm for "nano" invited me to take notes during a presidential roundtable on a new international guidance document for risk assessment of nanomaterials. After the roundtable, I was invited to sit in on the ensuing discussion among the panel members (all heavy hitters in the field of nano risk) and watch as they shaped an important part of the future of risk assessment. It was a bit like sitting in on a discussion with all of your favorite rock icons or Olympic athletes. Without the support of the SRA network, I never would have had such an honor.

What are your interests outside of work?

I am a food enthusiast; I enjoy working on farms, cooking interesting new dishes, sampling the local cuisine in Durham, North Carolina, and traveling with my husband to explore foods afar. I am also an avid fiction reader, a sporadic free diver, and an occasional drummer.

Member News

Tony Cox

Louis Anthony (Tony) Cox, Jr., president of Cox Associates in Denver, has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering "for applications of operations research and risk analysis to significant national problems." Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to "engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature," and to the "pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/ implementing innovative approaches to engineering education."

If you have written a book, received a job promotion or award, or participated in an event that you would like other Society for Risk Analysis members to know about, send a paragraph or two (150-200 words) and a photo to Mary Walchuk, *Risk Newsletter* editor, at newseditor@sra.org.

Announcements

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
i
s
k

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

ARST Article of the Year Award

The Association for the Rhetoric of Science and Technology's (ARST) Article of the Year Award recognizes the most outstanding rhetoric of science and technology-related article published the preceding calendar year.

Criteria for selection includes:

- How well the article extends practical and theoretical knowledge related to the rhetoric of science and technology.
- The article's potential for cross-disciplinary fertilization.
- The article's potential for teaching future generations of ARST scholars.
- The overall quality of writing and thinking.

Nominations should be sent by someone well acquainted with the nominee's work. Self-nominations are encouraged.

The nomination must include the following material (copies will not be returned):

- A cover letter recommending the article for the award (limited to two pages and providing a detailed rationale for why the person should receive the award).
- The nominee's vita.
- The article being nominated.
- Up to three letters supporting the nomination may optionally be included.

This year, the awards committee consists of John Lynch (chair), David Berube, and Lynda Walsh. Send nominations electronically to John Lynch, Award Committee chair, at john.lynch@uc.edu. Nominations for the 2012 award, which honors work published during 2011, should be sent as a Microsoft Word or PDF email attachment and received by 15 May 2012. Announcements of the winners will be made by 15 August. Recipients will be recognized at the ARST business meeting and will receive complimentary membership to ARST.

"Reckoning with the Risk of Catastrophe"

Call for Papers

DFG-NSF Research Conference, 3–5 October 2012, Washington, DC

"Reckoning with the Risk of Catastrophe" is the seventh research conference jointly supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), aimed at strengthening the research ties between the United States and Germany and fostering joint research activities.

The emphasis of the 2012 conference will be on scientific advances across disciplines to help societies assess and manage their vulnerabilities to catastrophic risks. Abstracts are invited from German and U.S. academics, regulators, and practitioners engaged in conceptual, methodological, and empirical research that may advance our ability to anticipate, avoid, or reduce the impacts of major hazards. The conference will showcase the most promising frontier research pertinent to risk identification, estimation, characterization, assessment, forecasting, prioritization, perception, communication, governance, mitigation, and policy making.

Submitted abstracts—no more than one page, 10-point font, single-spaced—should describe a promising advance and identify both a conceptual/methodological approach and a pertinent risk domain and are due on 15 May 2012. Types of contributions and domains may include but are not limited to:

- Conceptual Framework: behavioral aspects of risk; social, political, cultural contexts and dynamics; vulnerability, resilience, reliability; complexity and nonlinear

Page 25

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

Announcements

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
i
s
k

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

dynamics; institutional and structural forces in risk; probabilistic risk assessment; integrated risk management.

- Methodological Approach: risk, uncertainty, probability modeling; cognitive modeling; consequence modeling; scenarios; simulation (including agent-based modeling); game theory; case studies, interviews, surveys; Delphi methods; comparative or historical approaches; event-, decision-, value-, tree-analyses.
- Risk Domain: natural hazards; infrastructure and technological risks; human-caused risks; social, political, economic risks; ecological risks; systemic risk; emerging risks.

Participants are expected to have a genuine interest in cross-disciplinary interaction and to take part with the aim of setting up transnational research collaborations. The conference will facilitate both focused scientific discussions and networking among the participants. It is expected that collaborations will not have been established prior to the conference. The funding agencies will consult with participants regarding appropriate avenues for supporting collaborative projects.

There will be a small number of slots reserved for graduate students working on these issues to attend the conference to discuss their own work and to serve as rapporteurs for the conference sessions. Interested applicants should submit a one-page letter by 15 May 2012 outlining their reasons for wishing to attend and what they have to contribute to the workshop.

Abstracts and graduate-student applications will be reviewed by the Conference Steering Committee (Lee Clarke, Rutgers; Ralph Hertwig, Basel; Andrew Lo, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Ortwin Renn, Stuttgart; Elisabeth Paté-Cornell, Stanford; Friedemann Wenzel, Karlsruhe). Decisions regarding participation will be announced in June 2012. Participants will be invited to make oral presentations and to serve as discussants. The expenses of participants will be covered by the conference organizers. Additional information, including the conference venue and tentative schedule of events, instructions for completing and submitting abstracts and graduate student letters, and the membership of the Conference Steering Committee, is available at the conference website: <http://dfg-nsf2012.mit.edu>.

Sustainable Cities and Military Installations NATO Workshop 3–6 June 2012, Hotel Ranga, Hella, Iceland

Igor Linkov, Workshop Director, Igor.Linkov@usace.army.mil

Access to reliable and affordable energy and water is an important determinant of the prosperity of cities along with effective mission sustainment at military installations. Both military and civilian organizations alike are actively pursuing locally oriented energy strategies to address both the sources of energy production as well as the quantity of energy and water consumption. The objective of this workshop is to review state-of-the-science to develop adaptive strategies to identify and evaluate sustainability initiatives that are resilient in the face of the uncertainties posed by climate change. Due to the global nature of climate change, this event will allow for collaboration and collective learning between attendees, facilitating discussion of the current state of green technologies and long-term and sustainable energy strategies. Application of these technologies and strategies is expected to benefit environmental sustainability, energy security, and preparedness at both military installations and small cities. This workshop will provide environmental scientists and government officials with a better understanding of the trade-offs associated with the sustainable development and potential impacts of climate change and will provide them with a broad suite of decision tools to manage security risks.

Page 26

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

Announcements

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
i
s
k

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

5th European Risk Conference, European Risk Research Network Doctoral Colloquium 12 September 2012 Main Conference 13–14 September 2012

The European Risk Research Network (ERRN) is pleased to invite you to the 5th European Risk conference to be held in Luxembourg, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, 13–14 September 2012.

Organized and hosted by the Public Research Centre Henri Tudor, the conference aims to bring together practitioners and academic researchers in the risk domain. The conference will enable doctoral students, academics, and practitioners to present their work during parallel sessions on topics relating to risk and risk management. The conference includes a business forum session addressed by leading practitioners from the field of risk.

Interest in risk and risk management has continued to increase as financial and non-financial companies endeavor to achieve success in environments that appear more uncertain than ever. This conference encompasses all risk-related topics whether from an accounting, finance, or management perspective.

Doctoral students, academics, and practitioners are invited to submit papers to be presented during parallel sessions on topics relating to risk, risk management, internal control, and corporate governance.

These topics may include:

- Quantitative and qualitative tools for risk management (stress test, scenario, capital management, control, modeling . . .)
- Internal and external reporting of risk
- Risk and performance measurement
- Risk and accounting (the incorporation of risk into accounting measures and external audit)
- Internal audit (risk-based auditing)
- Liquidity, credit, operational, or reputational risk, people risk
- Risk management in the public sector
- Management of partnership and joint venture risks
- Risk governance (risk fund governance, role of governance in risk management, internal control issues, compensation)
- Risk culture
- Risk appetite
- Risk regulation (the evolution and impact of regulation such as Basel II, III, Solvency II, UCITS, . . .)

Applicants are required to submit a full paper by 14 May 2012 to philip.linsley@york.ac.uk. Please indicate whether you wish your submission to be considered for the doctoral colloquium (to be held on 12 September immediately preceding the main conference), or the main conference, or both. Authors will be notified of acceptance by the end of June 2012.

All presenters will be allocated an academic discussant who will provide the author(s) with a written feedback in addition to leading the discussion of the paper following the presentation. We also intend to provide practitioner feedback to supplement the academic feedback. A prize will be awarded for the best conference paper.

You are welcome to contact Professor Philip Linsley at philip.linsley@york.ac.uk if you have any questions, and a dedicated website will be made available in the coming weeks.

Page 27

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
i
s
k

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

Page 28

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

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March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

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Page 29

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

2012 SRA Contacts

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
i
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k

N
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Page 30

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)

March/
April 2012

Society for
Risk Analysis

R
i
s
k

N
e
w
s
l
e
t
t
e
r

Page 31

[Return to
Table of
Contents](#)



Risk Newsletter is published by the
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The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) is an interdisciplinary professional society devoted to risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.

SRA was founded in 1981 by a group of individuals representing many different disciplines who recognized the need for an interdisciplinary society, with international scope, to address emerging issues in risk analysis, management, and policy. Through its meetings and publications, it fosters a dialogue on health, ecological, and engineering risks and natural hazards and their socioeconomic dimensions. SRA is committed to research and education in risk-related fields and to the recruitment of students into those fields. It is governed by bylaws and is directed by a 15-member elected Council.

The Society has helped develop the field of risk analysis and has improved its credibility and viability as well.

Members of SRA include professionals from a wide range of institutions, including federal, state, and local governments, small and large industries, private and public academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations, law firms, and consulting groups. Those professionals include statisticians, engineers, safety officers, policy analysts, economists, lawyers, environmental and occupational health scientists, natural and physical scientists, environmental scientists, public administrators, and social, behavioral, and decision scientists.

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Deadline for Risk Newsletter Submissions

Send information for the **May/June 2012** SRA *Risk Newsletter*, which will be on the SRA website **mid-May**, to Mary Walchuk, *Risk Newsletter* Editor (115 Westwood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001; phone: 507-625-6142; email: newseditor@sra.org) no later than **20 April 2012**.