

ISCRAM



NEWSLETTER

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Editorial: A Decade of ISCRAM

So 2013 begins and with it the tenth year of ISCRAM. At the end of 2003 or, maybe, the beginning of 2004 I received a request from Bartel van de Walle to attend a workshop on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management in Brussels in the coming spring. It was a great workshop. There was a buzz to it, with discussion ebbing and flowing through the sessions and the breaks. As we enter the tenth year of the ISCRAM community, that discussion still continues, as all who have attended our conferences will testify.



The first day of the first ISCRAM

So join us at the tenth ISCRAM in Baden-Baden, this May. Help us mark the 10th anniversary of our community with yet another vibrant conference: a platform to shape the next decade of research and development of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management.

A report on the planning for ISCRAM2013 is on p4. For full papers, the deadline for submission has passed; but there is until **January 15th, 2013** to get shorter work-in progress, discussion or practitioner papers submitted: see www.iscram2013.org for details.

If ISCRAM is to maintain its momentum of development for the next decade, we need more help. In the coming weeks a call for candidates for election to the Board will be circulated, and there are always opportunities for members to volunteer to help on committees or in organising

Institutional Members



TECHNISCHE
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events: see the item on p2. I personally am very grateful to the team that help me pull together each issue of the Newsletter and more widely on the Marketing and Communications Committee. Thank you: Tina Comes, Bas Lijnse, Robin Mays, John Merrell, Gerhard Wickler, Can Ünen and Chris Zobel.

The President, Board and entire Newsletter team send their best wishes for 2013, and look forward to a splendid year for ISCRAM.

Simon French
Newsletter Editor
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Change in ISCRAM Association Membership Year Dates

At the last ISCRAM Board meeting it was decided to change the ISCRAM Association membership year from the current January to December year to a membership year of April 1 to March 31. This brings the membership year more in line with the usual timing of the annual global ISCRAM conference. If you are currently an ISCRAM Association member, therefore, your membership will now expire March 31, 2013. If you are not a current ISCRAM Association member, please consider joining. Anybody joining or renewing now will be a member until March 31, 2014. Current members will be contacted in the beginning of March with a reminder to renew their membership. If you are not a member but wish to receive a reminder to join, please email me and we will be sure to send you a reminder as well.

Linda Plotnick
linda.plotnick.iscram@gmail.com
Chair, Membership and Member Services Committee

ISCRAM Board Elections and Volunteers for Committees

In the next month, the Board will appoint a Nominations and Election (N&E) Chair, who will issue a call for candidates for the ISCRAM Board. Elections will follow at the ISCRAM General Assembly at ISCRAM2013. All members of ISCRAM are encouraged to consider standing for the Board. Now that the ISCRAM Association has been a fully legally established entity for four years, we are beginning to put into place all the trappings and activities of an international professional and academic society, but we to complete that process and we need dedicated board members to achieve that.

Not that those of us who have been on the Board for the past four years have been sitting on our hands, doing nothing. We are aware that strategies and policies that we put in place now will shape ISCRAM for several years to come. Some have divided us because of the principles involved or outside pressures. For instance, should our publications and conference proceedings be open for all with streams that encourage submissions from academics, practitioners and government policy makers alike? Or should we have very tight refereeing,

high rejection rates and so on to satisfy academic funding masters and university promotion committees who insist on such. Other tasks have stretched the Board not because of different viewpoints, but because they bring a lot of work. Even the simple tasks of collecting membership monies, running a register, liaising with members and so forth can become logistical nightmares when run internationally. But the Board has got to grips with each of these tasks and progress is being made. Tim Grant and the Publications and Academic Standards Committee are leading us steadily through publication issues, identifying constraints and conflicts between different aspects of the policies. Linda Plotnick has done sterling work in developing membership policies, the latest being to bring the beginning of the membership year into line with registration for our main conference when most members join.

So please do consider standing for the Board.

It is not just the ISCRAM board who make ISCRAM work: far from it. There are many other ways that members can help us build the ISCRAM Community. Members serve on committees, help organise events, shape the website, and so on. If you have time to help us, please see the volunteer opportunities on the ISCRAM website:

<http://www.iscramlive.org/portal/volunteer>.

Call for Interest: Hosting ISCRAM2015

The Board of the ISCRAM Association is preparing for the organisation of ISCRAM2015, the 12th international conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. The Board wishes to invite people and organizations that are interested in organizing the event to reply to this call for interest.

The proposed conference venue for ISCRAM2015 should be in Europe, and the dates should be in the month of May.

ISCRAM has grown from an attendance of 72 people in 2004. Between 2005 and 2009 we had an average of 170, and for the last three years we have had an average of 200 participants. The conference itself is a three-day event (Monday to Wednesday), preceded by a day of doctoral colloquium and tutorials on the Sunday.

If you are interested, please:

- Send a notification of intent to iscram2015hosting@iscram.org saying: " I, <name>, <affiliation> confirm, as a point of contact for my organization, that we have the intention of preparing a proposal for

organizing the ISCRAM2015 conference.”
Please include your contact information.

- By sending your notification of intent, you are stating that you are willing to prepare a proposal within the timeframe set out below.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Dugdale, ISCRAM2015 Proposals chair, at iscram2015hosting@iscram.org. Also to find out more about ISCRAM Events, please visit our website: <http://www.iscram.org>.

Based on the received notifications, the ISCRAM Board will decide on the official invitations to submit a complete proposal. Invited candidates will be assisted by an ISCRAM liaison to help them prepare the document.

Completed proposals will be reviewed by the ISCRAM Board, which will make the final selection. The selected organization and venue will be announced at the ISCRAM2013 Conference (in Baden-Baden, Germany) and presented in detail at ISCRAM2014 in Penn State, USA. All candidates will receive feedback on their proposal in the week of the 1st of April 2013.

At least one representative of the selected proposal is expected to visit the ISCRAM2014 conference and meet with the ISCRAM Board at that time.

Timeline:

- Deadline for the notification of intent: 18 Jan 2013
- Official invitation from ISCRAM Board to submit a proposal: 1 Feb 2013
- Deadline for the submission of completed proposals: 18 Mar 2013
- Review committee feedback to candidates: 1 Apr 2013
- Review committee recommendation to ISCRAM Board: 11 Apr 2013
- Selection of ISCRAM 2015 host and venue: 18 Apr 2013.

Julie Dugdale
Vice-President, ISCRAM

ISCRAM 2004 – 2013: We need your memories and anecdotes

ISCRAM2013 is our 10th conference. OK maybe the first couple of events were more workshops than full international conferences, but the spirit that is ISCRAM began in Brussels in 2004. We want to celebrate this at ISCRAM2013 and in the Newsletter. You will have to come to ISCRAM2013 – which is, of course, an excellent idea, anyway – to find out what we are doing

there. The first issue of the ISCRAM Newsletter 2013 will be devoted to reflections on our first 10 years. So we have a request for old ISCRAMers: send us your memories! Looking back over past conferences, other events and publications, there must be many anecdotes, memories and so on that we can pull together to celebrate ISCRAM’s first decade. Photos would be especially welcome! Seriously we welcome all contributions, and not just amusing or sentimental ones. We will particularly welcome ones that reflect on the growth of our research and our community in a way that will contribute to the shaping of our subject over the coming years. Please send us material by March 15th, 2013.

Simon French
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Education Column

As avid readers of the ISCRAM News letters will know, we are keen to build discussion on how we educate the next generation of ISCRAMers. Most of us have ended up in the field by a mix of serendipity and happenstance. There was little design in our career path. We found ourselves working in the use and development of Information Systems for Crisis Management and Response. Can Ünen, who is taking on the task of editing the Education Column, describes how he found his way into the ISCRAM community and research in crisis response and management.

How I came to be part of the ISCRAM Community by Can Ünen

My ISCRAM story started in my undergraduate years in the Middle East Technical University, Civil Engineering Department about 12 years ago. As uninterested in civil engineering as can be, I took two technical elective courses in my last year on GIS and Remote Sensing, although, I was not aware at that time that this decision would lead me to participate in disaster management and earthquake engineering studies. After graduation, I did not have academic research in my mind; I did not want to do civil engineering, either. So I applied to Satellite Positioning and Remote Sensing graduate program of Istanbul Technical University to study Geomatics and pursue a career in that area.

What I expected to be a change of disciplines for my graduate study later turned out to be a multi-disciplinary formation which I will benefit in my graduate studies.

In the Satellite Positioning and Remote Sensing program, my Masters research was mainly

focused on earth science and modelling in GIS. The courses I took were mainly disciplinary ones such as: Fundamentals of Remote Sensing, Satellite Positioning Techniques, Analysis Algorithms in GIS, Data Fusion in Remote Sensing and GIS, Advanced Programming in Geomatics, Advanced Photogrammetry, etc.

I was encouraged to apply to a research assistant position in the Geomatics Engineering Department by my then future Ph.D. advisor who was an instructor in both the Informatics Institute and Geomatics Engineering department. The professor was given disaster management training following the 1999 Marmara Earthquake and was managing interdisciplinary research projects in that area: HAZTURK, TABIS, and RABIS. HAZTURK was a project aiming to develop a GIS-based earthquake loss assessment tool for Turkey, similar to HAZUS. Focus of TABIS was to develop spatial data standards to be utilized by all emergency management systems developed in Turkey. And RABIS was the development of a landslide and flood early warning system for the northern Black Sea Region of Turkey. Given my civil engineering background, my advisor offered me a researcher position in HAZTURK project. I was also going to participate in TABIS and RABIS, as well.

My research area for my Ph.D. was going to cover earthquake engineering and disaster management. So, I tried to take my electives more focused on my research area alongside the departmental courses. The courses I took include Introduction to Disaster and Emergency Management, Remote Sensing and GIS in Emergency Management, and Active Tectonics.

But, my involvement with ISCRAM happened via international academic networking. Knowing people with similar interests is almost as important as the quality of education in academia in my opinion. First, it was the personal network of my advisor I interacted with in conferences and workshops. And it was my advisor's network that gave me a research scholarship in the Mid-America Earthquake Center of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for one and a half year to conduct my Ph.D. research.

As time passed and the number of conferences I attended increased, my personal network had started to expand and good relations have started to be built. And it was one of those good relations which informed me of the ISCRAM Summer School. In the summer of 2009, following my return to Turkey from U.S.A., I finally attended the ISCRAM Summer School which I've been told about for some time. ISCRAM made me make great new friends all around the World, meet great researchers and

practitioners, and gave me new visions on the subjects I was studying.

My institution covers the travel expenses for one international event each year, and I make sure I use my support for the ISCRAM conference since then. Because I am always sure that I will watch presentations on interesting topics, meet good friends, and make good friends.

Hüseyin Can Ünen,
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ISCRAM2013 – Preparing for the 10th ISCRAM Conference

With about five months to go until the ISCRAM2013 Conference in Baden-Baden, preparations are in full swing. If you do not know Baden-Baden (yet!): it is a small, but elegant Spa resort located in the south-west of Germany close to the French border. Its scenic location at the foothills of the Black Forest, the picturesque old town with cosy taverns, bistros and countless street cafés attract visitors from all over the world. As a part of the technology region Karlsruhe, with its renowned university, the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), and various research institutes, Baden-Baden perfectly represents the slogan of this region "*High Tech meets the Good Life*".

ISCRAM2013's overarching theme is "Holistic Crisis Management" emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary work for better crisis response and management. We are happy that we received nearly 100 Full Research Paper submissions covering all proposed themes. The review process has started and is now ongoing, in spite of over the holiday season, thanks to the dedication of the Track Chairs, the Scientific Committee and the Reviewers. The deadline for research in progress papers is January 15, and we hope to receive a large number of interesting contributions that outline directions for future research and stimulate discussions.

To support the idea of holistic crisis management the keynote speakers will highlight very different aspects of information systems for crisis response and management:

- **Ortwin Renn**, full professor and Chair of Environmental Sociology and Technology Assessment at Stuttgart University, will open the conference with his talk "Towards increased resilience: The contribution of IT for crisis preparedness and risk perception".

- **Hirokazu Tatano**, full professor at Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI) and graduate school of Informatics, Kyoto University, will report about the "Lessons Learnt from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami: Focusing on Emergency Management and Information Systems".
- **Kimberly Roberson**, who has been working with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for more than 15 years, will present insights into the challenge of providing and managing information to populations of concern in a timely and efficient manner.

ISCRAM2013 will encourage all participants to share and discuss state-of-the-art research from multiple disciplines and the latest technological innovations. To discover synergies and to search for new solutions, this year's conference explicitly fosters the information and knowledge exchange between practitioners and scientists. Panel discussions with representatives of NGOs and disaster relief forces aim at exploring answers to the question how we, together, can close the gap between the actual urgent needs in practice, the capabilities of new technologies and the visions of scientists. A dedicated call for Practitioners' Papers is still open until January 15. Furthermore, companies and research organizations are encouraged to exhibit their ideas, products and prototypical solutions at the ISCRAM fair, which takes place in the foyer of the conference halls.

Awaiting a continuation of the series of successful ISCRAM conferences, the ISCRAM2013 Organization Team and the Program Committee wish the whole ISCRAM community a happy and rewarding year 2013!

We are looking forward to meeting you at the 10th ISCRAM conference in Baden-Baden! For further information see <http://iscram2013.org/>.

Jürgen Beyerer
Thomas Usländer, Fraunhofer
IOSB, conference chair and co-
chair
Tina Comes, KIT, program chair

Understanding Disasters in Near Real-Time

In the new initiative *Forensic Disaster Analysis* (FDA) researchers from the Centre for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology (CEDIM) analyse disasters and their impacts in near real-time. The aims of FDA are to identify major risk drivers and infer implications for

disaster mitigation and recovery. The core of this new style of analysis is to examine disasters in an interdisciplinary way by focusing on the interactions between the hazard, the (critical) infrastructures, and the societal structures, institutions and capacities.

In October 2012, Hurricane *Sandy* moved over the Caribbean and then turned towards the East Coast of the US. In an FDA activity, CEDIM experts from various disciplines, such as meteorology, hydrology, engineering, geography, economics and social sciences, investigated the hurricane and its impacts. The reports can be downloaded from <http://www.cedim.de/english/2131.php>.

We spoke with some of the researchers involved about their work.

What is your background and for how long have you been working in CEDIM?

Tina Kunz-Plapp: I am a social scientist having worked for several years in interdisciplinary risk and disaster research programs. I have been actively involved in CEDIM for almost three years now in different roles: in the first two years, I was the General Manager and since summer 2012, I am one of the CEDIM members who contribute to the FDA activities.

Werner Trieselmann: I started working for CEDIM in August 2012. I am an anthropologist and media scientist. Before joining CEDIM, I worked in very different fields – from observations in Western African and Brazilian societies and culture management to teaching at various universities.

Michael Kunz: I am Deputy Coordinator of CEDIM since 2012, but I have been active in CEDIM for about ten years. My background is in meteorology, and I am head of a working group on Atmospheric Risk. In the first years of CEDIM, we mainly focussed on longer time scales, trying to predict trends and design hazard maps by using statistical approaches. More recently, we started to investigate early warning systems and are now supporting the FDA activities.

What are the most interesting aspects in working in the field of FDA?

Tina Kunz-Plapp: From a perspective of creating knowledge and insights, it is most important to rapidly understand the driving factors and critical causes that determine the future course of a disaster and to exploit these insights in the recovery process or for the improvement of risk reduction. From a perspective of research as a continuous working process in a team, it is certainly the experience of speedy working together in a very interdisciplinary team, which is challenging and rewarding at the same time.

Werner Trieselmann: For me, the rapid hazard loss assessment, the improvement of

communication structures in emergencies and the consideration of anthropogenic factors are essential.

Michael Kunz: I enjoy our joint work: analysing one single event from different perspectives, across disciplines, and trying to create new insights. We all can benefit from better understanding how other researchers from different disciplines work. Although I am a meteorologist myself, it has become obvious to me that the hazard event, such as a storm, is typically not among the most important risk drivers. We should not stop when having analysed wind speeds or precipitation rate - we need to analyse the *impact* if we want to make a difference. In fact, events that are very similar from a meteorological perspective can have very different consequences, and we should help decision-makers to understand why these differences arise.

What was your role in the analysis of Sandy?

Tina Kunz-Plapp: I contributed with rapid collection of information on selected dimensions of social impact of Sandy, for example on the very different cascading effects of the same storm in Haiti and at the US Coast, or evacuation behaviour before Sandy made landfall at the US.

Werner Trieselmann: internal improvement of communication structures.

Michael Kunz: I coordinated the writing and integrated the individual contributions.

What were the greatest challenges you faced?

Tina Kunz-Plapp: getting useful information about the social impacts in near-real time without being on the ground and without having the opportunity for direct observation or interviews. For example, it is very difficult to identify the relevant and valid pieces of information and to separate them from the incoming stream of media-generated disaster stories that are often reported in the initial phases of a disaster, but that do not necessarily reflect the social impacts.

Werner Trieselmann: again – improvement of communication structures!

Michael Kunz: The time pressure is high – this is very different from how we work usually. For questions that we would typically only be able in a few months by using state of the art approaches, we had to make analyses and predictions within ten to 15 hours.

What were the sources of information you used and how did you choose them?

Tina Kunz-Plapp: We try to use information from official sources (ministries, agencies) as much as possible and as soon as they are provided and published (and this has substantially sped up in

the last years). But we also use information of press agencies, for example for fatality numbers, and – the important second step – evaluate it by using expert knowledge that is available in CEDIM and that we have developed by cooperating with other researchers around the globe.

Werner Trieselmann: We searched the www up and down, and I made use of personal contacts to the UN.

Michael Kunz: First, we used information from reliable sources such as official meteorological services. Second, we use our own databases and statistics such as CATDAT (see <http://earthquake-report.com>). To gather information about the most vulnerable structures, we referred to news agencies or newspapers such as the NY Times. We evaluated all information based on our expert knowledge, and contrasted and compared the data we got from different sources.

Thinking ahead: if you have a Sandy II FDA activity in 2022, what will be different by then?

Tina Kunz-Plapp: there are three main issues on my wish list: first, I hope that we will have developed our methods and tools for rapid disaster analysis further so that we can focus on complementary assessments to our own analyses, for example the opportunities social media provide for crowd sourcing. Second, we will have arrived at a stage where we have learnt to move away from disciplinary "silo-thinking" so that we are able to combine and integrate the different scientific disciplines. Third, we will have established a way of presenting the results of our analyses in a way and format such that our reports can find their way into disaster management and disaster risk reduction.

Werner Trieselmann: GOOD QUESTION ... if we are still able to operate according to customs by then...

Michael Kunz: difficult to answer! I prefer looking three years ahead, which is our current planning horizon. By then, we should have more or better models and methods that enable us to run our own assessments for a quick loss assessment. In this context, case-based reasoning and comparisons with similar past events will be very important. Additionally, I think that social media will play a more prominent role, particularly in the assessment of the intensity of an event or its impact on critical infrastructures. By combining all models, assessments and analysis, we will be able to create a coherent overview of the situation to support decision makers in risk mitigation and recovery.

Tina Comes, KIT
comes@kit.edu

News

New Project: Earthquake Loss Estimations in Emergency Mode

A three-year project under EMERCOM of the Russian Federation has been recently started aimed at updating the "Extremum" System assigned for assessment of loss due to earthquakes and secondary hazardous processes in emergency mode at global scale.

The first implementation of "Extremum" System in the Russian Federation has been done in 1995 for damage and loss assessment after the Neftegorsk earthquake, as well as for identification of effective response measures in the case of emergency. This version was developed in the 1990-th by joint efforts of Extreme Situations Research Center (ESRC), Seismological Center of IGE, Russian Academy of Sciences, and organizations belonging to EMERCOM of the Russian Federation.

In 1999 – 2000 the "Extremum" System version for estimations of loss caused by earthquakes was advanced within the framework of EUR-OPA EDRIM ("Electronic Discussions for Risk Management). The first implementation at the global level has been done following the recommendations of Moscow Seminar on the "Contribution to the Decision-Making Process in Seismic Risk Management: Models for Earthquake Damage Assessment", held on 29 June – 01 July, 2000, within the framework of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement. Starting on 01 August 2000, a version has been run on an operational basis. The system focused on earthquake prone areas all over the world with magnitude threshold from 5.5 and up for the European-Mediterranean region and 6.5 and up for the whole world. It has been used in order to provide operative information on expected damage and casualties after strong earthquakes: to the Euro-Mediterranean Centres of EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, to specific national institutions appointed by national authorities, to the Executive Secretariat of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement.

At present, it exists at least 5-7 "Extremum" system versions with different names: LAT (Loss Assessment Tool), QUAKELOSS, WebLAT and others. Since October, 2002 the World Agency for Planetary Monitoring and Earthquake Risk Reduction (WAPMERR) used another version; the Agency was provided with this version at its founding meeting in Geneva (Switzerland) in May 2000, as a contribution of the ESRC team to the WAPMERR membership. WAPMERR made use of this version of the system and issued loss estimates, in collaboration with the Swiss Seismological Service, to the Swiss Corps for Humanitarian Help and OCHA (United Nations

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), approximately 2 hrs. after an event occurs.

Since May, 2004 the Geophysical Survey of RAS (GS RAS) uses another system version for estimation of shaking intensity distribution taking into account regional peculiarities of attenuation.

The aim of the present project is updating of the "Extremum" System simulation models used at all stages from, estimating shaking intensity to assessing the damage to different elements at risk, as well as the databases on different elements at risk, such as population and building stock distribution with global coverage, and knowledge base with information about well-documented past earthquakes (event parameters, observed macroseismic effect, engineering analysis of consequences, information about resources and forces involved in emergency response) in order to increase the reliability of loss estimation in emergency mode.

We are looking for networking with interested scientists and decision makers in earthquake-prone countries in order to take into account their ideas on mathematical models, as well as regional peculiarities in models and databases used for earthquake loss computations.

Nina Frolova
Seismological Center of IGE, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

Jean Bonnin
Institute of Physics of the Earth, University of Strasbourg

Valery Larionov
Extreme Situations Research Center, Moscow

New Project: Development of a Model for Site Selection of Temporary Disaster Shelters in Istanbul

Funded by: AFAD (Republic of Turkey, Prime Ministry Disaster & Emergency Management Presidency)

Duration: November 2012 – November 2014

Manager: Asst. Prof. Dr. Himmert Karaman (Istanbul Technical University, Geomatics Engineering Dept.)

Research team: Asst. Prof. Dr. Turan Erden (Istanbul Technical University, Geomatics Engineering Dept.), Asst. Prof. Dr. Elif Akay (Istanbul Technical University, City & Regional Planning Dept.), Res. Asst. Dr. H. Can Ünen (Istanbul Technical University, Geomatics Engineering Dept.), Res. Asst. Kaan Kalkan (Istanbul Technical University, Geomatics Engineering Dept.), Betül Ergün Konukçu

(Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality), Emin Yahya Menteşe (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality)

Several scientific studies indicate the risk of a big scale earthquake in Istanbul in the future. It is furthermore claimed that requirement of temporary shelters for the victims is one of the most important issues. In this aspect one of the critical challenges is the determination of the location of these shelter areas. Also, shelter needs in the 2012 Van/Erciş Earthquake and in the Syrian refugee camps in southeastern Turkey served as reminders for the importance of the issue that resulted in the acceptance of the proposed project.

In the project, developing a decision support model that will generate solution for the problem of temporary shelter site selection in the aftermath of a disaster is aimed. It is planned to base this model on AHP and/or Fuzzy AHP methodologies also benefiting from spatial analysis through GIS software. Thus the correct locations for these areas will be determined before earthquake and it will be available for the decision makers to develop strategies to enhance and rehabilitate these areas. The system will also be efficient in post-earthquake situation for evaluating the selected sites. Moreover it will be available to re-evaluate the efficiency of the shelter locations based on the new conditions that may arise following the earthquake. Therefore decision makers will be allowed to update the criteria simultaneously and new locations based on these optimum conditions will be assessed. Inexistence of such a study in Turkey proves the importance of this study and highlights the emergence of the situation.

News of Members

Tina Comes moves to the University of Agder

Dr. Tina Comes has accepted a position as associate professor at the Department for ICT, Faculty of Engineering and Science, University of Agder, Norway. The associated professorship was created by the University of Agder to strengthen the new Centre for Integrated Emergency Management (CIEM). Tina's email address at the University of Agder is martina.comes@uia.no.

David Johnston to head international hazards research group

Emergency management specialist and regular contributor to ISCRAM conferences, Dr David Johnston has been appointed chairman of a science committee that does international multi-disciplinary research leading to more effective global responses to the risks associated with

natural and human induced environmental hazards.

<http://www.icsu.org/what-we-do/interdisciplinary-bodies/irdr>

Dr Johnston, who is director of the Joint Centre for Disaster Research at Massey in Wellington, was appointed for a two-year term as chairman of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Scientific Committee.

The committee is a Beijing-based programme co-sponsored by the International Council for Science, the International Social Science Council, and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

"Recent events in New Zealand and the Pacific highlight the importance and urgency of more effective strategies to curb growing disaster losses," Dr Johnston says.

Call for news items

We want your news and will, within the bounds of relevance to ISCRAM, publish most things here: News of Members, including changes of job/address; New Research Projects; PhD defences; and so on. Please keep items to about 300 words. For successful PhD defences, please include the title, a short abstract (~250 words), the name of the awarding institution and any other details, such as being an Alumnus of an ISCRAM summer school. Please send all items to the Editor (simon.french@warick.ac.uk).

Upcoming Post at CIEM University of Agder

The new Centre for Integrated Emergency Management (CIEM) at the University of Agder, in Southern Norway, will soon advertise a new position as associate professor/full professor (depending on qualifications). The centre consists of staff from departments in technology (ICT) and social science (information systems and development studies). The new position will be anchored in the department of ICT. We are looking for an ambitious candidate with interdisciplinary interests targeting emergency preparedness and response. The candidate should have background in one or more of the following areas: sensor networks, Human-Centered Sensing, Artificial Intelligence-based Decision Support or Human-Computer Interaction. No knowledge of Norwegian is required, as the working language will be English. Women are particularly encouraged. Salary and social benefits are very favourable, in particular for families with children. Interested candidates are invited to contact CIEM's director, Professor Jose J. Gonzalez, josejq@uia.no for

information about the centre and for more details about the position and the recruitment procedure. We also welcome suggestions for whom to contact, if you happen to know somebody who could be interested in knowing about this opportunity.

The University of Agder is located in the warmest part of Norway. Winters are relatively mild (the coldest month is January with -1 Celsius average temperature) and Spring and Summer are sunny and for non-Norwegians definitely much warmer than they tend to expect.

Professor Jose J. Gonzalez,
CIEM, University of Agder,
josejq@uia.no

Internships at UN-OCHA in Geneva

Three internships are available in the Information Services Section of UN-OCHA in Geneva. The closing date for applications is 30th April 2013. Details at:

- Volunteer & Technical Community and Digital Humanitarian Network Support.
<http://reliefweb.int/job/543921/internship-volunteer-technical-community-and-digital-humanitarian-network-support>
- Innovative Infographics Creation.
<http://reliefweb.int/job/543920/internship-innovative-infographics-creation>
- Mobile Phone Developer.
<http://reliefweb.int/job/543917/internship-mobile-phone-developer>

Upcoming Conferences and Seminars, Journal Calls for Special Issues

Third Collaborative Technology for Coordinating Crisis Management (CT2CM) Track of WETICE-2013

Hammamet, Tunisia
June 17th – 20th, 2013

<http://www.doesnotunderstand.org/public/CT2CM2013>

This track will take place during the 22th IEEE International Conference Collaboration Technologies and Infrastructures (WETICE 2013).

This is the third instalment of this workshop: the first was held at WETICE 2011 and the second edition at WETICE 2012.

Description

In crisis situations (natural or industrial disasters, riots, etc.), the different actors managing crisis resolution have to act simultaneously in emergency situations to reduce its impacts on the real world. To achieve this common goal as quickly and efficiently as possible, these actors (police, military forces, medical organizations, NGOs but also emerging groups) have to collaborate and act in a coordinated way. In the term 'coordination', we include all the work needed for the actors, for the connected integration of their information systems and also for the flexible synchronization of their efforts, in order to handle the crisis in the most efficient way. Coordination raises several problems such as the definition of the universe of discourse, without which it would be impossible to solve the various semantic conflicts that are bound to occur between several autonomous and heterogeneous actors and their ISs. It involves the finding of partners, emergent partners integration, their collective decisions, partners plans negotiation and the synchronization of the distributed and concurrent execution of their actions and plans. Moreover, in a highly dynamic, open, unstable and uncertain environment, such as the one met in crisis context, coordination should be redesigned to be more reactive, proactive, adaptive, robust and visible for all the partners while preserving the essential part of their autonomy. It is intended that this track should focus mainly on the benefits of adopting collaborative enabling information technologies such as: Agent based-systems, Collaborative BPMS, Semantic Web or Group Decision Support Systems (DSS).

This track will try to address the following issues: how can collaborative information technologies help with the coordination of Crisis Management? It is meant to cover the foundations, techniques, methodologies and applications of Collaborative Information Technologies for Coordinating Crisis Management. The track is interdisciplinary in nature and open to contributions from fields as varied as Cooperative Information Systems, Multi-Agent Systems, Business Process Management and the Semantic Web.

All submitted papers will be reviewed on the basis of technical quality, relevance, significance, and clarity. Submission details are on:

<http://www.doesnotunderstand.org/public/CT2CM2013>

Important dates

Papers submission deadline – Feb 1, 2013

Notification of acceptance – Mar 15, 2013

Camera Ready papers to IEEE – May 1, 2013

Contact

Please contact Serge Stinckwich (Serge DOT Stinckwich AT gmail DOT com) for further enquiries about the workshop.

5th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2014

Davos, Switzerland
24th–28th August 2014

http://www.idrc.info/pages_new.php/5th-IDRC-Davos-2014/1121/1/

After four successful conferences in Davos and 2 regional conferences in China, GRF Davos is proud to announce its 5th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2014 taking place in Davos, Switzerland from 24 – 28 August 2014.

The IDRC Davos 2014 will address the numerous interconnected, complex and emerging risks today's societies are faced with. Environmental, technical, social and economic risks are often closely linked and can result in successive impact. For example the 2011 earthquake in Japan, resulted in a disastrous tsunami, creating nuclear meltdown at its key facilities. Risks and disasters explored at the IDRC Davos 2014 include, amongst others, natural hazards, failures of critical infrastructure and services, pandemics, acts of terrorism and financial crises. All can severely impact and influence human beings and collective societies.

The biennial gathering will again gather over 1000 international participants from the private sector, policy, international organizations, NGOs, science and practice. The 5th IDRC Davos 2014 will address the different kind of risks affecting society today from an integrative multi-disciplinary approach. Abstract submission and registration for will open in January 2013.

The 10th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response Management (ISCRAM 2013)

Baden-Baden, Germany, 12-15 May 2013

<http://www.iscram2013.org/>

ISCRAM 2013 welcomes practitioners and scientists working in the field of information systems for crisis response and management.

Modern societies are faced with numerous risks. Along with the growing interrelatedness and the dependence on technologies and complex infrastructure systems, the vulnerability of societies, economy and environment increases. Cascading effects and feedback loops that exacerbate the consequences of disasters



become more and more important. In these situations, which are characterised by complexity and uncertainty, a holistic approach for crisis response and management is required.

“Holistic crisis management” sounds like a good idea, but what do we really mean by it?

Holistic crisis management aims at the interdisciplinary development and design of information systems that enable better crisis response, planning and preparedness, mitigation and training by following integrated approaches that combine organisational, behavioural, technical, economic and environmental aspects:

- modelling and assessing the consequences of disasters by taking into account the complex interrelations between the victims, actors, organisations and critical infrastructure systems
- enhancing the resilience of societies, organisations and critical infrastructures
- developing early warning systems and facilitating the communication of risk
- designing and developing information systems that facilitate coordination and communication between and within organisations
- designing and developing decision support systems that are tailored to the specific needs and requirements of the end users

Researchers and practitioners are invited to present innovative ideas and application experiences that address the practical and technical challenges in development and implementation of Emergency Management Information Systems (EMIS) in general, and holistic ones in particular.

Among the many topics of interest for crisis management, ISCRAM 2013 focuses inter alia on the modelling and simulation of critical infrastructure disruptions and their consequences for crisis management and recovery. Further key topics that should be addressed from a holistic perspective include the use of information and communication technologies, sensor techniques and sensor data fusion for early warning, crowdsourcing and

crowd tasking, social media, healthcare, humanitarian challenges, intelligent systems.

Key Dates:

Deadline for work-in-progress papers, practitioner papers, posters
– January 15th, 2013

Deadline for doctoral student colloquium papers
– February 15th, 2013

Note that the call for full papers has already passed.

**AMCIS 2013 Minitrack Call for Papers:
ICT-enabled Crisis, Disaster, and
Catastrophe Management**

Chicago, Illinois, USA
15th-17th August, 2013

<http://amcis2013.aisnet.org/>

<http://eventseer.net/e/20383/>

Description

Information and communication technology (ICT) plays an increasingly important role in all phases of adaptive and agile crisis response and management. This minitrack contributes to the discussion in the AMCIS community about ICTs in crisis preparedness and response management by creating a space for discourse about the role of information systems throughout crises, disasters, and catastrophes (including crisis informatics).

Papers are invited that deal with any aspect of the analysis, design, development, deployment, operation, or evaluation of information systems for crisis, disaster, catastrophe preparedness and response management. Authors may focus on the tools, functionality, and/or interfaces that are being or should be provided to human actors involved with crisis. Also, the specific challenges residing in the context of emergency and disaster response management, and how information systems are used to cope with those challenges are in the particular focus of this minitrack. We further invite papers including but not limited to:

- Theoretical foundations and research methods
- Early-warning and crisis alert systems
- Role of ICTs in emergency and disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery
- ICT-enabled vulnerability detection
- Challenges in ICT-enabled emergency operations management
- Crisis-related education and training
- Resilience and robustness of information infrastructures in crises, disasters, and catastrophes

- Social networking, social media, and collaborative systems in crises, disasters, and catastrophes
 - Crowdsourcing for enhanced situational awareness in crises, disasters, and catastrophes
 - Information quality and cross-agency disaster information sharing
- Geographic Information Systems in crisis management
- Specifics of System Analysis and Design of disaster management ICTs
- Integration and interoperation of information systems in crises
- Vulnerabilities of ICTs under disaster conditions
- Mobile systems in crisis, disaster, and catastrophe management
- System success and failure factors
- Human and organizational information behavior in crises, disasters, and catastrophes
- Cross-sector collaboration and interoperation in crises, disasters, and catastrophes
- Health-care systems
- Human-centered design and Human-Computer interaction for disaster-ready systems
- Case studies / lessons learned

Important dates

Deadline for paper submissions: Feb 22, 2013

Notification of acceptance: April 22, 2013

Final copy due: May 9, 2013

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**2nd International Workshop on SOCIAL
WEB FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT (SWDM)**

In conjunction with WWW 2013
May 13th (or 14th), 2013
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<http://sites.google.com/site/swdmwww13/>

The objective of this workshop is to bridge the advances in the Web research community with the practical needs of disaster response professionals, delivering the next generation of Web-enabled disaster management systems. Advances in social media together with the adoption of mobile devices are transforming how we experience and share news. Citizens, volunteers and relief organizations are increasingly relying on social Web to report and act upon large-scale events, as witnessed in the extensive Twitter and other Social Media

coverage of the 2010-2012 Arab Spring uprisings and Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan in 2011.

With existing systems focusing on providing situational awareness, the focus of this workshop is how to reach the next level – enabling disaster response actions based on the Social Web insights. In order to achieve that, a system needs to go beyond using post-event system-generated data, and incorporate both algorithm and crowdsourcing techniques to gather, analyze, organize and then visualize Web data and activity around an event in real-time; providing decision support capabilities.

TOPICS OF INTEREST include, but are not restricted to the following:

- Extraction of actionable insights from user-generated Web-feeds
- Modeling global events from a variety of Web sources
- Trust model for Web-based community contributions to extract credible information
- Identification and geo-location of content sources
- Enablement of first responders through multiple-channels
- Web-platform for Disaster Management
- Cross-referencing, summarizing and presenting social Web in consumable manner

IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb 25 2013: Workshop paper deadline

Mar 13 2013: Workshop paper notifications

Apr 3 2013: Workshop paper final copy
(ACM HARD DEADLINE)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES SWDM welcomes original, unpublished manuscripts of up to 4 pages. Vision papers and work-in-progress are welcomed as abstracts (2 pages).

Papers must follow ACM SIG format (2-column), template is available at <http://www.acm.org/sigs/publications/proceedings-templates>. Papers are to be submitted in PDF format via EasyChair at: <https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=swdmwww13>

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Diary of Upcoming Events and Calls

When	Event/Call	Contact
22-23 Jan 2013	The 7 th Global Security Workshop (WISG2013)	www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/Colloques/WISG2013/en/
17-20 June 2013	Third Collaborative Technology for Coordinating Crisis Management (CT2CM) Track of WETICE-2013	http://www.doesnotunderstand.org/public/CT2CM2013
21-23 Apr 2013	Joint Urban Remote Sensing Event (JURSE 2013)	http://www.inpe.br/jurse2013/
12-15 May 2013	The 10 th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response Management (ISCRAM 2013)	http://www.iscram2013.org/
13/14 May 2013	2 nd International Workshop on SOCIAL WEB FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT (SWDM)	http://sites.google.com/site/swdmwww13/
15-17 Aug 2013	AMCIS 2013 Minitrack Call for Papers: ICT-enabled Crisis, Disaster, and Catastrophe Management	http://amcis2013.aisnet.org/ http://eventseer.net/e/20383/
24-28 Aug 2014	5th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2014	http://www.idrc.info/