

DISASTER, CONFLICT AND SOCIAL CRISIS RESEARCH NETWORK NEWSLETTER



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

COORDINATOR'S REPORT



Murat Balamir
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Dear Members, Colleagues and Followers of the Disaster, Conflict and Social Crisis Research Network,

The prognostic vision of our founding members to organize a social research group on 'disasters and social crises' (1999) has proved so relevant and significant in circumstantial and instrumental terms today that ESA considers it essential to declare our area of interest as a comprehensive research front. Not only we observe new ESA research groups organized on similar concerns, but also experience mergers.

Impacts of adverse events seem to have deepened today in extent, frequency, and severity. Uncontrollable natural hazards, accidents and loss of control in large-scale systems (as financial or technological systems), and investments and action that aggravate environmental degradation bring a proliferation of material and social consequences, new conflicts and confrontations, which we need to have better understanding of for effective response and preparation.

Variety in social responses, commensurate or not, peoples' movements, 'occupy' campaigns and community resentment actions, formal risk management efforts, risk information and communication governance, new international disasters policy, etc. and their impact in changing the society constitute another aspect of the contemporary condition worth exploration.

All indicators point to the intensified need of research and therefore widening of the horizon and membership in our DCSCRN (RN8 of ESA). We need to expand the spectrum of our sessions in our 2013 meeting in Turin, and encourage participation of researchers and members of practice extensively.

We have to introduce globally our scope and objectives to every academic environment and every policy implementation unit.

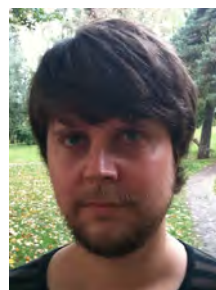
We are most grateful to Dr. Nicholas Petropoulos our founder member, for his efforts in organizing our most successful first interim-conference on the very grounds that ESA now seems to adopt. It gives me great pleasure to thank him and our colleagues Nina Blom Andersen and Antti Silvast in person for their contributions, and for the support of members of the CC of DSCRN.

Murat Balamir
Coordinator

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Antti Silvast
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Dear Members and Colleagues of the DSCRN,
Welcome to the August edition of the DSCRN Newsletter, which covers the period April 2012–August 2012.

The content of this newsletter includes notes about new research on our fields, announcements of new projects and

3. “The Impact of the Greek Financial Crisis upon the Mediated Image of the European Union and the Eurozone: Comparative Analysis of German and U.S.A. Press”, Athanasios Samaras and Katerina Fasouli, University of Piraeus, Athens.
4. “The Reaction to Emerging Crisis in Russia: Post-Urbanization and Neo-Archaism”, Nikita Pokrovsky, Higher School of Economics, Moscow and Uliana Nikolaeva, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow.

17:30 – 18:00

CLOSING

Nicholas Petropoulos (erc@otenet.gr)

WRITER’S CORNER

Communicating Our Disaster Advice

By **Ilan Kelman**¹ (<http://www.ilankelman.org/contact.html>)

We know so much about disasters and about communities helping themselves for disaster risk reduction. How can we make our knowledge and advice more widely available?

I write a regular column for an English-language news service in Norway, called **The Foreigner**. Each article must relate to Norway, which can sometimes be challenging. Especially since I have avoided discussing terrorism, given the media saturation with the horrible July 2011 attacks.

Instead, I have, to some degree, taken a natural hazard focus. My articles have covered **earthquakes, floods, wildfires, and tsunamis**, as they connect to disasters and disaster risk reduction for Norway.

Other columns deliberately highlight vulnerability, the core cause of disasters. **Climate change** is important, yet is simply one more hazard amongst many. Nothing for dealing with climate change is new or different than what we have been doing for disaster risk reduction for a long time, as I explain in an **editorial elsewhere**.

Irrespective of the hazard, much vulnerability reduction is the same and people can be convinced to take pertinent actions, as per **one of my columns**. I even found a direct Norwegian link to my work on **disaster diplomacy** and it was soon after that I managed to hand a copy of **my book** on the topic directly to that Minister.

¹Center for International Climate and Environmental Research - Oslo

The lesson from all this writing is that creativity and flexibility are needed. Plus, it is fun, particularly when I am fortunate enough to get positive reactions to my columns or, even better, when people make suggestions on how to improve them.

What could you do to spread disaster risk reduction messages in your community? What local papers or other publishing venues exist for you to provide a few words on occasion?

My column was inspired by **Mickey Glantz**' series for his local paper in Boulder, Colorado. His articles have been compiled into a booklet called **'Last Flight Out'** (warning: large file – a 41 MB PDF). His writings span years of travel, research, ideas, and life experience. They make it clear that his column helps him to teach others about his work, but also to learn himself.

It is the same for me. I do my best to avoid factual errors, which means learning when researching the articles. I do my best to try to write so that it makes sense to a broad audience, which means learning what my core messages are and how to articulate those. It is writing for outreach and education—but also writing to teach myself.

Hopefully, it is one tiny contribution towards helping me and others to help ourselves build a safer world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Call for Session Proposals: European Sociological Association (ESA), 11th Conference, 'Crisis, Critique and Change', Torino, Italy, 28-31 August 2013



DSCRN/RN8 'Disaster, Conflict and Social Crisis'

The European Sociological Association (ESA) invites scholars from around the globe to come together in Torino, 28-31 August 2013 to debate the most pressing sociological questions of the day under the general theme: “Crisis, Critique and Change”. This general theme of Conference directly refers to the interests of the Research Network 8 (RN8) of ESA entitled as ‘Disaster, Conflict, and Social Crisis Network’ (DSCRN). The social causes