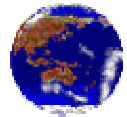


UNSCHEDULED EVENTS



May 2006

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON DISASTERS

V25 - N2

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



By Robert A. Stallings

Late spring greetings from here in southern California!

This is our last newsletter before the World Congress of Sociology convenes in Durban the fourth week of July. The preliminary program appeared in the preceding issue of *Unscheduled Events* (Vol. 25, No. 1 [January 2006]: 3-9) and an updated version is found in the current issue. The range of topics covered and the global representation of participants involved in the IRCD sessions is truly impressive. There will be 10 regular sessions as well as a joint session with RC 24 (Environment) plus a separate business meeting that will feature a scheduled address by a South African disaster researcher. Four of the 10 sessions are open paper sessions. The other six deal with special topics ranging from disaster research after 9/11, epidemics, cultural differences in emergency planning and response, and the Boxing Day tsunami to disasters in Africa as well as "Race, Social Justice, and Disaster," our themed session. We are awaiting word on funding for our African colleagues so that plans for the "Focus on Africa" session can be completed.

Sixty-seven participants, representing 27 different countries, are scheduled to take part and present 54 papers. Forty-seven of the scheduled participants (70 percent) are from ISA Category A Countries, but only one-third of these are from the U.S. This means that fully 30 percent of the scheduled participants are from Category B and C Countries, all but two of whom are from Category C countries. The IRCD has never had more international presence and representation. In large part this is due to the Herculean efforts of the Program Coordinators, T. Joseph Scanlon (Canada/UK) and Andrew Coghlan (Australia). Next time you see Joe and Andrew, shake their hands and thank them for all their hard work.

I wish everyone safe travels and an enjoyable time in Durban.

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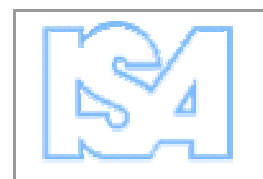
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SITE OF THE 2006 WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY



DURBAN, SOUTH
AFRICA



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Less than a month after this year’s World Congress, the IRCD will hold two sessions at the American Sociological Association’s annual meetings in Montréal. The two sessions are scheduled for Saturday evening, August 12, from 8:00–10:00 p.m. and Sunday evening, August 13, 6:00–8:15 p.m. Although the schedule for the two sessions is yet to be determined, one will be an open papers session. The second session will be devoted to the presentation of the 2006 E. L. Quarantelli Theory Award followed by a lecture by the recipient. The Quarantelli Theory Award is given to the social scientist regardless of discipline in recognition of significant contributions to theory in the area of disaster research. The winner will be announced shortly by the Quarantelli Theory Award Committee, chaired by Dennis E. Wenger (USA) and consisting of Linda Bourque (USA), Wolf Dombrowsky (Germany), J. Kenneth Mitchell (USA), Betty Morrow (USA), and Tricia Wachtendorf (USA). If you are not too drained after Durban—financially and otherwise—we hope that you will join us in Montréal.

Elections for IRCD officers and members of the board to serve terms for the period 2007–2010 will soon be held. Look for voting instructions within the next few weeks. Results of the balloting will be announced at the IRCD business meeting in Durban on 25 July and in the next issue of this newsletter.

It is with a mixture of extreme gratitude and regret that I announce that this is the final issue of *Unscheduled Events* edited by Hank Fischer. Hank is stepping down after eight years of service to the IRCD in order to attend to his other numerous responsibilities. The search for a new editor is underway. Any IRCD member interested in the position is invited to convey that interest to me directly at rstallin@usc.edu. For insight into details of the job of editing *UE*, contact Hank at Hank.Fischer@millersville.edu.

For those of you who are wrapping up your academic year, I hope that it has been a successful one and that your summer months are both peaceful and productive. For those of you approaching the middle of your academic year, I hope things are going well and that you are able to find time for your work. For those of you on a 12-month calendar—well, do the best you can!

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Stallings
President, IRCD (RC 39)

**WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA
23-29 JULY 2006**



**WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA
23-29 JULY 2006**



**Program for International Research Committee on Disasters
World Congress of Sociology
Durban, South Africa
July 23 to July 29, 2006**

By Joe Scanlon

Sunday, July 23 - Opening Reception 6 to 8 p.m.

Monday, July 24 - 13:30 to 15:30 – Disaster Research: Guiding Light or Lost in the Shadows of the 9/11 World

Chair: Hank Fischer Millersville University of Pennsylvania USA hfischer@millersville.edu

Discussant: Kathleen Tierney University of Colorado USA <tierneyk@colorado.edu>

Presenters:

1. Eve Coles Coventry University England “Prepared for Emergencies? Or how the 3 'Fs' and 9/11 changed the UK perspective on disasters” <apx279@coventry.ac.uk>
2. Sarah Norman and Jim Stuart-Black, Jim Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management New Zealand “Civil Defence & Emergency Management in New Zealand: A Case Study” <norm2is@yahoo.com>
3. Adrian Gordon Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness Canada <agordon@ccep.ca> and James Kilgour (Canada) jkilgour@hamilton.ca
4. Betty Morrow Florida International University USA “Effects of the 2005 Hurricanes on Disaster Response” <betty@bmorrow.com>
5. Yee, Jaeyeol Seoul National University Korea “Failing to Fail Safe: The Anatomy of International Disasters in Korea, 1993-2004” jyee@snu.ac.kr

Monday, July 24 - 15:45 to 17:45 – Epidemics as Disasters: Populations Affected, Social Impacts, Response and Mitigation

Co-Chairs: Nicholas Petropoulos Pedagogical Institute, Greece, erc@otenet.gr and Demosthenes Agrafiotis dagrafiotis.nsph.gr (Greece)

Discussant: Betty Hearn Morrow Florida International University

Presenters:

1. Joseph Scanlon Carleton University Canada jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca "London's Response to the Plague in the 17th Century"
2. Christopher Stoney Carleton University Canada "Canada Copes With SARS" cstoney@connect.carleton.ca
3. Demosthenes Agrafiotis and Elizabeth Ioannidou National School of Public Health, Greece "Aids as a Disaster" dagrafiotis@nsph.gr and eioannid@nsph.gr
4. Andrew Collins Northumbria University United Kingdom "Infectious Disease Risk Management in Africa" andrew.collins@unn.ac.uk

Tuesday, July 25 - 13:30 to 15:30 Open Papers

Chair: Andrew Coghlan Emergency Management Australia

Discussant: Gary Webb Oklahoma State University USA

Presenters:

1. Prasad, D. V. Anthropological Survey of India India "Cultural Response to Earthquake and Tsunami" dannarapu.venk@prasad
2. Atukorala, Karunatissa University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka "Tsunami: Nation Building Efforts and Its Future Social Consequences" saktissa@slt.lk
3. Mitsuda, Hisayoshi The University of Nottingham Ningbo China "Dealing with catastrophe: The December 2004 Tsunami" mitsuda@wj8.so-net.ne.jp
4. Kuriakose, Benny Architect India "Experiences in the study of the Village of Chinnankudi and Tharangambadi in connection with the Housing Reconstruction Project for the Tsunami Victims" bennykuriakose@gmail.com
5. Rangasami, Amrita National Institute of Urban Affairs India "The Tsunami and State Response: A Case Study" famsoc@giadl01.vsnl.net.in

Tuesday, July 25 - 15:45 to 17:45 Open Papers

Chair: Gary Webb Oklahoma State University USA

Discussant: Eve Coles Coventry University

Presenters:

1. Lee Clarke lee@leeclarke.com Rutgers University USA "On Scope Conditions of Disaster Research" Rutgers University
2. Maureen Fordham (England) Northumbria University United Kingdom "Children and disasters - no longer just victims" maureen.fordham@unn.ac.uk

3. Irwin Redlener David A Berman National Center for Disaster Preparedness USA dab2005@columbia.edu "American Children as Explicit Targets of Terrorism: Implications for Policy and Preparedness"
4. Kevin Simmons Austin College USA KSimmons@austincollege.edu "The Benefits and Costs of NEXRAD Weather Radio"
5. Vratusa, Vera University of Belgrade Serbia and Montenegro "Science in the Service of Social Crisis Management or Apology of Social Crisis and Disaster Production"

Tuesday, July 25 - 16:00 to 18:00 Business Meeting

Chair: Andrew Coghlan Emergency Management Australia

Report from the President Robert Stallings University of California Los Angeles

Report from the Treasurer

Other Reports:

Editor of *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*

Editor of *UnScheduled Events*

IJMED Web Host

Editor of the Book Series

Report of Election of Officers N.B. The new executive does not take office until January 15, 2007.

Special Presentation:

"Emergency Management and Risk Reduction Planning in South Africa" – Dewald van Niekerk, Director, African Center for Disaster Studies, North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus Van Niekerk, Dewald

Wednesday, July 26 - 13:30 to 15:30 -- The Impact of Culture on Emergency Planning and Response

Session Coordinator: Joe Scanlon Carleton University Canada jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca

Discussant: Joanne Nigg University of Delaware USA nigg@udel.edu

Presenters:

1. Neil Britton Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Centre National Research Institute for Earth Sciences and Disaster Prevention Japan neil@edm.bosai.go.jp
2. Avi Kirschenbaum Technion Israel "Living On the Edge: Extreme Terror Conditions and Survival Strategies". avik@techunix.technion.ac.il
3. Loo, Dennis California Polytechnic State University USA ddloo@csupomona.edu "The Cavalry Isn't Coming, But Blackwater Is: Katrina and Neoliberal Policies"

Wednesday, July 26 - 15:45 to 17:45 Open Papers

Chair: Gary Webb Oklahoma State University USA

Discussant: Havidan Rodriguez University of Delaware USA

Presenters:

1. Pearce, Laurie Preparedness Resource Centre Vancouver Canada Disaster <Laurie_Pearce@telus.net> Title to Follow
2. Valerie Ingham Charles Sturt University Australia "Burning Decisions" vingham@csu.edu.au
3. Adam P. Rostis Dalhousie University Canada ROSTISAP@gov.ns.ca "A Framework for Understanding Early Warning Systems"
4. Marlon Era International Development Research Centre Philippines <emarlon65@yahoo.com>
5. Pandya, Vedant Bhavnagar University India Title to Come

Wednesday, July 26 - Handling the Tsunami Dead

Chair: *Joanne Nigg University of Delaware USA*

Discussant: Avi Kirshenbaum Technion Israel; <avik@techunix.technion.ac.il>

Presenters:

1. Fischer, Henry W. Millersville University of Pennsylvania USA Leanna Falkiner, Sirilak Jankaew, & Monika "Mass Fatality Management after the Boxing Day Tsunami: The Approach in Thailand" hfisher@millersville.edu
2. Phillips, Brenda, Oklahoma State University USA Dave Neal, Tom Wikle, Shireen Hyrapiet, Aswin Subanthore brenda.phillips@okstate.edu "Mass Fatality Management after the Indian Ocean Tsunami: Tamil Nadu, India"
3. Arthur Oyola-Yemaiel University of North Dakota USA and Jennifer Wilson (USA) "Responses to Mass Fatalities in Sri Lanka Following the 2004 Tsunami" <omaielson@cableone.net>
4. Joseph Scanlon Carleton University Canada jscanlon@ccs.carleton.ca "Convergence Unlimited: Overloaded Call Centres and the Sumatra Tsunami"
5. Buus, Stephanie Swedish Institute of International Affairs Sweden "Bodies at Risk Swedish Tourists and the Swedish State in the Wake of the 2004 Tsunami Crisis" <Stephanie.Buus@ui.se>

Thursday, July 27 - THEME SESSION -- 13:30 to 15:30 Race, Social Justice and Disaster

Session Coordinator: Bob Bolin Arizona State University USA <bob.bolin@asu.edu>

Discussant: Joanne Nigg University of Delaware USA <nigg@udel.edu>

Participants:

1. Havidan Rodriguez (University of Delaware). havidan@udel.edu
2. Anna Olofsson Mid Sweden University Sweden "Municipalities' crisis communication in a multi-cultural society" Anna.Olofsson@miun.se>
3. Goatcher, Jeffrey Nottingham Trent University UK "Disaster is the Health of the State": A Political Sociology of Disaster". jeffrey.goatcher@ntu.ac.uk
4. Susan Ullberg CRiSMART Sweden "Culture in Catastrophe" <susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se>
5. Efremenko, Dimitry V. Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia <efdvd@mail.ru> "Socio-cultural Aspects of Emergency Planning and Institutional Development in Russia"

Thursday, July 27 - 15:45 to 17:45 -- Joint session with RC 24 Environment

Introduction: Andrew Coghlan, Emergency Measures Australia (acoghlan@bigpond.com.au).

Chair: Joseph Scanlon, Canada, and Past President of RC39

Discussant: Arthur Mol The Netherlands, and President of RC24 <Arthur.Mol@wur.nl>

Presenters:

1. Wolf Dombrowsky, Germany, <wdombro@kfs.uni-kiel.de> “From lonely crowd to desperate cruelty: 9/11 and the descent of the terror-directed man”
2. Raymond Murphy, Canada, <murphyr@uottawa.ca> “The Chronic Burden of Mitigating Disaster under Global Climate Change: integrating environmental sociology and disaster sociology”
3. Lena Bloemertz, Lebanon, and Kerstin Erhardt, Germany, lena.bloemertz@gmx.de wrote: “Coping with uncertainty in Western Kenya”
4. Peter B. Levy, USA, “The Johnson Flood of 1889: the ‘Natural’ Disaster that Set the Mold”
5. Fritz Reusswig, Germany, “On Reshaping Our Climate Change Impact and Vulnerability Assessments after Hurricane Katrina”

Closing Remarks: Andrew Coghlan, Emergency Management Australia

Friday, July 28 - 13:30 to 15:30 – Focus on Africa

Co-Chairs: Andrew Collins Northumbria andrew.collins@unn.ac.uk> and Bernard Manyena bernard.manyena@northumbria.ac.uk

Discussant: Hanna Schmuck German Red Cross India and Bangladesh schmuck@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Presenters:

1. Andrew Collins Northumbria United Kingdom “Health Ecology in Disaster Reduction Strategies: Lessons from Mozambique” andrew.collins@unn.ac.uk
2. Bernard Manyena Northumbria (Zimbabwe) “Facilitating Resilience in the Zambesi Valley” bernard.manyena@northumbria.ac.uk
3. Andre Yitambe (Kenya) “Modeling disaster strategies avoidance in Africa: The case of road traffic accidents in Western Kenya” andreyita2000@yahoo.com
4. Feleke Tadele Manager for Oxfam Ethiopia “Linking Disaster Management with Development Planning – Lessons from the Ethiopian Experience” isp.sc@telecom.net.et
5. Elias Mabaso Faculty of Health Sciences Zimbabwe “Emergence Preparedness and Response: NGO Experience in [Zimbabwe](#)” eliasmabaso@yahoo.com
6. Djillali Benouar University of Bab Ezzouar - Algeria “African Urban Risk Analysis: A Case Study for Algeria” dbenouar@yahoo.com

Friday, July 28 - 15:45 to 17:45 – Open Papers

Chair: *Maureen Fordham* Northumbria University UK

Discussant: David Neal Oklahoma State University USA

1. Sverre Roed-Larsen Norwegian Work Research Institute Norway sverre.roeed-larsen@afi-wri.no “Public Safety Investigations of Accidents – Development, Problems and Dilemmas”
2. Nuray Karanci Middle East Technical University Turkey karanci@metu.edu Dept. of Psychology Middle East Technical University “On the Feasibility of Retrofitting Residential Structures in Istanbul”
3. Naik, Jayshree and Hemixa Rao Indian Institute of Advanced Study “The Scenario a of the Earthquake and Disaster Management in the Gujarat State” hemixarao_su@yahoo.com
4. Karim, Nehal University of Dhaka Bangladesh “Urban Disaster Management: Bangladesh Context” nehal@hrcworks.com
5. Kuhlicke, Christian UFZ Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig-Halle Germany Knowledge, Ignorance and Disaster – An empirical investigation of the 2002 flood in Eilenburg Germany Christian.kuhlicke@ufz.de
6. Falkiner, Leanna Price-Waterhouse-Coopers Canada” Disaster Experience, Risk Perception and Disaster Preparedness” lfalkiner@hotmail.com



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2010 WORLD CONGRESS TO BE IN GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

The Year 2010 may seem like a long way away but planning for sessions at a World Congress take a lot of time. The next World Congress is to be in Gothenburg, Sweden, in 2010. Anyone interesting in organizing a session on a specific topic should start thinking about it now.





Durban's Beachfront from the Point
Photo: Roger de la Harpe

A Brief Introduction to Durban: *Enchanted Pleasure-Palace*

<http://durban.kzn.org.za/durban/127.xml>

Africa's bewitching seaside playground in the sun, Durban has from its earliest days possessed a special charm...a certain mystique that adds 'something extra' to the meeting of warm Indian Ocean, radiant golden sands and lush sub-tropical greenery. The creation of Durban Metro beckons visitors to this sublime paradise with yet another bonus...the addition of three invaluable elements to our ever- evolving, ever-widening portfolio of irresistible attractions. To offer the broadest possible spectrum of unforgettable experiences, we've brought to your holiday doorstep the magnificent environment and cultural wonders of the Valley of a Thousand Hills, long and tranquil beaches of The South and up-market ambience of the historic and culturally rich Umhlanga.



Durban's main beachfront from the Point
Photo: Durban Africa

Durban Metro is where the proud Zulu nation meets East and West...a wealth of influences to entertain and enthrall with traditional warrior dancers, mystic fire-walkers and colonial heritage. Sample the unique vibrancy of township life, the finest curries outside India and a calendar filled with thrilling, spectacular events.

We're sports-crazy and equipped for it...hosting countless international contests at our magnificent venues - including the beach. While estate golf inland features high on the list of courses that abound, you can also tee off alongside the ocean or pause on the green as the field thunders by on race day. Speaking of which, we host two of our country's premier horseracing draw- cards...but should you not fancy their odds, there are always the slot- machines and gaming tables of our Sibaya Casino & Entertainment Kingdom!

Sophisticated and cosmopolitan, Durban Metro after dark is abuzz with elegant lounges, funky taverns and cosy inns...distinctive local theatre and live music...trendy clubs, pubs and discos. Rave 'till dawn and catch sunrise over the vast Indian Ocean horizon - this is nightlife in a modern, authentic African metropolis!

From your luxury hotel, self-catering apartment or back- packers' lodge, all the delights of our 'mega-city' are linked by efficient transport services...the same network that connects you with the star attractions a little further afield. No less than two World Heritage Sites wait among the majestic Berg, teeming Bush, endless Beach and monumental Battlefields that lie within your easy reach. What a Buzz!

Our Kingdom of the Zulu is a holiday destination quite unlike any other...its Durban Metro a gateway equally unique. We look forward to introducing you to this vast array of thrilling adventures... beginning with the charismatic, multi-faceted and progressive city the Zulu people know as **Thekweni**.

Republic of South Africa

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa



The **Republic of South Africa** is a country located at the southern tip of the [African continent](#). It borders the countries of [Namibia](#), [Botswana](#), [Zimbabwe](#), [Mozambique](#), and [Swaziland](#). [Lesotho](#) is an [enclave](#) entirely surrounded by South African territory.

South Africa has experienced a significantly different evolution from other nations in Africa arising primarily from two facts: immigration from [Europe](#) reached levels not experienced in other African communities and a level of mineralogical wealth that made the country extremely important to Western interests particularly during the [Cold War](#). As a result of the former, South Africa is a very racially diverse nation. It has the largest population of people of [Coloured](#) (i.e., mixed racial background), [European](#), and [Indian](#) communities in Africa. Black South Africans account for roughly 75% of the population.

Racial strife between the white minority and the black majority has played a large part in the country's [history](#) and [politics](#), culminating in [apartheid](#) which was instituted in 1948 by the [National Party](#), although segregation existed prior to that date. The laws that defined apartheid began to be repealed or abolished by the National Party in 1990 after a long and sometimes violent struggle (including economic sanctions from the international community) by the Black majority as well as some White, Coloured, and Indian South Africans.

The country is one of the few in Africa never to have had a [coup d'état](#), and regular elections have been held for almost a century; the vast majority of black South Africans were only [enfranchised](#) in 1994. The [economy of South Africa](#) is the largest and best developed on the continent, with modern [infrastructure](#) common throughout the country.

South Africa is often referred to as [The Rainbow Nation](#) - a term coined by [Archbishop Desmond Tutu](#) and later elaborated upon by then-President [Nelson Mandela](#) as a metaphor to describe the country's newly-developing multicultural diversity in the wake of separatist [apartheid](#) ideology.

Misc Info

Motto: */Xam: !ke e: ǀxarra ǁke*

(**English:** "Unity In Diversity" or literally, "Diverse People Unite")

Capital [Cape Town](#) ([Legislative](#)), [Pretoria](#) ([Administrative](#)), [Bloemfontein](#) ([Judicial](#))

Largest city [Johannesburg](#)

Official language(s) [Afrikaans](#), [English](#), [Zulu](#), [Xhosa](#), [Swati](#), [Ndebele](#), [Southern Sotho](#), [Northern Sotho](#), [Tsonga](#), [Tswana](#), [Venda](#)

Government [Parliamentary democracy](#)

President [Thabo Mbeki](#)

Area [1,221,037 km²](#) ([25th](#)), 471,443 sq mi

Population

- [July 2005](#) est. 47,432,000 ^[1] ([26th](#))

GDP (PPP)

- Total \$527.4 billion ([21st](#))

- Per capita \$11,900 ([60th](#))

Currency [Rand](#) ([ZAR](#))

Calling code +27

International Sociological Association

Research Committee on

Sociology of Disasters RC39

RC39 Origins

The social aspects of natural and technological disasters were touched on in the early days of sociology. Samuel Prince wrote a doctoral dissertation in sociology at Columbia University, which was published in 1920, and was called "Catastrophe and Social Change: Based Upon a Sociological Study of the Halifax Disaster." Carr had an article in a 1932 issue of the American Journal of Sociology entitled "Disasters and the sequence-pattern concept of social change." Pitirim Sorokin, the famous Russian theorist, in 1942 wrote a book on "Man and Society in Calamity: The Effects of War, Revolution, Famine, Pestilence Upon the Human Mind."

However, continuous and systematic research on disaster did not emerge until after World War II. This effort was pioneered primarily by sociologists such as Lewis Killian, Charles Fritz, E. L. Quarantelli, Fred Bates and Harry Williams. Much of the earliest work was centered (1949-1954) around a research project at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago which became the prototype of how quick response field studies could be made immediately before, during, and right after disasters. Much of this research was guided by ideas from the sociological speciality of collective behavior.

Another key happening was the establishment in 1963 of the Disaster Research Center (DRC) at the Ohio State University and directed by three sociologists including Russell Dynes and E. L. Quarantelli. DRC soon merged the collective behavior framework with a focus on community and organizational changes during disasters. Most of the field work was undertaken by graduate students in sociology, many of whom went on to distinguished careers in the area. Apart from DRC, other sociologists, especially in the 1950s-1960s contributed empirical studies and theoretical statements to the area: these included, for example, Allen Barton, Harry Moore and Ralph Turner. The basic theme of almost all these scholars and researchers was that individual, group, organizational and community behavior in disasters could be described and analyzed with sociological ideas, concepts, hypotheses and theories. There should not be a field called "disasterology". Just as sociology informed disaster studies, the research result could in turn help the development of sociology. Some of these ideas were codified in a book edited by Dynes, De Marchi and Pelanda, and called "Sociology of Disasters: Contribution of Sociology to Disaster Research", and in a later volume edited by Dynes and Tierney called "Disasters, Collective Behavior, and Social Organization."

After the initiation of systematic studies in the United States, research and writings on disasters started to appear elsewhere, although much of this did not occur until the 1970s-1980s. In particular, sociologists were among the early leaders in Sweden, Italy, Germany and Japan (This included such scholars as Hultaker, Pelanda, Dombrowsky and Akimoto). In more recent times, sociologists have been involved and often have been the leaders in social science disaster research in such countries as Russia, Australia, Armenia, China and New Zealand. An indication of the predominance of sociologists in the area is that for over a decade the three major research centers in the US were headed by sociologists.

There were also early efforts to establish international linkages among disaster researchers around the world. Papers were presented at the earliest World Congresses of Sociology such as those held at Evian and Varna. By the 1970s a Working Group on the Sociology of Disasters was organized in the International Sociological Association. This Group obtained status as a permanent Research Committee

on the Sociology of Disasters in 1982. This Committee with more than 200 members in over three dozen countries, has its own newsletter, "Unscheduled Events" and journal "The International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters" (established in May 1983).

In recent years the influence and salience of sociologists in disaster policy and administrative matters has increased substantially. For example, there has always been a sociologist among the members of the US National Academy of Science Board on Natural Disasters, which was set up over a decade ago. Many of the national committees established in 1990 for the UN Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, include sociologists. They also have been increasingly incorporated as participants in centers for hazards/disasters/risks run by engineers, seismologists, meteorology, and other physical scientists. Finally, sociologists have more and more been added as members of Editorial Advisory Boards of non-sociological journals such as Natural Hazards, The Journal of Hazardous Materials and Risk and Management.

E.L. (Henry) Quarantelli, Professor Emeritus
 Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware
 fax: 1-302-831 2091, elqdc@udel.edu

**DISASTER RESEARCH CENTER
 UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
 2ND Year – REU**

The second summer of the DRC NSF funded REU begins in June and ends nine weeks later in August. The young scholars participating this summer were recently announced and are listed below. In addition to learning about the disaster research history and methods, the students will meet many researchers throughout the summer program. They will also travel to Boulder to participate in the annual Workshop at the Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado. Each student will be mentored to develop and complete a research project that draws from the volumes of data housed at the DRC.

Summer 2006 Participants:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bruce, Natalie C. | Biola University |
| Campbell, Nnenia M. | University of Central Florida |
| Connors, Jonathan M. | Ithaca College |
| Farmer, Casey A. | University of San Francisco |
| Fox, Kathryn E. | Dickinson College |
| Kaplan, Rebekah A. | University of Delaware |
| Long, Jessica A. | California University of Pennsylvania |
| O'Neal, Eugene T. | St. John's University |
| Ross, Lauren M. | University of Delaware |
| Shenk, Caitlin M. | Lehigh University |

Congratulations REU participants! We know you will have a valuable educational and career experience. We all look forward to meeting you.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Emergency Management Institute

The 9th Annual Emergency Management & Homeland Security/Defense Higher Education Conference, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security with NORTHCOM Homeland Security/Defense Education Consortium will be held **June 6-8, 2006** at the Emergency Management Institute, National Emergency Training Center, in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Participation is by invitation only. This year's theme is "Catastrophe Readiness and Response." On June 5 there is an optional pre-conference Workshop. For more information, contact Dr. Wayne Blanchard at wayne.blanchard@dhs.gov (phone (301) 447-1262), or the Higher Education Project Assistant, Barbara Johnson at Barbara.L.Johnson@dhs.gov (phone (301) 447-1452).

16th World Conference on Disaster Management

June 18-21, 2006, Toronto, Ontario
Toronto Metro Convention Centre, South Bldg



Emergency Management and Business Continuity Working Together (<http://www.wcdm.org/>)
For answers to any questions you have, call Adrian Gordon at 905.331.2552 or agordon@ccep.ca



Natural Hazards Center



Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop

July 9-12, 2006
Boulder, Colorado, USA

Information and materials for the Natural Hazards Center's 2006 Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop are now available. <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/workshop/2006/>



IAEM Annual Meeting in Orlando November 2006.

For details on dates, hotels, agenda and registration visit the IAEM website: <http://www.iaem.com>

EDITORIAL ATTITUDE: “Throw the Baby Out with the Bath Water?”



By Henry W. Fischer III

So the U.S. Senate Committee investigating the federal response to Hurricane Katrina has come to its conclusion: “It’s all FEMA’s Fault!” Mistakes were made at the federal, state and local levels. Following this logic we should abolish the Governor’s offices (and other state offices) as well as the mayor’s offices (and other local offices). Is this throwing the baby out with the bath water?

The full senate report exceeds 700 pages. My computer had trouble swallowing it all (saving to disk that is) . . . probably symbolic, eh? Maybe we can attack this issue in one page or less instead. Employ trained professionals to do the job, i.e., FEMA Director with experience in emergency management (and is highly respected). Then free the Director to do the job as he or she believes it needs to be done. Provide the resources to support

mitigation, planning and response—based upon sound research.


Sociologically speaking, social reconstruction *is* needed. However, further destroying an agency and those professionals who have experience and knowledge should be the road less traveled (Frost seemed relevant since the Senate committee’s report is getting a frosty reception in this column). Why *is* FEMA still buried within DHS? Must we wait until January 21, 2009 to resurrect FEMA? Why do I believe this may come to pass? Could it be that I believe the current D.C. crowd epitomizes the word “stubborn?” Well, the emperor wears no clothes!

If you would like to respond to this *Editorial Attitude*, send your comments to hfischer@millersville.edu. Who knows we may even print them . . . or not.

Can anyone please tell me *why* we still have this terrorism rainbow?

National Threat Advisory:

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

A FOND FAREWELL FROM THE CURRENT UE EDITOR!

By Hank Fischer

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have had the opportunity to be your editor of these *UnScheduled Events* for two terms. It is hard for me to believe that it has been eight years since Ben Aguirre brought me on and then four years since Bob Stallings decided to keep me around for another tour of duty. This has been a fun gig. As a result of doing this job, I have had the pleasure of getting to know many RC39 members from around the world—both RC39 newbies and oldies. That alone made this fun and worthwhile for me personally. However, it is time for someone else to step into this role now. I will now be able to return to editing the experimental journal, *Contemporary Disaster Review*, which we started and then I let lapse due to time limitations. And, I will continue to host the IJMED web access.

As I think back over the years between 1998 – 2006 I am amazed at all that has transpired on many levels. For example, *UnScheduled Events* is now not only snail mailed to the membership; it is also virtually accessible 24 x 7 via its own website. Similarly, *the International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* is received as a printed document by those who subscribe as well as being accessible to anyone in the world via its own website—for free (except for the most recent three years which are accessible to subscribers).

Living the dash between the years of 1998 and 2006, the USA experienced 9/11, followed by the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (and devolution of FEMA), and Hurricane Katrina, followed by a U.S. Senate Committee recommendation that FEMA be replaced. South Asia experienced the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004. And, despite the threat of terrorism in the world, natural disasters of all kinds continue to impact the world with great regularity.

The research findings of those who labor in the discipline have been moving with increasing speed from the tomes in the stacks into more and more courses, undergraduate minors, majors and graduate degree programs. The field is maturing and the practitioners are becoming professionals. The good and the bad news combine in the realization that mitigation, planning, response and recovery are in greater need of attention than ever before as the world population increases and the number of human beings located in vulnerable locations grows. This continues to, therefore, be a growth industry in any way you want to define it.

There continues to be much to learn. For example, Katrina reminded us that not all disasters are the same. Size and scope do matter. While looting and other deviant behavior was, again, greatly exaggerated by the news media during the response to Katrina, there was looting. What are the circumstances under which it is more versus less likely to occur? Further, we also found this event brought with it a larger no-show experience on the part of those expected to be present to do a job during and immediately after a disaster. Size and scope matter. And, the USA, regardless of all the money dispensed after 9/11, was found rather incapable of mounting an effective response to Katrina on the local, state and national levels. There is much to learn. The members of RC39 have a great opportunity to serve both as pure and applied academic researchers. I look forward to seeing what we do over the next eight years—as I read a sample of it in our newsletter, *UnScheduled Events*.



I toast each of you . . .
and, I'm going to take a little vacation now.

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***UnScheduled Events* is the Official Newsletter of the International Sociological Association's International Research Committee on Disaster (RC 39)**

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