

Sammelmail 1/12/2006

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- (1) CfP - RN Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty - ESAConference, 3-6 September 2007 in Glasgow, UK

Call for Papers

for the sessions of the RN Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty at the 8th conference of the European Sociological Association 'Conflict, Citizenship and Civil Society', 3-6 September 2007 in Glasgow, UK (<http://www.esa8thconference.com/>)

Risk and uncertainty are important issues in a growing amount of societal areas and social research. The management and negotiation of risk, its socio-cultural production in media coverage and discourses and the conflicts on its (unequal) allocation are focal themes in the sociology of risk and uncertainty. As there is a growing interest in how sociological macro phenomena are linked to everyday life, the call for papers of the research network covers a wide range of topics. It reaches from strategies to govern the risk society and the discursive construction of risk and uncertainty via issues of health and illness to the ongoing reproduction of social inequalities. There is an additional focus on individual's experience and management of risk and uncertainty. The various links of risk and suffering are addressed as well as the phenomena of voluntary (high) risk taking. In a shared session with the RN Biographical Perspectives on European Societies the different forms of the management of risk and uncertainty during the course of their life as well as the impact of one's biography on the experience of risk and uncertainty will be examined.

Session topics

. Governing the Risk Society

Chair: Peter Taylor-Gooby, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK,  
[P.F.Taylor-Gooby@kent.ac.uk](mailto:P.F.Taylor-Gooby@kent.ac.uk)

The emergence of the risk approach to managing uncertainty and the implications for governance across public and private sectors and personal life have been extensively analysed. This section invites papers which draw on these themes, and those which consider current developments, including but not limited to:

- Risk and Citizenship;
- Risk and Trust
- New Public Policies and Risk
- Risk and New Forms of Management

. Health, Risk and European Societies

Chair: Andy Alaszewski, Centre for Health Service Studies (CHSS),  
University of Kent, Canterbury, UK, [a.m.alaszewski@kent.ac.uk](mailto:a.m.alaszewski@kent.ac.uk)

Health forms a major site for the articulation and construction of risk in late modern society. Failures to effectively identify and manage risk often result in major health problems even disasters while the uncertainty associated with health threats are a major factor in shaping individual and collective behaviour. We invite papers which address different dimensions of health and risk from issues of human agency, through the institutional structuring of risk to the societal construction of risk and uncertainty.

. Risk Discourses and the Media

Chair: N.N.

The media doubtless play an important role to disseminate knowledge about the world, which risks and uncertainties we have to expect and which worries and concerns torture us in everyday life. Nevertheless, the media only partly influence people's risk perception. The session aims to examine how media discourses (e.g. on GM-food, bird flue, divorce, youth, crime) construct risk and uncertainty and how media and the public are connected.

. Terrorism, Risk and Uncertainty

Chair: Gabe Mythen, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, [G.Mythen@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:G.Mythen@mmu.ac.uk)

Following on from high profile terrorist attacks in the United States, Spain and the UK, terrorism has become a crucial and contested problem in Western nations. Political debates have centred on the nature, communication and management of the terrorist threat. Meanwhile, academics have sought to understand the thorny issues that cluster around terrorism with recourse to extant risk theories. This theme seeks to make sense of current events by engaging with the risks and uncertainties that emerge around the terrorist threat, including its representation, mediation, interpretation and regulation. Submissions are invited for papers which engage with one or more of the following themes:

- Terrorism and Changing Modes of Risk Assessment
- Media Representations of Terrorism
- Terrorism and the Politics of Fear
- Security, Surveillance and Terrorism
- Terrorism, Law and Uncertainty
- Terrorism, Crime and Governance

. Risk, Uncertainty and Social Inequalities

Chair: Anwen Jones, University of York, UK, [naj3@york.ac.uk](mailto:naj3@york.ac.uk)

Beck's thesis on the risk society (1991) stated a change in societal reproduction mode from a society mainly driven by class differences to a society mainly driven by risk. Even though this assumption was continuously criticized there is still a lack of newer studies of the reproduction of social inequalities in the risk society and how risk and inequalities interact, whether they mutually amplify or weaken inequalities. Papers are invited which contribute to the understanding of the societal reproduction of social inequalities in the risk society.

. Risk, Uncertainty, and Social Suffering

Chair: Marja-Liisa Honkasalo, University of Helsinki, Finland  
([marja-liisa.honkasalo@helsinki.fi](mailto:marja-liisa.honkasalo@helsinki.fi))

Social suffering as a theoretical and methodological approach has recently been widely discussed within the domain of social sciences. Social suffering is approached from various perspectives; it is defined as a social category that connects different kinds of human problems, including pain, illness experience, political violence, and other trials for people to undergo or endure. Some scholars consider social suffering as lived experience, and as something that hinders the most meaningful in one's life. Still others, like Bourdieu, with his concept of *misère* considers sufferings in a plural and emphasizes human agency and praxis in shifting and multiple contexts of everyday life. The session aims to discussing the problems of risk in the context of social suffering, thus giving it a broader perspective upon the lived experience of uncertainty, contingency, and agency.

. Voluntary Risk Taking

Chair: Stephen Lyng, Carthage College, USA, [slyng@carthage.edu](mailto:slyng@carthage.edu)

In the context of risk, research often focuses on the individual's prevention of or coping with undesired events. The reasons and forms of why people seek risks and uncertainties are less well examined even though voluntary risk taking is an essential part of our life (Lupton/Tulloch 2002; Lyng 2005). Voluntary risk taking is addressed in a range of areas as crime, leisure time, sex, sports, work, drug use etc. The session aims to pool forms of voluntary risk taking in European societies.

Shared sessions with other research networks:

. Biography, Risk, and Uncertainty

(with RN 'Biographical Perspectives on European Societies')

Chair: Jens O. Zinn, [j.zinn@kent.ac.uk](mailto:j.zinn@kent.ac.uk) and Robin Humphrey,  
[Robin.Humphrey@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Humphrey@newcastle.ac.uk)

Biographical research and risk research are two rising stars of sociological and interdisciplinary research which converge in many respects. In risk research the pressing question on the factors how people perceive and respond to risk recently developed greater interest into narrative and biographical research since risk perceptions research, the psychometric paradigm and rational action approaches showed significant weaknesses. How current activities and orientations are embedded in the accumulation of experiences during the course of one's life is the central focus of biographical research. In this perspective risk perception and coping with risk is part of the overall management of one's life and its miseries and therefore only understandable against the background of one's biography embedded in a socio-historical context. Papers are welcome which examine people's everyday management of risks in a biographical perspective.

Please submit abstracts via the conference homepage by 15th February 2007.  
(<http://www.esa8thconference.com/abstractsubmission/index.php>)

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(2) CFP: ISTAS 2007

## Call for Papers: 2007 International Symposium on Technology and Society

The 2007 International Symposium on Technology and Society (ISTAS) will take place on June 1-2, 2007 at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The theme is "Risk, Vulnerability, Uncertainty, Technology and Society" with the following subthemes:

- Risk, technology and the nuclear weapons legacy (old weapons, new weapons, testing)
- Risk, technology and the nuclear present and future (new construction, waste disposal)
- Gaming technology and society (surveillance, computing, internet gaming, gambling addictions)
- Tourism and public health vulnerability (food and water safety, infectious disease prevention and containment, large scale evacuation and crowd management)
- Infrastructure vulnerability (water, energy, transportation; natural and human caused hazards)
- Managing uncertainty (statistics, modeling, communication)
- Financial risk and insurance (global warming, extreme events)

They also welcome submissions on other traditional ISTAS topics including environmental, health and safety implications of technology; engineering ethics and professional responsibility; history of technology; technical expertise and public policy; peace technology; and social issues related to energy, information technology and telecommunications.

Abstracts deadline: January 15, 2007

Send abstracts and questions to Dr. David M. Hassenzahl, ISTAS 2007 Conference Chair, at [david.hassenzahl@unlv.edu](mailto:david.hassenzahl@unlv.edu) (please put "ISTAS abstract" in the subject line)

For more information, visit: <http://www.unlv.edu/faculty/dmh/ISTAS2007>.

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### (3) CONFERENCE: SOCIETY FOR RISK ANALYSIS EUROPE 2007 The Hague, the Netherlands, 17-19 June 2007

The Society for Risk Analysis is a multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, scholarly, international society that provides an open forum for all those who are interested in risk analysis. Risk analysis is broadly defined to include risk assessment, risk characterization, risk communication and perception, risk management, and risk policy. It may concern individuals, public and private organizations, and society at a local, regional, national or global level. SRA-Europe is a section of the Society for Risk Analysis.

The 2007 conference of SRA-Europe will take place in The Hague, the Netherlands. The conference theme is "Building bridges: issues for future risk research". The conference aims to facilitate interaction among all players in the risk field: risk experts from all disciplines, and risk stakeholders as policy makers, the private sector, NGOs and other interest groups. The conference will take a comprehensive view of risk analysis. It will address existing and emerging risk issues which affect people in their environment. The progress made in two decades of SRA-Europe meetings will be evaluated and research focal points for the coming years will be identified. Focal points will be:

- Risk identification, quantification and mitigation
- Consequences, vulnerability and victim support
- Public perception & communication
- Financial and economic consequences

- Risk management through policy making and legislation
- Communication within and between organisations.

### **Conference activities**

The conference will start Sunday evening June 17, 2007, with an opening reception and will last through until Tuesday June 19, 2007. In 2 plenary sessions keynote speakers will present their view on important risk related developments, followed by short reflections from invited discussants. The conference will also include parallel sessions in the form of oral presentations, posters, round table discussions and symposia addressing a particular theme of interest. The conference will conclude with the conference dinner taking place on Tuesday evening. The conference language is English.

The keynote speakers will be announced soon on the Homepage.

### **Specific fields of interest**

The conference will be a forum for presentations on existing and emerging risk issues, from all risk related research disciplines. Presentations in the following categories will be of particular interest:

**Risk identification, quantification and mitigation:** Risks related to new technologies (DNA-technology, UMTS etc.), natural phenomena (like floods, volcanoes or violent storms), climate change, microbiological infection (pandemic influenza, Sars, food borne disease etc ) and terrorism are prominent in today's world. The assessment and mitigation of such risks is of crucial importance and will be explicitly addressed at the conference. Well-known existing risks, on the other hand, may prove to be less manageable than envisaged, and presentations in this area are also of special interest.

**Consequences, vulnerability and victim support:** Accidents and disasters happen. In today's modern, complex and global world, incidents not only affect local individuals, companies, organisations and governments but also those in other areas of the world. Conference participants are invited to share their research on the health-related, financial and emotional consequences for victims, and the manner in which these can be reduced. Indirect consequences in terms of loss of public trust, reputation loss and financial loss to industry, political damage to governmental authorities and desirable changes in risk communication policy will also be addressed.

**Public perception & communication:** Understanding risk perception and communication are essential components of the risk analysis process. Scientists, public, authorities and media all have their own perception of risks, which may give rise to societal controversies concerning the acceptability of situations perceived as hazardous. Special emphasis will thus be given to studies on risk perception and communication.

**Financial and economic consequences:** Accidents lead to physical damage and, in severe cases, to the destruction of important infrastructural elements, which might affect economic development. The insurance branch continually has to recalculate financial risks and reconsider insurance premiums and coverage. Accident and risk prevention have become important economic activities, in which attitudes and issues of perception and communication are gaining importance as well.

**Risk management through policy making and legislation:** To remedy hazardous situations and prevent future disasters, rules and regulations are needed. New risks and accidents might call for a response from policy makers. As the countries of the world become more and more interdependent and the number of multinationals increases, the need for homogeneous international risk policy and legislation also increases. A special session will be held on the policy implications of risks and accidents.

**Communication within and between organisations:** Effective risk management depends on adequate communication and cooperation within and between organisations, including governmental agencies. Trust is often seen to play a key role here. At the conference, the manner in which the communication between organisations can be improved, will be an important issue.

The Conference Venue will be the World Forum Conference Center (WFCC) in The Hague, the Netherlands. You can find information on the hotel accomodation elsewhere on this site. The Hague is easily reached by plane from all over the world.

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(4) Tagungsankündigung: "Gott sei Dank ist Dortmund noch eben verschont geblieben ..."  
Vom Umgang mit Katastrophen und Risiken vor Ort.

Eine Tagung des Vereins „Historikerinnen und Historiker vor Ort e.V.“ im Westfälischen Industriemuseum Zeche Nachtigall in Witten, Freitag, 19.1.2007, 10 bis 17 Uhr

Katastrophen verändern nicht nur das Leben einzelner Menschen, sondern haben einschneidende Auswirkungen auf eine ganze Gemeinde, Stadt oder Region. So betont der US-amerikanische Soziologe Enrico L. Quarantelli, dass bei einer Katastrophe „die gesamte Gemeinde betroffen“ sei, „so dass sich nahezu alle in einer ähnlichen Situation befinden“ und „die meisten der Alltagsfunktionen ... gleichzeitig und scharf unterbrochen“ sind. In der Industriegesellschaft haben Katastrophen zumeist technische Ursachen und provozieren eine Auseinandersetzung darüber, welche Risiken eine Gesellschaft bei der Nutzung bestimmter Technologien einzugehen bereit ist. Die kollektive Verarbeitung der Katastrophenfolgen kann so den Umgang mit technischen Risiken beeinflussen.

Kernfragen der Tagung sind, wie sich Katastrophen „vor Ort“ auswirken, wie sie verarbeitet werden, welche Lehren gezogen werden und wie sich das innere Gefüge der lokalen Gesellschaft und ihr Verhältnis zu technischen Risiken verändert. Dabei werden sowohl historische als auch ein aktuelles Beispiel herangezogen. Am Schluss steht die Frage, wie örtliche Katastrophen in die Geschichtsarbeit vor Ort einbezogen werden und welche Rolle Archive und Museen dabei spielen können.

Anlass der Tagung ist die Explosion der Roburit-Sprengstofffabrik in Witten vor 100 Jahren, bei der Teile von Annen und Witten zerstört wurden. Das Westfälische Industriemuseum Zeche Nachtigall, in dem die Tagung stattfindet, widmet dieser industriellen Katastrophe eine Ausstellung (bis 28.1.2007).

Der Verein Historikerinnen und Historiker vor Ort e.V. ist ein Zusammenschluss von historisch Arbeitenden, die sich mit der Erforschung und Vermittlung von Geschichte auf lokaler Ebene beschäftigen. Entstanden aus dem Vorhaben, kulturelle Geschichtsarbeit in Städten und Gemeinden zu etablieren, gehören "StadthistorikerInnen" heute zum festen Bestandteil beinahe jeder Kommune. Die Mitglieder des Vereins stammen mehrheitlich aus Nordrhein-Westfalen. Viele von ihnen arbeiten hier vor allem in den städtischen Archiven und Museen. Daneben zählt mittlerweile eine Vielzahl junger Forscher, die freiberuflich tätig sind, zum festen Stamm des Vereins.

Es wird eine Tagungsgebühr in Höhe von 20 Euro erhoben (Vereinsmitglieder und Studierende: 15 Euro), darin sind Getränke und Kuchen enthalten.

Anmeldung:

per e-mail an [tagung@historiker-vor-ort.de](mailto:tagung@historiker-vor-ort.de)

oder per Post an:

Historikerinnen und Historiker vor Ort e.V.  
c/o Dr. Frank Ahland  
Humboldtstraße 12  
58452 Witten

Fon: 0 23 02 / 203 59 05

### **Tagungsprogramm**

10.00 Uhr s.t. Eröffnung/Begrüßung

Dr. Frank Ahland, Vorsitzender des Vereins „Historikerinnen und Historiker vor Ort“

10.15 Uhr Zwischen „Fewersnoth“ und „Wassersnoth“. Stadtbrände und Sturmfluten als „normale Ausnahmefälle“ der frühneuzeitlichen Gesellschaft

Dr. Marie Luisa Allemeyer, Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte, Göttingen

10.45 Uhr Kaffeepause

11.00 Uhr Solidarität und Konflikt in der Katastrophe. Witten und Annen nach der Explosion der Roburit-Sprengstofffabrik 1906

Dr. Frank Ahland, Historiker u. Publizist, Witten

11.20 Uhr Die Katastrophe als Sensation. Zur Presseberichterstattung über das Wittener Roburit-Unglück 1906

Jens Wietschorke, Kulturwissenschaftler, Berlin

11.40 Uhr Protest nach der Katastrophe. Anwohner gegen die Castroper Sicherheitssprengstofffabrik 1907

Andreas Göbel, Historiker, Castrop-Rauxel

12.00 Uhr Diskussion

12.30 Uhr Mittagessen

13.15 Uhr Führungen durch die Ausstellung „Sprengstoff. Die Explosion der Wittener Roburit-Fabrik 1906“ und durch das Besucherbergwerk Nachtigallstollen

14.30 Uhr Die Katastrophe bewältigen. Nach der Explosion in Enschede (NL) im Jahr 2000

Jan Bron, Stadsdeelmanagement Noord der Gemeente Enschede

15.00 Uhr Inszenierte Katastrophen? Technische Risiken und Katastrophen als Ausstellungsthema

Dr. Stefan Poser, Zentrum Technik u. Gesellschaft an der Technischen Universität Berlin

15.30 Uhr Diskussion

15.45 Uhr Kaffeepause

16.00 Uhr Was bleibt? Risiko und Katastrophe in der Geschichtsarbeit vor Ort (Impulsvortrag mit offener Diskussion)

Stefan Nies, Dudde u. Nies Geschichtsagentur, Dortmund

16.30 Uhr Abschlussdiskussion

17.00 Uhr Schluss der Veranstaltung

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(5) Neuere Veröffentlichungen – Bitte um Mitarbeit!

Liebe KatNetlerInnen,

Der Newsletter "Philosophy of Risk" (To (un)subscribe to PHILRISKNEWS, send an e-mail message to [owner-philrisknews@infra.kth.se](mailto:owner-philrisknews@infra.kth.se)) informiert über neuere Publikationen zum Thema Risiko. Dort sind freilich immer auch für uns relevante Beiträge dabei. Vielleicht gelingt es uns zukünftig, auch über unsere Liste regelmäßig über neuere Publikationen zu informieren. Dafür braucht es Eure Unterstützung: Bitte informiert uns über neuere Publikationen, auf die wir hinweisen können! Dies gilt insbesondere auch für solche, für die Ihr selbst publiziert habt!

### Neuere Publikationen

D'Agostino F: Kuhn's Risk-Spreading Argument and the Organization of Scientific Communities. Episteme 1(3) F 2005 pp. 201-209

Chapman A. Regulating Chemicals - from risks to riskiness. Risk Analysis, 2006 26(3) pp.603-616 [direct link](#)

Grajeda T: "Disasterologies". Social Epistemology 19(4) October-December 2005, pp. 315 -319 [direct link](#)

Hughes J: How Not to Criticize the Precautionary Principle. The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy, 31(5) October 2006

Jacob C; Walters A: Risk and Responsibility in Chemical Research: The Case of Agent Orange. HYLE-International Journal for Philosophy of Chemistry, Vol. 11, No.2 (2005), pp. 147-166.[direct link](#)

Levy K: The Solution to the Problem of Outcome Luck: Why Harm Is Just As Punishable As the Wrongful Action That Causes It. Law and Philosophy My 2005; 24(3): 263-303

Løkke S: The Precautionary Principle and Chemicals Regulation: Past Achievements and Future Possibilities. ESPR - Environ Sci & Pollut Res, vol. 13, no. 5, pp. 342-349, 2006 [direct link](#)

May T: Public Communication, Risk Perception, and the Viability of Preventive Vaccination Against Communicable Diseases. Bioethics Ag 2005; 19(4): 407-421

Möller N; Hansson SO; Peterson M: Safety is more than the antonym of risk. Journal of Applied Philosophy, 23:419-432, 2006

Peterson M: The Precautionary Principle is Incoherent. Risk Analysis 26(3) June 2006 [direct link](#)

Post DL: The Precautionary Principle and Risk Assessment in International Food Safety: How the World Trade Organization Influences Standards. Risk Analysis 26(5) October 2006 [direct link](#)

Sjöberg L: Rational Risk Perception: Utopia or Dystopia? Journal of Risk Research 9(6): 683-696, 2006

Smith C: Understanding Trust and Confidence: Two Paradigms and Their Significance for Health and Social Care. Journal of Applied Philosophy. 2005; 22(3): 299-316

Sternberg E: Classical Precariousness vs. Modern Risk: Lessons in Prudence from the Battle of Salamis. Humanitas (Journal of the National Humanities Institute). 2005; 18(1-2): 141-163

Voss M: Symbolische Formen. Grundlagen und Elemente einer Soziologie der Katastrophe. Transcript: 2006.

Weiss C: Can there be science-based precaution? Environmental Research Letters 1, 2006 [direct link](#)

Wendler D: Protecting Subjects Who Cannot Give Consent: Toward a Better Standard for "Minimal" Risks. Hastings Center Report. S-O 2005; 35(5): 37-43