



ISCRAM2009
**The 6th International Conference on Information Systems for
Crisis Response and Management**

Gothenburg, Sweden
May 10-13, 2009
<http://www.iscram.org>

TRACK: Open Track

CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR A SPECIAL SESSION ON

Biosurveillance in Crisis Response and Management

Session ID: OPEN2

Motivation

Many crises, whether due to natural hazards, political events, or evolutionary change, involve threats to human, animal, plant, food, or environmental health and well-being. However, biosurveillance--detection and observation of health-related events (e.g., disease outbreaks)--has not received much attention from researchers in crisis response and management. This session aims to bring an understanding of biosurveillance and its challenges into the ISCRAM community, and facilitate exchange between biosurveillance and general crisis management communities.

Research Area

While not an entirely new concept, biosurveillance is increasingly critical in the modern world. In recent history, the geographic isolation between plants and animals has been gradually broken by the intentional or natural transport of organisms through human travel, tourism or trade. Today, the rate at which species are moving between different biogeographic regions is unprecedented, resulting in adverse ecological, economic, and human health consequences. Additionally, global environmental changes have continued to grow rapidly throughout the past five years. These changes to climate, transport networks, disease pathogens and their vectors do not respect administrative boundaries, and their influences and impacts are best addressed on a global scale. These factors have contributed to an environment where new disease threats can spread globally within hours or days. This requires biosurveillance systems to be cross-disciplinary, support global collaboration, and make use of technological innovation as rapidly as possible.

Over the last decade, the majority of the designs, analyses and evaluations of biosurveillance systems have been geared towards specific data sources and detection algorithms. Much less effort has been focused on how these systems will "interact" with humans. For example, consider multiple domain experts working at different levels across different organizations in an environment where numerous biosurveillance algorithms may

provide contradictory interpretations of ongoing events. Effective biosurveillance is challenging in routine circumstances, and becomes even more critical and challenging in situations where multiple factors may interact to create complex crises. This session seeks to bring the needs of biosurveillance to the attention of the ISCRAM community and offer the biosurveillance community the resources of the ISCRAM community.

Topics

- Suggested topics include but are not limited to:
- Current challenges in biosurveillance
- Technologies and methods for biosurveillance
- The role of biosurveillance in global health, disaster or humanitarian action
- Applications of crisis response and management technologies to biosurveillance, and biosurveillance technologies to crisis response and management
- Research, development and evaluation methods for biosurveillance
- Integrating biosurveillance in crisis preparedness and response efforts

Type of contribution:

- **Academic contribution:** we invite researchers from academia or research labs to present their research or research-in-progress papers. Prospective presenters submit a regular research (or research-in-progress) paper.
- **Practitioner contribution:** we invite practitioners to present their practice or experiences in information systems development, use or needs. Prospective presenters submit a short practitioner paper or a Powerpoint presentation along with an abstract.

Important Notice:

- All submissions must be formatted according to the ISCRAM 2009 formatting guidelines. Templates and instructions are published on www.iscram.org.
- All submissions must be submitted through the ISCRAM 2009 conference paper submission web page at www.conftool.com/iscram2009. Instructions for the ConfTool system can be found on www.iscram.org.
- All papers and presentations will go through a double-blind review process, leading to a decision of (conditional) acceptance or rejection.
- Accepted papers will be included in the ISCRAM 2009 program and published in the official proceedings if and only if
 - (1) the paper is formatted according to the instructions,
 - (2) the authors sign the copyright transfer form and
 - (3) one of the authors registers for the conference and pays the registration fee before the cut-off date for early registration.
- Authors who have multiple papers accepted can only register for and present one paper at the conference; co-authors need to register separately.

Session Chairs:



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Important ISCRAM 2009 Dates:

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| • Submission deadline: | January 11, 2009 |
| • Notification of conditional accept: | February 16, 2009 |
| • Final submission revised paper: | March 1, 2009 |
| • Final author notification: | March 9, 2009 |
| • Early registration deadline: | March 22, 2009 |
| • Conference: | May 10-13 2009 |

About ISCRAM:

The ISCRAM Community is a worldwide community of researchers, scholars, teachers, students, practitioners and policy makers interested or actively involved in the subject of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. At its annual international conference alternating between the US and Europe, the ISCRAM Community gathers to present and discuss the latest research and developments in this growing area during an interactive and stimulating 3 day program. The ISCRAM Community also organizes an International Summer School for PhD students and ISCRAM-CHINA, an annual conference for ISCRAM research in China. All information on ISCRAM can be found at <http://www.iscram.org>

This year the conference will be held from 10-13 May at the Göteborg University located in Gothenburg, Sweden. The conference will be hosted by the Viktoria Institute and the IT-university of Gothenburg. All details on this conference will be made available via the ISCRAM website mentioned above.