



The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Information Systems for  
Crisis Response and Management

Delft, the Netherlands, May 13-16 2007  
<http://www.iscram.org>

## CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR A SPECIAL *ACADEMIC/PRACTITIONER* SESSION ON

## Grounding Research in Reality

Session ID: 21GCMR

### Motivation for this session:

*That's all very well in practice, but it'll never work in theory!—Anonymous*

A common conception is that communities of research produce theory, communities of practice produce practice, and each benefits automatically from the other. Unfortunately, theory and practice are all too often worlds apart. Researchers produce theory that is intellectually interesting but which does not address problems of practical interest, while practitioners expend time and effort in re-inventing ad hoc solutions to problems that are easily solved by application of theory. In the field of crisis response and management, delays in improving practice can cost lives, inflict suffering, and cause irreversible damage to natural and social systems. ISCRAM is committed to supporting intellectually important research on information systems for crisis response and management and related fields, regardless of its immediately apparent practical value. However, ISCRAM also recognizes a social responsibility to engage and nurture research that is grounded in the complex realities of practice, and which is aimed at identifying and addressing the critical needs of current practice.

### Research Area

This session is aimed at bringing the challenges and realities of working in actual critical situation management settings—including crisis response and management, disaster management and humanitarian relief—to the foreground. The goal is to enrich current research, expose new research problems, and suggest novel approaches to solutions.

## Topics

Some non-exhaustive examples of topics that could contribute to this session are:

- Methods for conducting research in critical situation management settings
- Challenges to conducting research in critical situation management settings, including difficulties of developing, deploying or evaluating technologies
- Observed novel or inventive uses of information systems in actual critical situation management settings
- Expected or unexpected results from developing, deploying or evaluating information systems in actual critical situation management settings
- Failures of information systems in actual critical situation management settings, particularly failures due to assumptions that appear logically sound but which were inappropriate in practice
- Requirements for information systems design, development or deployment, derived from observations of actual critical situation management settings

“War” stories are encouraged, but observations and findings should be substantiated with direct evidence. Papers and presentations should focus on revealing the implications of such stories for research, design, development and deployment of information systems, rather than on the telling of the stories.

## Type of contributions:

- 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 which will be reviewed according to the usual academic standards.
- We invite practitioners and researchers to present their practice or experiences in information systems development, use or needs. Prospective presenters submit a powerpoint presentation which will be reviewed according to standards of relevance and contents.

**Important Notice:** All submissions must be submitted to the ISCRAM2007 central email address: [iscram2007@iscram.org](mailto:iscram2007@iscram.org).

All submissions must be formatted according to the ISCRAM2007 instructions published on [iscram.org](http://iscram.org). All papers, presentations or demos will go through a double-blind review process, leading to a decision of (conditional) acceptance or rejection. Acceptance rates at previous conferences were at 50-60 percent.

Accepted papers will be included in the ISCRAM2007 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 (see [iscram.org](http://iscram.org)) 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 Chair:



Susanne Jul

[sjul@pdc.org](mailto:sjul@pdc.org)

Pacific Disaster Center  
Kihei HI, USA

## Important ISCRAM2007 Deadlines:

- Paper Submission Deadline: January 15, 2007
- Notification of acceptance: February 22, 2007
- Closing date Early Registration: March 1, 2007
- Final version submission deadline: March 15, 2007
- ISCRAM2007: May 13-16 2007

## 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 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 13-16 May in the Netherlands in the city of Delft. All details on this conference will be made available via the ISCRAM website mentioned above.

## **TIP!**

**If you have the intent to submit a paper or presentation** to one or more sessions, the session organizers would greatly appreciate an early, voluntary, notification. Please send your abstract TO: the Session Chair(s) (See e-mail addresses above) *and* CC it to: [iscram2007@iscram.org](mailto:iscram2007@iscram.org).

**The subject of the mail should be:**

"Abstract for <session ID> on <your short title>"

**The content of the mail should include:**

- The type of contribution you want to submit: an academic paper, a presentation or a demo
- The title of your contribution
- A short description (abstract) of your contribution (10 lines)
- Any remarks/questions you have.

The session organizers will answer any questions you have, and may provide you with some tips.

Please note that submitting an abstract is not obligatory; it will be appreciated however. The organizing committees will not review the abstracts, or make a selection on the basis of abstracts. Only the final and full submissions will be used for this purpose. Sending an abstract does not oblige you to submit the full paper.