



5th International Conference on
Information Systems for
Crisis Response and Management

Washington, DC, USA
May 4-7, 2008
<http://www.iscram.org>

CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR A SPECIAL *ACADEMIC* SESSION ON

Applications of System Dynamics for Crisis Response and Management

Session ID: MOD-01

Motivation

Decisive action during crises is most effective when the scope and complexity of a problem is well-understood. In most situations, however, the implications of an emerging crisis situation are hidden, and initial responses may exacerbate longer-term recovery. Incomplete information, unknown interdependencies, policy-resistant feedback loops and organizational barriers limit the ability to develop clarity and cohesion among crisis responders. Simulation and simulation models enable testing of various assumptions and provide decision-makers with the ability to explore the consequences of choices before and during a crisis. They can also be useful as a mechanism to capture post-hoc insights into why problems occurred in previous crisis response as an adjunct to root cause analysis.

Research Area

The use of system dynamics as a tool for crisis preparation, reaction, and learning is still in its infancy. System dynamics modeling has been identified as a particularly good tool for codifying and exploring complex domains. Its ability to incorporate hard and soft data and the explicit capture of expert insight into these models grounds these models in ways not available to traditional techniques.

As such, we are looking for academic research that helps improve the use and dissemination of system dynamics-based crisis management and learning models.

Topics

- System dynamics simulation for after action analysis reporting and response planning
- Formal and informal models to identify leverage points in emergency response
- Techniques for transferring simulation lessons into emergency preparedness

- Mechanisms for development of actionable information through simulation tools and experiments
- Ad-hoc extensions to existing simulations to support rapid decision making
- Simulation as a mechanism to manage information overload and stress during crises
- Organizational structures and conflicts that improve or inhibit effective crisis response and recovery

Type of contribution:

- **Academic Session:** we invite researchers from academia or research laboratories to present their research or research-in-progress papers. Prospective presenters must submit a regular research (or research-in-progress) paper.

Papers that respond to the special session as well as those that apply systems thinking or system dynamics to any aspect of crisis response and management are welcome.

Important Notice:

- All submissions must be formatted according to the ISCRAM 2008 formatting guidelines. Templates and instructions are published on www.iscram.org.
- All submissions must be submitted through the ISCRAM 2008 conference paper submission web page at www.conftool.com/iscram2008. 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 2008 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 2008 Dates:

- December 21, 2007: Paper submission deadline
- February 10, 2008: Notification of (conditional) acceptance
- February 22, 2008: Early registration deadline
- March 1, 2008: Final camera-ready paper submission deadline
- May 4-7, 2008: ISCRAM 2008

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>

ISCRAM 2008 will be held from 4-7 May at the George Washington University (GWU) located in Washington, DC, USA. The conference will be hosted by GWU's Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management (ICDRM). All details on this conference will be made available via the ISCRAM website mentioned above.