

## Panel:

# Research Frontiers in ISCRAM

### PANELISTS

- Jack Harrald, The George Washington University, USA
- David Mendonça, New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA
- Mark Haselkorn, University of Washington, USA
- Susanne Jul, InSTEDD

### PANEL ABSTRACT

This session is motivated by the observation that information and communication technology (ICT) for crisis management functions best when its design follows from a solid understanding of the sociotechnical systems it is meant to support. Yet as is evident from past and more current research, there are significant gaps in scientific understanding concerning how ICT should be designed, used and evaluated. An agenda for basic research in ICT for crisis management is needed to identify questions which will enable researchers to begin to close these gaps.

This session reports on three recent and inter-related efforts to scope out the research frontier in the area of ICT for crisis management:

- Jack Harrald reports on the results of a study<sup>1</sup> conducted to inform researchers, policy makers and emergency management professionals about future opportunities for the development and application of ICT for crisis management.
- David Mendonça reports on the results of an international workshop<sup>2</sup> on defining an agenda for multi-disciplinary research in the area of ICT.
- Mark Haselkorn reports on a workshop<sup>3</sup> held to define research needs in the emerging area of humanitarian service science and engineering.
- Susanne Jul offers a perspective from the non-profit sector on these results and discusses possible mechanisms for collaboration between researchers and organizations working in this area.

The session will conclude with open discussion with the panel and attendees.

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<sup>1</sup> Committee on Using Information Technology to Enhance Disaster Management (2007). *Improving Disaster Management: The Role of IT in Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery*. National Research Council, Washington, DC.

<sup>2</sup> Mendonça, D. and W.A.G.A. Bouwman (2007). "Workshop on Information and Communications Technology for Crisis Management: Defining an Agenda for Scientific Research." Sponsored by Delft University of Technology and US National Science Foundation (<http://sk.tbm.tudelft.nl/crisisICT2007/>).

<sup>3</sup> Haselkorn, M. (2007). "Towards a Research Program in Humanitarian Service Science and Engineering Workshop." ISCRAM Conference Proceedings, based on results of workshop sponsored by US National Science Foundation.