

ISCRAM

The Situation Report



13th Annual Conference for Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

May 22- 25, 2016



ISCRAM 2016 The 13th International Conference on Information
Systems for Crisis Response and Management

CALL FOR PAPERS

<http://www.iscram2016.nce.ufri.br>

Important Dates

Long Papers, panels, workshops: **Friday, November 20th, 2015**

Short Papers, posters, demonstrations, doctoral consortium: **Friday, January 29th, 2016**

(IMPORTANT: These are hard deadlines that will not be extended)

ISCRAM2016 PAPER SUBMISSIONS

ISCRAM2016 invites two categories of papers:

- Long papers presenting completed work including a description of methods, results and validation (4,000-6,000 words)
- Short papers presenting work in earlier stages, outlining concepts and discussing first results (2,000-3,500 words)

You are also invited to choose the review process:

- Research papers will be reviewed according to scientific standards
- Insight Papers are reviewed with respect to practical relevance and applicability

For each type of paper, submissions are welcome from academics, researchers, practitioners, technical or other experts, policy makers, or other professionals in the emergency management domain. The ISCRAM2016 proceedings will clearly identify the type of submission and reviewing process chosen.

LIST OF TRACKS

- [Analytical Modeling and Simulation](#)
- [Command and Control Studies](#)
- [Community Engagement & Practitioner Cases](#)
- [Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues](#)
- [Geospatial Data & Geographical Information Science](#)
- [Human Centered Design and Evaluation](#)
- [Intelligent Decision Support in the Networked Society](#)
- [Planning, Foresight and Risk Analysis](#)
- [Social Media Studies](#)
- [Emerging Topics](#)

PANELS, WORKSHOPS, DEMONSTRATIONS, POSTERS AND A DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM

ISCRAM2016 also welcomes workshops, panels (deadline: Nov 20th), posters, demonstrations, and the doctoral consortium (deadline: Jan 29th). Additional calls for these opportunities will be published on the main ISCRAM2016 website. www.iscram2016.nce.ufrj.br

TO SUBMIT A PAPER

1. Authors must submit papers electronically through the conference system.

<https://www.conftool.com/iscram2016/>

2. All papers must use the ISCRAM paper template and follow the ISCRAM house style. The template is available on the Conference homepage. www.iscram2016.nce.ufrj.br

3. Papers may be submitted to either a Track or the Emergent Theme Open Track. Read through the calls of the individual tracks www.iscram2016.nce.ufrj.br and select the track that is closest to the topic of your paper. If none match closely enough, submit to the Emergent Theme Track and your paper will be grouped by keyword with relevant reviewers.

Important Dates for ISCRAM 2016 Authors

20 November 2015	Long Papers, panels and workshops due
15 January 2016	Long Papers & Panel Proposals Acceptance notification
29 January 2016	Short Papers, posters, demonstrations, doctoral consortium
15 February 2016	Short Papers, posters, demonstrations, doctoral consortium
Acceptance Notification	
	Camera-ready copies of Long Papers
26 February 2016	Camera-ready Short Papers deadline

Submission of the camera-ready version on Feb 26 is a commitment to sending at least one author

per paper to the conference. If authors are on multiple papers, the number of registrations in total must meet or exceed the number of papers per collective author group.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us at:
iscram2016.papers@iscram.org

*****IMPORTANT TO NOTE*****

If you will need a visa to travel to Brazil to attend this conference please apply 5, or more, months in advance-- in that some applicants have experienced significant delays.



Collaborations in and around ISCRAM

Julie Dugdale

Over the years at the ISCRAM conferences we have been exposed to some visionary ideas, and have heard about state of the art technologies and cutting edge research. Listening to these advances I was struck by how far we have come in our concerted efforts to address the issues at the heart of crisis response and management. Although progress has undoubtedly been made, we need to look forward, assess our strengths, identify the challenges remaining and see where we want to be in future as a community.

ISCRAM is in some senses unique, our community spans a breadth of disciplines and includes a healthy mix of researchers, practitioners and representatives from governmental and non-governmental organisations. This mix in itself is something of an achievement, but in addition we are a community that listens; we are exceptionally open to other peoples points of view. The closed-minded attitude, which is sometimes found in other communities, is thankfully a very rare thing to find in ISCRAM. A willingness to listen to other people's views seems such a simple thing and such openness is a strength that we should build upon. We meet many interesting and knowledgeable people through the ISCRAM community and the events it holds. As a community we should lever this advantage, using our ISCRAM contacts to build functional teams that address a particular problem, whether this is in the form of a research project or a more hands-on practical objective. How can ISCRAM support this practically? Well, we have already made a start at the ISCRAM 2015 conference with the introduction of the EU project symposium that showcased European funded research in our area. We could extend this and maybe think about a 'searching for partners and skills exchange' session at an ISCRAM event. Going further maybe ISCRAM could provide an interface to funding bodies and agencies in the form of a contact platform.

As a community we have vast resources of knowledge and data to draw upon; a plethora of field studies are being undertaken, technological advances are being made, critical insights are given into how crisis

response and management is undertaken on the ground in real situations. Is it enough that we just report on the results of these efforts? Could we make more of an effort to share what we have generated and to harness a lot of untapped potential for collaborations? Rather than just sharing articles perhaps we could imagine a data repository where we could share amongst other things raw experimental data for use by others.

Despite these community strengths and from an academic point of view another aspect that has been a challenge for us over the years is trying to ensure that our work actually reaches ground level - that it is not just an academic exercise, but is really used in crisis or emergency situations. Despite our increased collaborations with practitioners and some excellent efforts in participative design, we are still weak in this respect. Too often practitioners are involved in systems development only in the very early stages (system specification) or helping for testing the final result (system testing). The advantages of increased practitioner involvement in our work are clear: increased system quality, better usability and more user satisfaction, not to mention added buy-in value. In our work, are we really involving end-users enough at all stages of our work? The idea of participative design or cooperative design is not new, and indeed it is not always the easiest route to take, but we need to make an effort to involve stakeholders in all phases of development.

Looking at collaboration with other organizations and societies, ISCRAM has succeeded in gaining a level of commitment, in the form of MOUs or collaboration agreements, with several entities including OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), IAEM (International association of Emergency Managers), IDP (the Institute of Disaster Prevention in Beijing, China), and the JRC (Joint Research Centre of the European Commission). Common objectives have been defined and links have been made thanks to the work of ISCRAM Board members past and present. Now is a chance to develop these links and to go further in our work with these entities.

To sum up, I've tried to jot down a few thoughts about mutually beneficial collaborations. Many of these ideas have been born through discussions and the work of ISCRAM Board members and people in our community. The growth and interest in ISCRAM has shown that we are doing some things right, but we need to keep pushing further in order to forward our research and to make a difference where it really counts....on the ground.



NEW REPORTS

Kim Hagen

Research Analyst [Trilateral Research and Consulting](#)

We have just finished a very exciting and rewarding study on social media analysis tools for disaster risk reduction and preparedness, funded by the Global Disaster Preparedness Center/American Red Cross. The report presents the findings of research, funded by the Global Disaster Preparedness Center, and designed to support the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) network and other humanitarian actors in their selection and use of SMAT for disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

The report, based on research undertaken by Trilateral between March and June 2015, examines how SMAT are a valuable tool not only for disaster response, but also for DRR and disaster preparedness efforts as they allow for community engagement and the ability to 'listen to' conversations on social media. The report examines 31 SMAT that can contribute to the disaster preparedness work of humanitarian actors in a variety of ways, such as: evaluating and improving the quality of preparedness messages; increasing the reach of preparedness messages; scheduling preparedness messages to increase their relevance, and managing the organisation's reputation.

A copy of the report is available on our website, via the following link: <http://goo.gl/NpRpG6>

JOBS

Texas A&M University

Public Service and Administration Department

Bush School of Government and Public Service

The Department of Public Service and Administration in The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University invites nominations and applications for a tenure-track assistant professor in public management and public policy who will contribute to the department in the areas of teaching, research and service. Potential areas of interest include, but are not limited to: homeland security, disaster preparedness, budgeting, policy analysis, and the role of organizational networks in policy implementation. Successful applicants must have a Ph.D. by the beginning of employment on September 1, 2016, and must demonstrate a commitment to high quality research and teaching in a professional school of public affairs.

Learn more at: <https://chroniclevitae.com/jobs/0000895152-01#sthash.MB1Drwic.dpuf>

Georgetown University

The Executive Master of Professional Studies (EMPS) in Emergency & Disaster Management (EDM) program at the Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies (scs.georgetown.edu) seeks a full-time Faculty Director with experience teaching emergency and disaster management, public administration, disaster science, systems engineering or related fields, including online synchronous and asynchronous instruction and in experiential group learning environments.

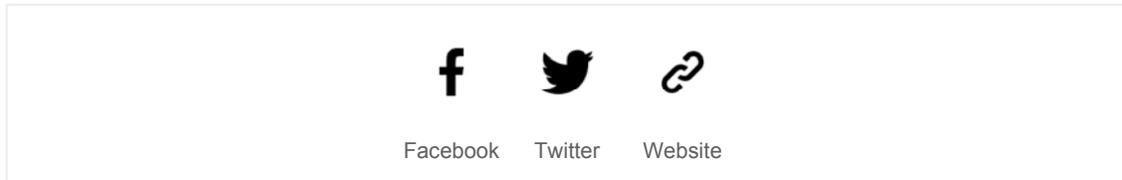
Learn more at: <https://chroniclevitae.com/jobs/0000891307-01#sthash.191K5RqE.dpuf>

ISCRAM: The Situation Report

The monthly newsletter of the ISCRAM Association

The ISCRAM Association's primary mission is to foster a community dedicated to promoting research and development, exchange of knowledge and deployment of information systems for crisis management, including the social, technical and practical aspects of all information and communication systems used or to be used in all phases of management of emergencies, disasters, and crises.

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ISCRAMlive.org

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