

# ISCRAM



## NEWSLETTER

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[www.iscram.org](http://www.iscram.org)

### Editorial: ISCRAM2013 Edition

Another year; another ISCRAM international conference: as I write this editorial we are less than two weeks from the opening session of ISCRAM2013. It promises to be yet another outstanding conference. Registrations have already topped 200: it will be a lively affair with a very full programme. So, friends, I look forward to seeing you there.

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Newsletter Editor  
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### Membership Fees Due

The ISCRAM Association membership year begins on April 1 and runs to March 31. This means that all our memberships expired at the end of March and our membership fees for

#### Institutional Members



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DARMSTADT

2013-2014 are due. So, if you haven't, please renew your membership now at:  
<http://www.iscramlive.org/portal/join-iscram>.

### ISCRAM General Assembly 2013

May 14, 2013, 17:30  
Kongresshaus, Baden-Baden

#### Agenda

1. Short presentation of the present Board of Directors
2. Acceptance of membership, for members proposed by the board of directors
3. Approval of the yearly accounting report and the budget proposal
4. Approval of the reports and workplans of the board of directors
  - a. Meetings Committee
  - b. Membership Committee
  - c. Marketing and Communications Committee
  - d. Publications and Academic Standards Committee
5. Granting of discharge for the current members of the board of directors
6. Election of new members of the board of directors:
  - a. Short presentation on the House rules concerning the Board of Directors Election and Vote on these rules
  - b. Announcement of the set-up of the 2013 Election Committee
  - c. Election of the new Board of Directors
7. Further communications on the Association

### ISCRAM Board Elections

Voting for the ISCRAM Board of Directors' elections is open. Members are requested to

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post their votes for the candidates, who are presented immediately below and at <http://www.iscramlive.org/portal/board-candidates-2013>. Only registered members have voting rights and an email has been sent to all members describing the process in detail and providing a unique voter ID. If you are a fully paid-up member and have not received your voter ID, please email [electionchair@iscram.org](mailto:electionchair@iscram.org) as soon as possible.

ISCRAM members may vote in two ways:

1. Electronically before 11 May 2013, 6 pm (CET).
2. In Person at the ISCRAM General Assembly (GA) on 14 May at the ISCRAM 2013 conference in Baden-Baden.

The final results of the BoD Election will be available maximum one week after the General Assembly meeting and will be published on the ISCRAM website at <http://www.iscram.org>.

Jose J. Gonzalez  
Election Chair ISCRAM2013  
[electionchair@iscram.org](mailto:electionchair@iscram.org)

## Statements of Candidates for Election to the Board

### Victor Bañuls-Silvera



Universidad Pablo de  
Olavide, Seville, Spain

*Short Bio:* Dr. Victor A. Bañuls is Associate Professor of Management Information Systems at the Universidad Pablo de Olavide (UPO) at Seville (Spain). He also has served

as visiting research scholar at the New Jersey institute of Technology (NJ, U.S.A.), Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (RJ, Brazil) and Tilburg University (Tilburg, The Netherlands). He has participated in several national and international research projects, being IP of the research group Prospecta. Recently he has been guest editor of the journals TFSC, Upgrade and Novatica in special issues devoted to Foresight and Emergency Management. He is also currently involved as consultant in several innovation management projects and is chair of an Executive Master program on Integrated Management Systems and two Professional Specializations in Emergency Management and Preparedness.

*Previous ISCRAM Activities and Contributions:* Participation in four ISCRAM conferences. Co-

chair of the track Planning and Foresight since 2010. Active member of ISCRAM events committee since 2012. Presentations: four full papers, two posters and one short paper. I have learnt a lot and expanded my research network during all these years.

*Ambitions and Plans as a Board Member:* My main goal is enhancing the academic visibility 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. The academic success of this goal depends primarily on developing a regular readership of the ISCRAM proceedings, who will become part of the scholarly community, cite our proceedings in their own work, and tell others about the value of ISCRAM publications. To reach this goal, issues such as abstracting and indexing, special issues as well as agreements with academic journals are fundamental. I would be focus on this task, enhancing at the same time cooperation among all parties involved in EM (researchers, practitioners and policy makers).

### Tina Comes



Centre for Integrated  
Emergency Management  
(CIEM), University of Agder,  
Norway

*Short Bio:* As an Associate Professor in ICT at the University of Agder, Norway, I have a leading role in the interdisciplinary Centre for

Integrated Emergency Management (CIEM), which integrates cutting-edge technology development and excellent research in social sciences. Until recently I was head of the research group "Risk management" at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, where I am still a leading member of the SupplyChainLab focussing on Risk Management.

My research aims at supporting decision-makers in managing and mitigating risk in complex and uncertain situations. Typically, these decision problems require the collaboration of experts and decision-makers with different backgrounds, skills and requirements, and participatory approaches are needed that respect various individual and organisational goals. To support decision-makers and aid them to exploit the chances of modern ICT systems my work aims at bridging the gap between formal analytic models and understandable, ready-to-use evaluations. The primary domain of my research is crisis management, including applications in the fields of disruptions of critical infrastructures, nuclear and chemical emergency management and supply chain risk management. To cover

these domains, I combine my background in mathematics and modelling with knowledge in economics, decision theory and cognition.

*Previous ISCRAM Activities and Contributions:*

From the very onset of my academic career, ISCRAM has been the community that has inspired my research most. Starting as an eager participant at the PhD Colloquium and as a nervous presenter in Gothenburg 2009, over the years I have become more and more engaged in the community. I chair a Track on "Decision Support Methods and Tools", and - inspired by this year's topic - also a Track on "Decision Support for Robust Critical Infrastructure Systems" at the ISCRAM Conference, and I discussed the topic of uncertainty and scenario planning with the students at the Summerschool. To promote ISCRAM, I also reach out to further communities, for instance as a member of the Marketing and Communications Committee or by chairing tracks about ISCRAM topics at various conferences, such as a AMCIS2013, the MCDM Conference 2013, or ECIS2014. Undoubtedly, my greatest ISCRAM endeavour so far is being the Programme Chair of ISCRAM2013 (and I hope you will enjoy the Conference!!). I admit that at times, this was challenging, but on the whole I would like to continue this inspiring work with all of you as a member of the Board.

*Ambitions and Plans as a Board Member:* It's the economy, stupid!

Even in emergencies, which seem so very different from day-to-day (business) operations: logistics models can support decision-makers in disaster relief logistics; analyses of big data provide help in understanding large amounts of heterogeneous information, and advanced tracking, monitoring and communication systems enable getting an overview of the situations. Therefore, I believe that we need to be open to learn. As a member of the Board, I will reach out to further communities to make them an active part of ISCRAM, and I would like to encourage you to continue crossing barriers between disciplines, developed and developing countries, day-to-day and crisis operations, theoretical solutions and the actual needs of the users.

As Programme Chair of ISCRAM2013, I have been impressed with how many creative ideas you have developed to shape the future of emergency management. I would like to continue working with you on these approaches and concepts in the blogs, exercises and tutorials that we have started for ISCRAM2013 so that we can extend the impact of ISCRAM as a platform that encourages researchers and practitioners to think out of the box and strive to find answers to the new challenges in emergency management.

## Julie Dugdale



Grenoble University, France

*Short Bio:* Julie Dugdale is the leader of the MAGMA, Multi-agents research team at the Grenoble Informatics Laboratory in France. She is also an associate professor at the University of

Grenoble2 and an adjunct associate professor at the University of Agder, Norway. From 2003-2006 she was an invited researcher in a human-computer interaction team, and from 1998-2003 she worked in a cognitive engineering team in Toulouse. She currently teaches Masters computing students, mainly in the areas of artificial intelligence and modelling. Her research concerns agent based social simulation and focuses on modelling aspects of human behaviour using an agent-based approach. Her work is strongly multidisciplinary, drawing together the domains of artificial intelligence, cognitive science and the social sciences. Her work is applied to two fields: emergency and crisis management, and energy management for smart homes. Her models are typically used to develop simulations in order to improve work procedures or to develop new technologies. She has published widely in the area of agent based social simulation and is a member of various international conferences concerned with this topic. Similarly she has edited several journals and has several national and international projects concerning agent based social simulation applied to emergency and crisis management.

*Previous ISCRAM Activities and Contributions:*

Julie has been involved in the ISCRAM community since 2004. Her involvement originally came from publishing at ISCRAM and then additionally through organising or co-organising various tracks: 2007 - 2013 (except 2011) Intelligent Systems track; 2005 'Complexity, Crisis and Robustness' track; 2006 'Stakeholder Coordination for Crisis Management' track. She has a particular interest in mentoring PhD students and she co-organised the ISCRAM PhD Doctoral Colloquium in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012. In 2010 she was very proud and happy to receive the ISCRAM Distinguished Service Award. In 2010 she was an invited keynote speaker at ISCRAM-CHINA 2010 and in 2011 she was the Program Co-Chair for the ISCRAM 2011 Conference in Lisbon. She is currently Vice President of ISCRAM and Chair of the Events Committee. This committee provides support for all ISCRAM events, through soliciting bids, helping proposers to develop their bids, acting as liaison between the ISCRAM Board and the current conference organisers, and seeking

to organise new events, such as ISCRAM-Vietnam.

*Ambitions and Plans as a Board Member:*

Preparing for future events (ISCRAM, ISCRAM-Asia, etc.) is a large task that members of the events committee and I currently work on. However I would also like to extend ISCRAM's events. Currently ISCRAM is largely known mainly for its once yearly conference. However, it is not easy for large numbers of researchers and practitioners who are active in the area of crisis management to attend this event. Organising smaller, more local events throughout the world (either at a country level or regional level) would help to build and consolidate our community. We may think of people organising small workshops, seminars or teaching events, under the ISCRAM umbrella. We may also think of ISCRAM Affiliated events, i.e. giving our support to projects or events that have overlapping interests with ISCRAM. In support of these things I am also keen to further ISCRAM-Live (use of social media, video streaming, etc.) of our events since I believe that this will help to spread all the exciting things that we do in our community to a wider audience, encourage more people to share their experiences, and develop a larger and more active community.

**Liaquat Hossain**



Complex Systems Research,  
Faculty of Engineering and IT,  
The University of Sydney,  
Australia

*Short Bio:* My research focuses on exploring coordination for disaster/crisis management and understanding resilience

for dealing with disasters related to flood, fire, tsunami, disease outbreaks and other man made and bio related security and its connection to sustainability indicators. My ambition goes beyond simply being trans-disciplinary in the sense of e.g. combining sociology, political science and computational social sciences, but I actually combine social science and natural science approaches in a more profound sense (as indicated by my publication records which highlights publications in leading international peer reviewed journals in areas such as Informetrics, PLoS One, Disasters, computational science, sociology and social psychology, behavioural science, natural, physical and health sciences). I have been deeply involved in understanding the formation and adaptation of hierarchical, non-hierarchical, emerging and self-organized structures in social, biological, living, organizational as well as market systems. I have been investigating the functioning and robustness of hierarchical

structures and potential problem leading to disruption or delay in the adaptation of behaviours for optimal functioning. I consider the examination of feedback systems leading to effectiveness and efficiency in learning, correcting or intervention to changed behaviour an important step towards understanding performance outcome of different networks in social, biological, living, organizational and market systems. I am fascinated by the complexity of interactions of different macro and micro structures which could lead to positive, negative or improved outcome in different types of systems and sub systems. In my research, I use methods and analytical techniques from mathematical sociology (i.e., social networks analysis), social anthropology (i.e., interview and field studies) and computer science (i.e., information visualization, graph theoretic approaches and data mining techniques such as clustering) to explore coordination in distributed and complex setting, globally distributed work groups, organizational and individual performance and knowledge sharing and management support process.

*Previous ISCRAM Activities and Contributions:* I am the founding Editor-in-Chief Springer International Journal entitled Crisis Communications, which was launched recently in December 2012 with a world renowned international editorial and advisory board. I have secured more than \$6.5M in competitively research funding (recent 2013 EU FP 7 4.5m Euro, ARC Discovery, CRCs and ARDA Advanced Research Development Agency in the US). I have published 94 peer reviewed articles from 2008-2013, which includes 6 peer reviewed book chapters, 56 international peer reviewed journals with high impact factors, and 32 international most competitive peer reviewed conferences. My current googlescholar h-index is 12 with g-index 22 which shows my productivity index over the past years. My research work appeared in following major peer reviewed international journals: Journal of Informetrics (Impact Factor-IF: 4.299), PLOS ONE (IF: 4.092), Technovation (IF:3.278), Journal of IT and Decision Making (IF: 3.119), Knowledge-Based Systems (IF: 2.422), European Journal of Public Health (IF: 2.267), Journal of Computer Mediated Communication (IF: 1.958), Scientometrics (IF: 1.905), Statistics in Medicine Journal (IF: 1.877), Computers in Human Behavior Journal (IF: 1.865), Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications (IF: 1.562), International Journal of Project Management (IF:1.532), BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making (IF: 1.48), European Journal of Health Economics (IF: 1.337), Fire Safety Journal (IF: 1.017), Complexity Journal (IF: 1.13), Disasters-Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management (IF: 1.17), Knowledge Management Research and

Practice (IF: 0.855), Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (IF: 0.667), International Journal of Healthcare Quality, Construction Management and Economics, Project Management Institute Journal, Journal of High Technology Management Research, Disaster Management and Prevention and Journal of Decision Systems. My ongoing research partnership with CRC Bushfire has resulted in significant publications in high-impact peer-reviewed conferences and journals such as Disasters (Impact factor: 1.174); Journal of Fire Safety (IF: 1.017); Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (IF: 0.667); Disaster Management and Prevention and Journal of Decision Systems. I have similar working partnership to study coordinated response to disasters for NSW State Emergency Services (NSW SES), NSW Health and Hunter Area Health Networks in which a number of high impact journals papers such as Disasters Journal (IF: 1.174), Knowledge Management Research and Practice (Impact Factor: 0.855). My research further appeared in most competitive interdisciplinary engineering and systems peer reviewed international conferences such Future Security Conference 2012, ACM CSCW 2006/2008, ICIS 2006/2008/2010, IFIP (International Federation for Information Processing) 8.3 on Decision Support Systems 2006; 2008/2010/2012, IFIP TC 13 Human Computer Interactions 2008, IFIP 8.6 2007/2008, CHINZ (ACM Special Interest Group on HCI New Zealand), NAACSOS (North American Association for Computational Social and Organizational Sciences) and IFIP Working Group 8.6 on the Organizational Dynamics of Technology-based Innovation.

*Ambitions and Plans as a Board Member:* Develop cross disciplinary research strengths in areas of emergency and crisis management. Develop knowledge base highlighting the importance of crisis information modelling using computational methods. Support conference and journals in the area relevant to ISCRAM. Promote internationalization of ISCRAM.

### Gisli Olafsson



NetHope, USA

*Short Bio:* Emergency Response Director at NetHope, a consortium of 38 of the leading international NGOs around the world. 20+ years in disaster response. 30+ years in IT.

*Previous ISCRAM Activities and Contributions:* Presenter at ISCRAM 2010, 2012. Speaker at ISCRAM summer school.

*Ambitions and Plans as a Board Member:* To ensure that the voice of the practitioner community is heard within ISCRAM and thereby providing a good balance between the academic and practical aspects of our work.

### Linda Plotnick



Jacksonville State University, USA

*Short Bio:* I am an Assistant Professor of Information Systems at Jacksonville State University (JSU), Jacksonville, Alabama, USA.

My current research is focused primarily on the use of social media in emergency management, public perceptions of warning systems, evaluation of programs to train case managers to be more effective in times of crisis, and community resilience. I also have studied the threat rigidity thesis and its implication for emergency management system design, leadership and trust in partially distributed emergency response software development teams, and the development of a unified emergency scale. I am an active member of the Disaster and Community Resilience Research Center at JSU and, most significantly, have served on the ISCRAM Board for the past 2 years. I received my PhD in Information Systems in 2009 from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. My dissertation research studied student partially distributed virtual teams engaged in developing the software for an emergency management information system. In addition, I have attended, in 2010, the WISE (Women's Institute for Summer Enrichment) workshop which focused on cybersecurity and trustworthy systems. While my interests are eclectic, I am committed to striving to make a contribution to the emergency management domain.

*Previous ISCRAM Activities and Contributions:* I have been an ISCRAMer since 2006 when I assisted Murray Turoff in preparing for, and running, the conference at NJIT. ISCRAM is an important part of my career. I have attended the International Conference every year since 2006, except 2010, and have been co-author on papers presented at those conferences from 2007. I attended the Doctoral Consortium (2006) and Summer School (2007). I have been a Track co-chair from 2011 to 2013 (Social Media and Collaborative Systems) and chaired sessions in 2008 and 2009.

My most rewarding activity has been membership on the Board since 2011. My responsibilities include membership on the Events Committee and chairing the Membership Committee. My goal as Membership Committee

Chair has been to improve the membership experience. To accomplish that, we have made many changes including: conducting a survey of members to elicit ideas for future benefits, creating and maintaining a Volunteer page on the web site, improved member communication, creation of committee policies and procedures, adopting an ID system that indicates the year members first join, changing the membership year to be more aligned with the International Conference dates, and developing a working list of new benefits to be offered to members.

*Ambitions and Plans as a Board Member:* My overall goal is to continue to be of service to ISCRAM and its community: to help it maintain its current direction, incorporate new ideas, and promote and manage its growth. I am eager to serve ISCRAM in any way I can, but my primary focus will be on continuing the Membership Committee efforts. We have developed a list of additional benefits including, but not exclusive to, creating a members-only area of the web site for private discussion and research collaboration, access to articles from one or more high quality journals, and doctoral student areas for both discussion and links to dissertations, etc. Many of the new benefits will be able to be launched in the coming year after the infrastructure changes needed are in place. I will continue to reach out to members and attempt to engage them in the ISCRAM community in ways that meet their needs. I would like to spend the next term also engaging practitioners in ISCRAM more. Academicians and Practitioners can benefit from each others' experiences and perspectives. I expect and hope that I will continue to also serve on the Events Committee and other committees and areas of need as required.

### **Andrea Tapia**



College of Information Sciences and Technology, Penn State University, USA

*Short Bio:* Dr. Andrea H. Tapia is an Associate Professor of Information Sciences and Technology at the Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Tapia is a Sociologist of Public

Informatics. This is a term she has coined to best situate her work at the intersection of people, information and technology in a public setting. Dr. Tapia's most recent work focuses on making data generated by individuals or social networks via mobile information technologies useful to the decision makers within large institutions. This research grew out of previous work conducted with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in which she employed social network analysis on the emergent network of information technology

managers engaged in humanitarian coordination. The findings of this research point to unique network structures and barriers that exist in this form of technical coordination at various levels of participating organizations. Most recently Dr. Tapia was a US Fulbright grantee to Costa Rica. Dr. Tapia conducted research in which she investigated the effects of a national level legal mandate to coordinate and to share information upon the social and informational networks among the emergency response sector.

### *Previous ISCRAM Activities and Contributions:*

Dr. Andrea Tapia will be the organizer for the ISCRAM 2014 annual meeting to be held in State College, Pennsylvania, USA. Dr. Tapia also serves on the Scientific Committee for ISCRAM currently. Dr. Tapia has presented her work ten times at ISCRAM conferences. She will present two papers at the ISCRAM 2013 conference and will make two additional presentations concerning next year's conference. In 2011 she presented three papers plus an ac-hoc panel on social media use. In 2010 two papers were presented. In both 2009 and 2008 she presented one paper each.

*Ambitions and Plans as a Board Member:* Since Dr. Tapia will be the organizer of the next ISCRAM conference (2014) it would be significantly advantageous to be a board member as well. Dr. Tapia also considers ISCRAM to be her home academic community and is ready to take on a stronger leadership role.

### **Bartel Van de Walle**



Tilburg University, The Netherlands

*Short Bio:* Dr. Bartel Van de Walle is a tenured Associate Professor at the Department of Information Management, Tilburg School of Economics and Management at Tilburg University (the

Netherlands) and visiting professor at Harbin Engineering University (China). He served as a staff advisor on science policy to the Flemish minister of science and innovation in 2010-2011, and is board member of the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO) since 2010.

He received his MSc and his PhD in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science from Ghent University (Belgium). His dissertation research was on decision support for individuals and groups, two areas which are still at the core of his current research interests at the intersection of information and communication technologies and the (humanitarian) crisis management domain.

Bartel has published nearly 100 reviewed papers in proceedings of international conferences and journals. He has served as a reviewer, advisor or consultant for the American, Dutch and Flemish National Science Foundations, the European Commission, and the United Nations (ISDR, OCHA and WHO). Bartel received a prestigious Marie Curie Fellowship in 2005 for his research on threat rigidity and computer-mediated communication and decision making.

*Previous ISCRAM Activities and Contributions:* I co-founded the international Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM) Community in 2004, and have since co-organized special sessions, tracks, international workshops, conferences and PhD Summer Schools in Europe, the USA and China. I was elected founding chair of the Board of the ISCRAM Association, established as an international non-profit organization in Belgium in 2009. I have served as the Association's president since 2009.

*Ambitions and Plans as a Board Member:* My ambition is to continue to strengthen the Association in its second decade, by improving its processes to sustain its steady growth and impact. Overall, I am committed to providing the best possible service to all ISCRAM members and conference participants. I will also be assisting the Association to establish new collaborations with leading institutes worldwide, not only in Europe and the USA but also in Africa and Asia. In this way, ISCRAM should be able to maintain its role as a leading community in this domain, with an appropriate balance of academic rigour and practitioner relevance.

### **Christopher Zobel**



Virginia Tech, USA

*Short Bio:* I am a Professor of Business Information Technology in the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech, where I have been for my whole academic career. My Ph.D is in Systems Engineering from the University of

Virginia, and my bachelor's and master's degrees are both in mathematics. My teaching is in the area of decision support system design and implementation, and my primary research interests are in the areas of disaster operations management and environmentally-focused decision making. I am very interested in the multi-dimensional nature of decision making, and in opportunities for better quantifying the resilience of individual systems and the networks of which they are a part - particularly in a humanitarian supply chain context, and with full consideration of the social and economic

aspects of resilient behaviours. My research efforts have tended to be focused on supporting planning and mitigation activities, but I am also very interested in modelling and characterizing dynamic disaster recovery.

*Previous ISCRAM Activities and Contributions:* I have attended the ISCRAM conference, and have presented at least one paper each year, since 2008, and I have been a member of the ISCRAM Association since 2010. I have been pleased to be a co-track chair for the Analytical Modelling track (in its various forms) since 2011, and I have been a session chair on a number of different occasions. I also had the opportunity to be the co-Proceedings editor, along with Simon French, in 2010, and I have been a member of the Marketing and Communications Committee since 2011.

*Ambitions and Plans as a Board Member:* I would like to help ISCRAM continue to grow stronger internally - to help with finding ways to continue building on our strengths (collegiality, networking, support for PhD students, etc.), but also to help find ways to build more recognition outside of our focused community so that we can leverage our efforts into new opportunities (expansion into new geographical areas, collaboration with other academic organizations, more formal ties to the practitioner community, etc.). Coming from the academic side of things, I am particularly interested in working towards building even stronger connections with broader organizations such as AIS and DSI, in order to expose more researchers not just to the topic of information systems in a crisis context but also to the individuals and groups who are actively making huge contributions in this area.

## **Publications and Academic Standards Committee**

Over the past 2 to 3 years, the Publications and Academic Standards Committee (PASC) has accumulated too many tasks. There are 14 in total, of which 3 have been added in the last 6 months. This is more than double the number of people on the committee, all of whom are volunteers. A problem is that many tasks are operationally driven, e.g. by the needs of the next conference. This forces PASC to work reactively, when we should be working pro-actively.

To counter this, PASC is taking several measures. Firstly, we have grouped the tasks into the following high-level issues:

- Indexing: Tasks 1 (ISSN), 2 (ISBNs), 5 (Google Scholar), 7 (IEEE), and 11 (ISI Web of Science & Scopus);
- Archiving: Task 14 (archiving and searching publications);
- Reviewing: Task 12 (harmonizing reviewing guidelines);
- Awards: Task 4 (Best Paper and Best Student Paper selection);
- Journals: Tasks 3 (links to special issues), 8 (IJISCRAM), and 13 (list of ISCRAM-related journals);
- PASC communications: Tasks 9 (Newsletter items) and 10 (website items).

Secondly, we need to understand the needs of ISCRAM members. Taking indexing as an example, we have heard some members arguing that ISCRAM conference papers should be indexed in the ISI Web of Science. However, most commercial indexing databases (of which ISI Web of Science is one) are primarily designed for journal papers. Other members say that our proceedings must be published by a well-known academic publisher (which ISCRAM is not). A third group need proceedings with an ISBN number (which all but one already have). A fourth group say our conferences should have an acceptance rate between 15 and 30%. (The last 3 years' average is just under 50%.) A fifth group advocate joining the Institution of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), but that would tend to exclude people from other disciplines and – above all – practitioners. We are now preparing a questionnaire to find out precisely what members' needs are. Inevitably, this too is a task (Task 6).

Thirdly, we have prioritized our tasks by importance and urgency. An important task is one that is strategic to ISCRAM and her members. An urgent task is one with a deadline (often operational). When we know what ISCRAM members' needs are, we intend to prioritize our tasks in the following order:

- Priority 1: urgent and important;
- Priority 2: important but non-urgent;
- Priority 3: urgent but not important;
- Priority 4: neither important nor urgent;
- No priority: deleted, completed, or routine tasks.

The only Priority 1 task at the moment is to survey members' needs. Only when that has been completed will we know exactly how to prioritize the other tasks. Then we can be sure that we are doing the right things, in the right order.

Around about the time you read this, we hope to be asking you to fill in the PASC questionnaire. Please take the time and effort to do so, because that will enable us to increase the benefits that ISCRAM membership offers you.

Tim Grant  
Chair, PASC  
[tim.grant.iscram@gmail.com](mailto:tim.grant.iscram@gmail.com)

## Even a dead person has human rights

**Susan Breau** works as a Legal Consultant to the Oxford Research Group's Every Casualty Programme (<http://www.everycasualty.org/>). She has been Professor of International Law at Flinders University, Australia, since July 2010. **Tina Comes** interviewed Susan for the ISCRAM Newsletter.

*How did you get interested in Human Rights and the Law of International Organisations?*

After working for 18 years as a solicitor in family law, I joined the London School of Economics in 1999 to study International Law. My work has always been dedicated to combatting violence against victims, mostly children and women. I joined academia because I wanted to teach other lawyers in this respect. During my studies, I got more and more interested in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. The protection of civilians who are not involved in armed in conflicts is of particular importance to me. After my PhD I asked myself: how can I help as an academic? That is how I started my Postdoc research in this field: analysing the international laws and obligations that exist although they are not enforced in many cases.

*What are these legal obligations?*

I look at casualties, victims who are not soldiers, people who became victims – mostly in cities – only because they happened to be in the wrong place. In both natural and armed disasters, these civilian casualties go far too often unrecorded and unrecognised

The Geneva Conventions of 1949 oblige parties of conflict to take measures to ensure care for the wounded and sick and to search for the dead and prevent their being despoiled. Care for the injured and retrieval or identification of casualties is only done as "circumstances permit", and in practice often ignored. The rights of the victims were strengthened in the Additional Protocols 1977. These are, however, not signed by all states.

*What is the current practice of identification?*

Today, only NGOs record identities. Often, volunteers or family members set out to search

for the ones they miss. Evidence is mostly anecdotal or based on rumours, and there is no reliable way to count the numbers of victims or identify the missing

When starting this work, I visited Israel and went to Yad Vashem. There is a room of the missing people, which makes it very drastically visible that during the Holocaust more than three million people disappeared, without any trace. We should have got better by now. After watching TV broadcasts from Haiti and seeing that bodies were just bulldozed into a pit, I have to say that sadly we are not.

But there is hope. Some examples show that it can work better. After the tsunamis in South-Eastern Asia there were forensics scientists who helped with the identification of the bodies retrieved and informed the families about what happened to their children, brothers, sisters, or parents. We can also learn from the military. There are organisations such as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission that do a wonderful job and that show how it can work better.

*You are working for the Every Casualty Programme. How did that start?*

It started with the Iraq Body Count project ([www.iraqbodycount.org](http://www.iraqbodycount.org)), which records the casualties that have resulted from the 2003 military intervention in Iraq to avoid that the civilian victims of the intervention go unnoticed. In this project, volunteers search for information about the deaths of civilians from media reports; statistics from hospitals and NGOs; and official figures. The information is crosschecked and reviewed carefully to get a reliable picture about what is going on. This project largely relies on the Internet. Without access to the local information, the remote analyses by volunteers in Europe and the States would be impossible.

*What is the difference between your estimates and the official numbers?*

The Iraq Body Count project builds a database of confirmed casualties, which is updated daily. The methodology and the sources used are open to guarantee transparency. Instead of extrapolating data to assess figures, we also help with the identification.

Let me give you an example of how misleading extrapolations can be. The Lancet published an article based on a statistical survey estimating about 600,000 deaths in Iraq (<http://brusselstribunal.org/pdf/lancet111006.pdf>). Yet, it is unclear how these casualties are related to violence and warfare, and often, there is an incentive to exaggerate numbers – to blame the other party. This project tries to limit uncertainty by counting only confirmed deaths.

Of course, this is still a difficult endeavour due to the heterogeneous quality of data, but our estimates today range between 111,840 and 122,320.

Unless there is a central, official database there will always be a problem with accuracy, because there is no central instance to check, compare and keep track of the data.

*The lack of such a database is why you started the Every Casualty Programme?*

In the Every Casualty Programme, we develop best practices and recommendations for governments and NGOs to give the dead's and their families the rights they have. Today, far too often these rights are neglected. When I presented my work at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, I was literally asked „Do you expect us to go back with a helicopter and retrieve those we have just attacked?“. It seems that often the place, a city or a region, is perceived as “the enemy”, particularly after the anonymous drone attacks.

My role in the Programme has been to investigate the legal obligations that are already existing. This is a controversial process, but I am convinced that there is an obligation to retrieve and identify the victims.

*Looking ahead, what should be done from your perspective?*

We have to emphasize the Human Rights for Information; we have to establish an international regulation that goes beyond the existing conventions; and we have to develop best practices that are binding for both natural disasters and warfare. There is the Model Act for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). This act, however, covers mostly the actors involved, the people providing assistance, and does not focus on the victims and their needs and rights.

In the Every Casualty Programme, we have established an international practitioner network, and we are working together with more 40 NGOs to identify and describe best practices. Our aim is to develop a scheme of compliance that can be turned into a treaty, or at least into guidelines. In 2011, we published a Charter as an initiative from a group of NGOs concerned with states' on-going failure to record violent deaths, and we are still looking for organisations to support us. Given that the new information technologies are of such great importance, we are also seeking for any suggestions that facilitates the processes and might assist countries in fulfilling their obligations. You can

find the charter on [http://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/publications/other\\_media/charter](http://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/publications/other_media/charter), and we would be very happy if you want to get engaged with us!

## Education Column: Disaster Training Curriculum Project (DITAC)

*In the last issue of the ISCRAM Newsletter we carried a brief report on the DITAC project and promised to find out more. Can Ünen has done just that.*

DITAC stands for "Disaster Training Curriculum" and proposes to develop a holistic Training Curriculum for first responders and strategic crisis managers dealing with international crises. The DITAC Curriculum will address the key challenges for the management of disaster incidents.

The project started in January 2012 and is funded by the European Commission under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme. DITAC brings together scientists from various academic institutions and SME's, across Europe as well as the Turkey, Switzerland and Croatia and is primarily coordinated by the University Clinic Bonn.

DITAC will develop a standardised strong, comprehensive and efficient EU-wide approach to crises and disasters to feature the added value by EU co-ordinated actions in the field of crisis response. The Curriculum will improve the preparedness and availability of trained personnel by providing a common language, common objectives and common tools leading to better results in the protection and assistance of people confronted with large-scale crises.

The focus lies on international crisis management, but the benefit of a standardised training programme in crisis and disaster response can also be used to increase Europe's resilience in facing disasters and crises within the European Union. Establishing a curricular training on how to respond to an international crisis and making it accessible to pertinent organisations throughout the EU will be a first step towards building a European Emergency Response Centre. Collaboration of specialists for disaster response as single experts in the field of international crisis management with local, regional and international authorities, NGOs, training institutes, scientific societies, research institutes and the co-operation of experts with backgrounds in medical, psychological and technical emergency assistance, logistics,

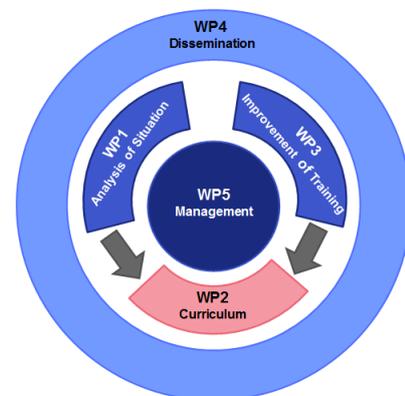
knowledge management, collaborative network development, conflict analysis and security challenges will create synergies towards improved disaster response capacity in the European Union.

### DITAC Group

The DITAC Consortium covers a wide set of capabilities, expertise, background and understanding. Its composition reflects the hybrid character of the project's objectives, and brings together a vast range of disciplines and competence domains:

- Different user perspectives corresponding to different types of user organisations (policy- and decision-makers, healthcare providers, first responders) and stages of the Disaster/Crisis life cycle (preparedness, response and recovery).
- Scientific knowledge in each of the key areas.
- Management & organisation: collaborative project management, organisation of large events, effective dissemination and public relations

Thanks to this variety, the partners who all have existing mechanisms and networks, will significantly expand and strengthen the coverage and capacity of dissemination activities and knowledge transfer. Besides, the previous and/or current involvements of some partners in EC projects, will allow DITAC to build upon pre-existing research thus creating continuity, while bringing international crisis response, practices and methodologies to another state of the art level. The consortium gathers 13 partners from European and non European countries, including Germany, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Turkey and Switzerland. It associates Public Research Organizations, public Authorities and several end-users.



- WP01 – Analysis of Situation
- WP02 – Curriculum
- WP03 – Improvement of Training
- WP04 – Dissemination
- WP05 – Project Management

To facilitate the organisation and management, DITAC is structured in 5 work packages (WPs), which together comprise the project. Each WP has an academic lead who is responsible for the management and the results of their WP. The figure shows the structure of the different WPs and their interdependencies.

## **Contributions and advice needed for an ITU-D publication and on-line tool-kit**

Hans Zimmermann writes with a request to ISCRAM members.

The ITU-D (Telecommunication Development Sector) has decided to publish the third edition version of the *ITU-D Handbook on Emergency Telecommunications* in a new format: Different from the first edition (1999) and the second edition (2005), which were sold in hard-copy and on CD, the new version will be made available free of charge. It will initially be published on-line in December 2013 and consist of two parts:

- The text part is primarily intended to provide emergency managers with information about the regulatory, the operational, and the basic technical aspects of telecommunications in emergency situations, from preparedness and alert to response.
- The second part, replacing the "technical annex" that was part of the first and second editions, will be an on-line tool-kit and including links to additional resources. It is intended to provide detailed information typically needed by telecommunications specialists supporting the providers of emergency and disaster response. The tool-kit will contain texts written specifically for this publication as well as links to existing resources.

The electronic format of the publication will facilitate periodic updates presenting new developments in respect to technologies, changes in the regulatory environment, and the addition of links to case studies on recent emergency operations, national preparedness plans, and related material.

Having chaired the small editorial committees developing the previous editions, I am now the facilitator of a larger "correspondence group" that was mandated, by ITU-D Study Group 2, "*Information and communication infrastructure and technology development, emergency telecommunications and climate-change adaptation*" under Question 22, "*Utilization of*

*telecommunications/ICTs for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response*", with the revision of the text of the 2005 edition of the handbook and with the development of the tool-kit. This correspondence group includes about 30 experts on the various topics covered by the handbook, emergency managers and telecommunication specialists from the various telecommunication services, from humanitarian organizations, and from the academic and the private sectors. The team works primarily through an e-mail list maintained by ITU Headquarters; a collaborative web site provided through the WGET Secretariat gives the members of the group access to all relevant documents.

At this time, in May 2013, draft 3.1 of the text part is being reviewed, and the compilation of material for the tool-kit has been initiated recently. We do, however, still need comments on and additional inputs to the text, as well as material for the tool-kit. We are furthermore urgently looking for help in respect to the concept for the *on-line tool-kit*. Publication and maintenance of the on-line publication will be taken care of by the respective services of ITU Headquarters; there is however so far no ITU publication and thus no experience with this new format.

I am therefore addressing the ISCRAM community, which certainly includes members with experience in the construction of on-line tool-kits who could provide valuable advice and guidance.

Additional inputs and comments for all parts of the publication are of course equally welcome, and I shall be glad to provide any additional information and access to material concerning this project. The final draft text needs to be submitted to ITU-D Study Group 2 in July 2013, for approval by its meeting in September. This text will initially be submitted in English only, but translated in all six official languages before it goes on-line in December 2013. It is also envisaged to publish the text part in hard copy at a later time. The tool-kit needs not to go through the above approval process, but needs to be ready for translation by October 2013, so that the whole publication can go on-line in December 2013. These deadlines are defined by the work-plan of the ITU-D Study Groups, under which the work on questions under study in the present study period should, to the extent possible, be accomplished and published before the questions are being re-defined by next year's World Telecommunication Development Conference.

I shall attend ISCRAM-2013, and I shall be glad to provide any additional information and access to any documents you might wish to consult. In addition to the contact information given below,

I can be reached easiest in May on my German mobile phone number 0170 651-4192.

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## News

### Successful PhD Defences

Congratulations to **Bas Lijnse** who on March 27, 2013 defended his dissertation titled "TOP to the Rescue: Task-Oriented Programming for Incident Response Applications". This dissertation is about Task-Oriented Programming (TOP) and, to some extent, its potential to support incident response applications. Task-Oriented Programming is a new programming paradigm that emphasizes "tasks" as central concept for constructing programs. Although tasks are a common notion in daily life, in order to use them as building block in programs we need to be more precise. If we have a formal notion of tasks, are able to define atomic tasks, and have means to define tasks in terms of other tasks, we can think about programs in terms of tasks.

TOP emerged during an exploration of the use of functional programming techniques to define workflow management systems, with a focus on applications in dynamic high-autonomy environments such as crisis management. A specific area of interest has been the coordination of coast guard search and rescue incidents.

In this research we have not primarily been interested in information systems for crisis response and management, but rather in crisis response and management for information systems.

While aiming to understand how we can use the common notion of "tasks" as foundation of the design and implementation of interactive systems (including information systems) that support collaborative work, we looked at crisis response work as a source of interesting cases.

Bas first attended the ISCRAM summer school in 2009 and has been association member and regular participant of the conferences ever since. Living not far away from Tilburg, he also tries to visit the summer schools for one or two days when possible.

Currently he is member of ISCRAM's marketing and communications committee where he helps

with maintenance work on the ISCRAM website every now and then.

A digital copy of his dissertation is available at: <http://www.baslijnse.nl/projects/top-to-the-rescue/>.

### PhD Opportunity

*Collective Decisions in collaborative environments: Crisis Management Case Study*

Institutions: AMA Team, Grenoble Informatics Laboratory (LIG); ISCOD-LSTI - Joseph Fourier University

Duration: 3 years

Subject: The PhD aims at designing a digital environment supporting collaboration among distant participants in the context of crisis management. In such a context, it is necessary to regulate and coordinate the access and use of heterogeneous resources that are shared among the participants in order to manage the crisis. These participants typically belong to different organisations, each having specific rules and decision protocols. This requires developing models and integrating them to support collaboration in managing the crisis.

One original feature of the project concerns the interaction medium which is composed of multiple interactive tables using RFID technologies for the tracking of tangible objects, and an LCD screen for the display of realistic scenes and the exploitation of the virtual objects. In such a setting, a new interaction modality, which is more intuitive, and less abstract, is proposed in this distributed setting.

The challenge addressed by this PhD consists in defining the software infrastructure to support the collaboration in the context described above; i.e. multiple actors interacting with each other by accessing shared objects in a distributed interaction medium. Particular attention will be devoted to the modelling, and the integration in the collaboration process, of the constraints imposed by the users' organisations.

In a first phase, the PhD candidate will have to define the distributed representation and reasoning models to analyze and monitor the activities undertaken by the participants. In a second phase, the work will concern the development of visual feedbacks showing the progress of the execution of the collective tasks, while displaying the status of each individual task. Both phases will integrate the modeling and use of constraints coming from the organisations involved in the crisis management. The last phase of the work will be dedicated to the development and deployment of the collaborative platform in the context of crisis management.

Context: This project is the follow-up of an ANR (French Nationally funded) project that has defined and validated the groundings of the material and software infrastructure. The PhD will be co-advised with Olivier Boissier (ISCOD du LSTI), The institute of Major Risks in Grenoble, RFidées Company and in collaboration with the MAGMA-LIG Team.

Keywords: Computer Supported Collaborative Work, Augmented Interaction, Normative Multi-Agent Systems, Crisis Management

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## Upcoming Conferences and Seminars, Journal Calls for Special Issues

### IEEE International Symposium on Safety, Security, and Rescue Robotics: Cooperation and Collaboration

Oct. 21–26, 2013, Linköping, Sweden

Call for Papers

<http://www.ssrr-conference.org/2013/>

The 11th IEEE International Symposium on Safety, Security, and Rescue Robotics (SSRR2013) continues its tradition of attracting cutting-edge papers in the theory and practice of robots for all types of safety, security, and rescue applications such as disaster response, mitigation and recovery; rapid and secure inspection of critical infrastructure; detection of chemical, biological and radiological risks, and operations in these dangerous sites.

SSRR 2013 also serves as an entry point for researchers and technologists who want to learn more about safety, security and rescue robotics, through tutorials and keynotes.

A Rescue Robotics Camp, attached to the conference, will give participants the opportunity to learn about the state of the art algorithms for Search and Rescue Robots and their use. The camp is organized in collaboration with the NIFTI EU project and RoboCup.

Papers and participation fall into:

Topics include but are not limited to: Biologically inspired solutions; Casualty assessment, care

and extraction; Chemical, biological, or radiological events; Computer vision; GPS-denied navigation and mapping; Humanoid robots; Humanitarian demining; Human-robot interaction; Inspection of critical infrastructure; Manipulation; Multi-agent coordination; Nuclear decommissioning; Sensing and sensor fusion; SLAM in extreme environments; Structural assessment; Telemedicine; Unmanned ground, aerial, and marine vehicles; Urban search and rescue; Wildland fire fighting

In addition, SSRR 2013 encourages the submission of "non-traditional" papers which contribute to understanding robot systems for Public Safety but may not have results in a Public Safety domain.

#### Important Dates:

- Jun 14, 2013 Submission of proposals for tutorials and special sessions
- Jul 19, 2013 Submission of regular papers, center/project papers, and vision papers
- Aug 26, 2013 Notification of acceptance
- Sep 6, 2013 Submission of Late Breaking Reports
- Sep 16, 2013 Notification of acceptance of Late Breaking Reports
- Sep 27, 2013 Submission of final papers

### The 9th Annual International Conference of the International Institute for Infrastructure Renewal and Reconstruction Risk-informed Disaster Management: Planning for Response, Recovery and Resilience

Queensland University of Technology  
8–11 July 2013, Brisbane, Australia

<http://i3r2conference2013.com/>

Coping with disasters are a challenge for government, business and communities with a full range of consequences often difficult to anticipate. Further, because of the cascading nature of the impacts, institutions are unlikely to face single incidents but rather series of systemic failures and related damage within and across functional areas: often appearing concurrently. To achieve efficient and effective outcomes there is a need to develop improved synergies in the protection of critical infrastructure and assets, crisis management and business continuity capacities, and importantly, ensuring the safety of communities. This conference will examine themes relevant to enhancing planning for risk-informed response and recovery as well as developing dialogue on resilience in infrastructure systems and communities affected by disasters.

## Conference Themes

- Risk-informed Planning in Disaster Management
- Creating & Sustaining Community Resilience
- Approaches to Designing & Managing Resilient Infrastructure
- Options for Rapid Impact Assessment
- Modelling and Analysis of Disaster Mitigation Systems
- The Role and Effectiveness of Government in Disaster Planning
- Civil/Military Cooperation in Large-scale Disaster Response
- Futures Thinking: Anticipating needs for disaster preparedness

For addition to their mailing list please contact either the Conference Chair, Dr Paul Barnes ([p.barnes@qut.edu.au](mailto:p.barnes@qut.edu.au)) or the Conference Co-Chair, Prof. Ashantha Goonetilleke, ([a.goonetilleke@qut.edu.au](mailto:a.goonetilleke@qut.edu.au))

## Lastly

The infamous ISCRAM Beer Evening will be taking place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May in Baden-Baden. It is an event that we encourage all ISCRAMers to come to however young:



But we may end up a little green the next morning:



Ah! The things we suffer for the greater good of ISCRAM!

## Diary of Upcoming Events and Calls

When and Where	Event/Call	Contact
17-20 June 2013 Hammamet Tunisia	Third Collaborative Technology for Coordinating Crisis Management (CT2CM) Track of WETICE-2013	<a href="http://www.doesnotunderstand.org/public/CT2CM2013">http://www.doesnotunderstand.org/public/CT2CM2013</a>
8 - 11 July 2013 Brisbane, Australia	The 9th Annual International Conference of the International Institute for Infrastructure Renewal and Reconstruction. Risk-informed Disaster Management: Planning for Response, Recovery and Resilience	<a href="http://i3r2conference2013.com/">http://i3r2conference2013.com/</a>
15-17 Aug 2013 Chicago, USA	AMCIS 2013 Minitrack Call for Papers: ICT-enabled Crisis, Disaster, and Catastrophe Management	<a href="http://amcis2013.aisnet.org/">http://amcis2013.aisnet.org/</a> <a href="http://eventseer.net/e/20383/">http://eventseer.net/e/20383/</a>
24-28 Aug 2014 Davos, Switzerland	5th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2014	<a href="http://www.idrc.info/">http://www.idrc.info/</a>
Oct. 21–26, 2013 Linköping, Sweden	IEEE International Symposium on Safety, Security, and Rescue Robotics: Cooperation and Collaboration	<a href="http://www.ssrr-conference.org/2013/">http://www.ssrr-conference.org/2013/</a>