



Newsletter of the Society for Risk Analysis
Australia & New Zealand

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Society for Risk Analysis—Australia & New Zealand SRA-ANZ 8th Annual Conference

Palmerston North, New Zealand
26 – 27 August 2014

Risk Beyond the Numbers

The 8th Annual Conference with its theme of “Risk: Beyond the numbers” will be on the 26th and 27th August 2014. The conference is an opportunity for risk professionals to come together for creative cross-pollination of methods and ideas in risk analysis. The conference will include keynote presentations from Drs Peter Sandman and Jody Landard.

Dr Peter Sandman is an internationally recognised expert in risk communication and the creator

of the “Risk = Hazard + Outrage” formula for risk communication. In Sandman’s own words “the engine of risk response is outrage. Sometimes the problem is too little outrage; people are apathetic and I help my client arouse more outrage so they protect themselves. Other times the problem is too much outrage; people are excessively angry or frightened – usually because of things my client has done wrong – and I help find ways to calm the situation. Still other

times the outrage is rightly high about a risk that is genuinely serious, and the job is to help people bear it and sustain it and act on it.” His keynote address will be a potpourri of findings, principles, and recommendations based on over three decades of work in risk communication will be both enlightening and provocative.

Dr Jody Landard is a psychiatrist and risk communication consultant working specializing in public health pre-crisis and crisis communication planning for disease outbreaks. Since early in the SARS outbreaks, Dr Landard has been consulting with WHO and Ministry of Health officials

around the world, including a term as senior advisor to WHO for pandemic influenza communication, and a term as risk communication consultant to WHO’s Emergency and Humanitarian Action Unit in the western Pacific region. Dr Landard will draw on these experiences to explore communication strategies for high hazard, low outrage diseases and other apathy-prone risks.

The conference is currently accepting abstracts on the conference theme or any other topic related to the risk analysis process.

To find out more about this conference visit

www.sraanz.org.nz or

Contact Naomi Cogger

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Meet the SRA-NZ Committee 2014

Tom Beer, D.Sc., Ph.D, President, is a Chief Research Scientist in CSIRO, the Australian Government Scientific Research Agency and the Leader of the Climate Variability and Change Research Program for the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research (CAWCR), a partnership between the CSIRO and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.



During 1995 he was Science Adviser to the Environment Protection Agency in Canberra and undertook a risk review of national environmental priorities. Subsequently, Dr Beer was co-ordinator of the CSIRO Environmental Risk Network and undertook two of the preparatory studies for the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality. He was a lead author for the Atmosphere Theme Report of the Australian 2001 and 2006 State of the Environment reports. He was a member of the IPCC Expert Group on Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Waste, and also a lead author for the chapter on waste in the IPCC Special Report on Technology Transfer. The IPCC was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Beer has been instrumental since 1995 in the development of risk assessment methods and the transfer of his knowledge of risk assessment methodology and its outcomes to the international geophysical community. His pioneering work in this area led to the creation of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (with Beer as foundation Chair) that in 2002 issued the “Budapest Manifesto on Risk Science and Sustainability”

(www.iugg.org/publications/reports/budape

[st.pdf](http://www.iugg.org/publications/reports/budapest.pdf)). This formed a key platform in the IYPE (International Year of the Planet Earth) Hazards Science Theme (see <http://yearofplanetearth.org/content/downloads.html>) that was led by Dr Beer. The concepts embodied in the Budapest Manifesto were based on the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4360 because Dr Beer was a member of the Standards Australia committee that devised AS4360, which has since become the new International Standard on Risk Management ISO 31000.

In recognition of the role of the Budapest Manifesto in Environmental Risk Management Dr Beer was elected to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. This follows on from Beer’s 2007 election as President of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). Even though Australia was a founding member of IUGG in 1919, Beer is the first Australian to have held the office of President. He was instrumental in the successful bid to hold the 2011 General Assembly of IUGG in Australia and served as Deputy Chair of the Local Organising Committee.

Beer has been a pioneer in the development of methods to quantify greenhouse gas emissions. Beer has incorporated life cycle assessment into studies of environmental risk, especially in relation to alternative fuels. Beer and his team have undertaken numerous studies that use their risk methodology to examine alternative fuels for which work he was part of the team that won the CSIRO Chairman’s Medal in 2000. From 2007 to 2010 he led the Alternative Fuels Stream of the Transport Theme of the CSIRO Energy Transformed Flagship,

Dr Beer is the author of fourteen books, over 100 articles in refereed journals, a similar number of book chapters and papers in conference proceedings, and over 44 specialised consultancy reports. In 2004 he

was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science by the University of Canterbury (New Zealand) for his work on The Atmosphere

and its Risks. He is a Fellow of the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society,

the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand, the Australian Institute of Energy and the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand for which Society he was the Founding Chair of the Risk Special Interest Group.

Hong Jin, Treasurer

My involvement with risk analysis began 13 years ago when I joined Australia New Zealand Food Authority, now Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) as a Senior Food Scientist. By following the *Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment* published by Codex Alimentarius Commission, I prepared in 2002 my first risk assessment report which underpinned the development of a food safety standard to ensure uncooked fermented meat products produced in Australia are safe from microbiological hazards. Much of my working knowledge of risk analysis was gained through food safety specific texts published by Codex, FAO and WHO, and enhanced through practices in developing food safety standards at FSANZ and various training opportunities including online courses conducted by the *Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition* at the University of Maryland.

Through Greg Paoli, I was introduced to the organisation of Society of Risk Analysis (SRA) in 2006. SRA then was far away to reach until I found events organised by SRA-ANZ and information published by the Centre of

Excellence in Risk Analysis at the University of Melbourne. Participation in 2010, 2011 and 2013 SRA-ANZ annual conferences provided me with opportunities to appreciate the benefit of this professional organisation. I found SRA-ANZ is the right place I can learn from and exchange risk analysis specific experience with fellow risk assessors working in different fields and in other organisations.



I completed my PhD in microbiology at the University of Western Australia in 1989, and have worked as a lecturer at Charles Sturt University and a senior researcher officer at Carlton United Breweries. I am currently a Senior Food Scientist and a Senior Food Microbiologist at Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

I look forward to serving SRA-ANZ over the next two years.

Meet the SRA-NZ Committee 2014

Seumas McCroskery, Secretary

My career began as a scientific researcher looking into the molecular aspects of muscle and neuron regeneration. I am a graduate of Waikato University and University of Auckland, and have worked at the Crown Research Institute, AgResearch and Genesis Research, which was one of NZ's pioneering biotechnology companies. I have also completed two post-doctorial fellowships at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Since returning to New Zealand three years ago, my career has taken a slightly different tack. I am currently a new organism senior advisor at the Environmental Protection Authority (previously the Environment Risk Management Authority).

New Zealand's legal framework to control the purposeful presence of new organisms, including those that are genetically modified, is based on scientific rigour combined with high quality risk assessment. This has opened my eyes to the world of risk assessment and risk management. I am fascinated how risk is communicated, and understand how that is not easy, but really applaud those who are working on improvements. Since joining the Society of Risk Analysis two years ago, I have been privileged to meet and talk with some wonderful people who are passionate about risk assessment to help not just decision-makers, but the general public- who are in the end the bearers of those decisions, and they have long memories.

I am pro-active in promoting SRA in NZ, and aim to raise the profile of SRA in Australasia. Recently I organised two SRA-ANZ OnCampus events, held at University of Auckland (July) which coincided with the SRA world congress, and at Lincoln University (October). These were opportunities to bring

awareness of the SRA, to discuss complicated issues, and debate different aspects of risk assessment. My aim is to invest more time in research into risk/science communication.



Sarah Rosanowski, Councillor, has worked in human biomedical and agricultural research, specifically in clinical studies of vaccine and anthelmintic efficacy and biomedical products. She has been involved in the development of a diagnostic test for host parasite resistance in sheep and investigating biomarkers for parasite resistance.

Sarah completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Veterinary Clinical Studies (with Distinction) at the EpiCentre, Massey University in 2009. She then continued at the EpiCentre where she completed a PhD in Veterinary Epidemiology in 2012. Sarah's thesis was entitled "Epidemiological investigation of the New Zealand horse population and the control of equine influenza".

Sarah has been a lecturer at the EpiCentre since 2013, teaching and co-ordinating papers for the undergraduate veterinary and equine programmes and for papers within Masters of Veterinary Science and Masters of Veterinary Medicine programmes. Her main areas of research interest include equine, plant and applied epidemiology, biosecurity, infectious disease outbreaks, parasitology and anthelmintic and antimicrobial resistance.

Meet the SRA-NZ Committee 2014

Naomi Cogger, President-Elect

is a graduate from the University of Sydney with a PhD in epidemiology. In 2003 she moved to New Zealand to work at the EpiCentre, Massey University. The EpiCentre is recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health as a Collaborating Centre for



Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health. Working with colleagues at the EpiCentre Dr Cogger has developed surveillance strategies for animal disease, conducted risk analyses to evaluate quarantine risks associated with the importation of animal products, developed models to improve New Zealand's preparedness for equine influenza and worked with kiwifruit industry to better understand factors associated with the spread and impact of PsA-V. Dr Cogger is also involved in teaching of epidemiology, biosecurity and risk analysis. In 2010 she worked with Australian Centre for Excellence in Risk Analysis to develop an online course in risk and decision making for postgraduate students.

Report on SRA International Annual Conference, Baltimore USA 8th December to 11th December 2013

Mark Colyvan (Past-President SRA-ANZ)

In my capacity as (then) president of SRA-ANZ I travelled to the SRA International meeting in Baltimore in December last year. I was there to represent SRA-ANZ at this meeting. Apart from attending many interesting talks ranging across a huge variety of risk analysis applications, I spent quite a bit of time talking to people and following up contacts made by my predecessor Rochelle Christian.

I caught up with several members of the EPA, who were responsible for the excellent and well-attended workshop prior to our SRA-ANZ meeting in Canberra last year. I spoke with Abdel Kadry (who was our main contact in organising the workshop), Debra Walsh (Deputy Director of National Center for Environmental Assessment, EPA) and Kacey Deener (Communications Director National Center for Environmental

Assessment, EPA). They were all genuinely pleased that the workshop in Canberra went so well and are keen to arrange further such events in the future. We hope to take them up on this kind offer.

I met with Tony Cox, the new editor of the journal Risk Analysis and James Lambert, the area editor for engineering risk analysis. I also met with several other significant figures in the international risk analysis community, such as Rob Goble, Scott Ferson, Adam Finkel, and Julie Fitzpatrick. I also had a long discussion with the new president of SRA International, Ortwin Renn <http://www.ortwin-renn.de>.

One piece of news to come out of the conference (and AGM) is that the relationship between SRA International and the various regional branches is to change over the next couple of years. As things currently stand, risk analysts can join their regional organisation (in our case, with fairly modest membership fees) but do not need to join the parent organisation. Of course you may choose to join SRA International and enjoy the added benefits that come with such membership (such as receiving the journal Risk Analysis). This situation will change over the next couple of years: members of regional branches such as ours will need to first be members of SRA

International. The details of the transition and implementation of these changes are not clear at this stage but the upshot is that it will be more expensive to be an SRA-ANZ member. On behalf of SRA-ANZ, I voiced strong opposition to these changes (as did Rochelle Christian at the 2012 meeting when the changes were first entertained) but without success I'm afraid. SRA International is, however, willing to work with us on the implementation of the new arrangements. We will keep you posted when we know more.

Finally, I'd like to say that I've enjoyed my time as president of SRA-ANZ and I was proud to fly our flag, so to speak, in Baltimore. I trust that my successor, Tom Beer, will be able to attend the 2014 conference in Denver. I think it is important to have a representative at this important international forum. Of course, more than one representative would be better and I encourage anyone who is interested to attend this conference. It really is a terrific event.

SRA local events

Have you got a **local event** to advertise here?

Or an event you'd like other members to know about?

Please let us know by email to l.flander@unimelb.edu.au

SRA-ANZ Committee 2014

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Risk newsletter

Members are reminded to look for the international SRA (parent body) newsletter published six times a year and freely available on the SRA website at <http://sra.org/newsletter.php>.

It contains general information about the Society as well as information about activities such as the speciality groups.