



Society for Risk Analysis
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

SRA-ANZ Member Newsletter

The purpose of the Society for Risk Analysis - Australia & New Zealand (SRA-ANZ) is to provide an opportunity for an inclusive, broad-based society that promotes communication between disciplines, a breadth of tools and viewpoints, and platforms for training, workshops, and conferences.

Highlights:

- SRA-ANZ 2017 conference re-view
- Best student prize winners
- SRA presidential award winner
- Membership reminder

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Message from the President

Dear SRA-ANZ Members,

As a (relatively new) network scholar, the different ways in which we are all connected never ceases to amaze me. What amazes me even more is how much we *don't know* about how widely connected we actually are, how much more closely connected we can be, and how much we can achieve when we reach out to connect to others.

My first year as President of SRA-ANZ has taught me (yet again!) about the extraordinary power of networks. As a small society, we rely heavily on the time that individual members very generously volunteer to get initiatives off the ground. However, this year has shown that the collective resources of SRA-ANZ amount to more than just the sum of time volunteered by our modest membership base. Our deceptively small society has proven to be a network of hidden networks, which has allowed SRA-ANZ to put down 2017 as a year of achievement.

Our 2017 conference, **'Risk in an Interconnected World'** was one of our most well-attended conferences in recent years. Under the guidance of SRA-ANZ councillors **Martina Hoffmann** and **Anca Hanea**, and members **Edith Arndt** and **Tracey Hollings** (all from the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis, University of Melbourne), the conference effectively connected the society to new and existing members, with expertise spanning disciplines from biosecurity to transport safety. Most notably, the conference linked SRA-ANZ to the Australasian Bayesian Network Modelling Society (ABNMS), whose co-organisation of the conference has resulted in an exciting new connection that we hope will lead to many more productive collaborations in the future.

Through the creative and capable efforts of **Martina Hoffmann** and **Steve Corin** (Synapt Consulting, New Zealand) our members have been connected to the latest developments in the various fields of risk analysis through our regular newsletter and website updates. Under the leadership of **Steve Corin**, the society has likewise been connected to the latest thinking in risk through the SRA International webinar series. This year has also marked SRA-ANZ's stronger engagement with industry, led by **Barbara Campany** (GHD Australia), and with policymakers, led by **Naomi Cogger** (Massey University, New Zealand).

Our society has been working hard to connect our own risk experts with the rest of the world. In line with this, we have received strong support from the editorial board of the **Journal of Risk Research**. We are currently working with the journal to put together our very first SRA-ANZ special issue, aimed at showcasing the novel work of our members. We hope to get this published in 2018, and hope to continue sharing the work of risk scholars from our region to a global audience. Finally, the society continues to share its expertise in shaping risk management standards through its participation in Standards Australia committee OB 007, which is currently in the process of updating the international risk management standard ISO31000, among others.

While we have been able to reach out and establish productive connections with others this year, we need to increase our network connectivity even more. We need to broaden our disciplinary connections in order to truly be in a position to meaningfully foster cross-disciplinary interconnections. It is only by building bridges across areas of risk expertise that we will collectively be able to robustly think about complex emerging risks, creatively craft solutions to managing the ever-evolving risk landscape, and expand the frontiers of risk analysis.

We now optimistically look forward to 2018 and beyond, confident that we will be able to build on the strong connections we have established this year!

Sandra Seno-Alday, SRA-ANZ President





SRA-ANZ 2017 Conference Review

Long-time SRA-ANZ member, *Hong Jin*, reports on the 10th annual SRA-ANZ conference, 'Risk in an Interconnected World', which was held at the University of Melbourne from November 20-23, 2017.

The 10th Annual Conference of the SRA-ANZ was held at the University of Melbourne's Arts West-North Wing building, in association with the 9th Annual Australasian Bayesian Network Modelling Society Conference. The two-day conference (November 21-22) was preceded by a one-day workshop on Bayesian Networks held on November 20, and followed by two further workshops held on November 23. The conference was attended by 90 delegates. This was the largest gathering of risk analysts under the SRA-ANZ banner in recent years. A total of 42 presentations were delivered at the SRA-ANZ conference. The ABNMS conference consisted of 12 additional presentations.

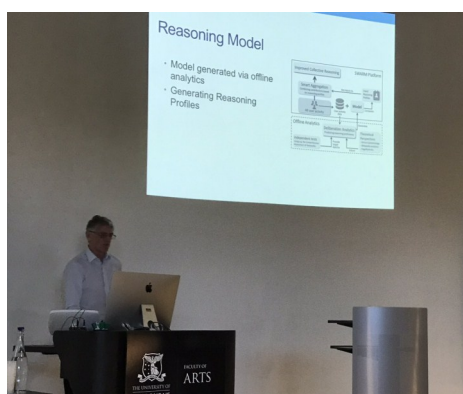
The SRA-ANZ conference was conducted in 8 sessions:

- Decision making & risk governance
- Ecological risks
- Human health risks
- The big picture
- Biosecurity invasions
- Risks to people: human safety
- Communicable risks
- Risks to people: animals and roads



Vice Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis

On Tuesday November 21, the opening speech was delivered by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Professor Glyn Davis, who presented to



Professor Mark Burgman

the audience a picture of risks faced by traditional universities in tertiary education. Professor Mark Burgman then gave a keynote speech on 'The quality of reasoning in the intelligence game'. In his speech, Mark described the integrated elicitation process (IDEA) and aggregative contingent estimation (ACE) method used in sourcing intelligence in risk analysis. He described the logic behind the recommendation that 'the group is preferred to the individual' in sourcing intel-

ligence through elicitation. Later in the day, Dr Emily Nicholson presented a keynote speech on 'Assessing risks to biodiversity in a changing world', describing her team's work on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Ecosystems.

SRA-ANZ 2017 Conference Review

On Wednesday November 22, the day opened with a key-note on 'Crafting Bayesian Networks from Expert Knowledge' by ABNMS speaker, Dr Bruce Marcot. Some highlights included 'The risk cycle: three interconnected modes of organising risk', presented by Professors Cynthia Hardy and Steve Maguire, which described a theory developed for organising risk from an organisational perspective by dividing the task up into prospective identification and assessment of hazards, real-time implementation of predetermined plans and retrospective investigation following risk incidents. Another highlight on day two of the conference was 'Privacy risks in an open data world', presented by Dr Chris Culnane, which described data privacy and re-identification of data in the big data world. The day concluded with the award for best student talk.



Dr Emily Nicholson

On Thursday November 23, there were two workshops: 'Transparency, reproducibility and open science', delivered by Associate Professor Fiona Fidler, Dr Ascelin Gordon and Hannah Fraser, and 'Uniting risk analyses and structured decision making', delivered by Professor Mark Burgman and Dr Libby Rumpff. 'Transparency, reproducibility and open science' was most interesting to those working in the field of science. It explored the subject of reproducibility of scientific work, hence the transparency in the new era of meta-science. Workshop attendees were introduced to the [open science framework](#) and [github](#), which are increasingly used by people working in science to obtain peer support for their research and investigations to improve transparency and reproducibility.



Talk slides are available at: <http://www.sraanzconference.org.nz/program.html>



Best Student Talk Winner: Calvin Lee

Calvin Lee is a PhD student in the Centre of Integrative Ecology at Deakin University. At the recent SRA-ANZ conference, Calvin won the prize for best student talk, which includes a \$650 travel voucher to attend future SRA conferences, courtesy of SRA-ANZ & SRA International.

Growing up in commercial Hong Kong, I always associated risk analysis to only be relevant in economics and stock market investments, things I've never had much interest in. However, this changed during my Masters when my project involved understanding risk and vulnerability of ecosystems. This change of perspective and the skills I picked up during my project showed me the importance of risk analysis and the incredible breadth of the field. I became aware of the wealth of knowledge that exists to help us assess and predict risk for biodiversity, and was able to apply some of this to my project which involves assessing mangrove vulnerability to climate change related threats.

This eventually led me to start a PhD to work on the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, a risk assessment protocol for ecosystems mirroring the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the most comprehensive resource used for global conservation status. My PhD now involves understanding the consequences of uncertainties when performing these risk assessments, and to develop tools and methods to minimise the possibilities for spurious results. Doing this can help improve the consistency of these assessments, and can have important implications for conservation actions which depend on these results.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend the recent Society for Risk Analysis Australia and New Zealand (SRA-ANZ) conference in Melbourne, and thoroughly enjoyed my experience. The chance to learn not simply from the literature but from others performing these analyses was invaluable. Not only was I exposed to the huge variety of presentations; I also had the chance to meet with the other attendees, who were all extremely friendly and gave me important advice for my PhD. I look forward to future conferences, where I will be able to meet with more people within this amazing community.

The skills I've learned and the people I've met so far in my PhD will no doubt carry me into the future, regardless of what I will be doing. I hope to continue to work on understanding risk to biodiversity, providing solutions to mitigate loss in an increasingly interconnected and changing world.

Best Student Talk Runner-up: Jessica Rowland

Jessica Rowland is a PhD student at Deakin University. At the recent SRA-ANZ conference, Jessica won the runner-up prize for best student talk, which includes a \$350 travel voucher to attend future SRA conferences, courtesy of SRA-ANZ & SRA International.

My first experience with thinking about risk was during my Masters. My project focused on an important issue in conservation: are nest-boxes suitable habitats for wildlife based on their cavity temperatures throughout the year? I examined the risks to several possum species that use nest-boxes by estimating the required energy use and water loss required to rest in a tree-hollow compared to a nest-box, or outside when neither were available. I found that nest-boxes could reach extreme temperatures during the hot, dry summers characteristic of south-eastern Australia, resulting in a high risk of dehydration for the animal in they stayed inside.

This initial thinking about risk in the context of a specific management strategy for a species propelled me into the world of risk assessment, i.e. a PhD. My current research looks at risk on a different scale and asks the question: what are the risks to ecosystems around the world? My research centres on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of Ecosystems (RLE), the global standard for ecosystem risk assessment. It's a framework that has already been adopted by many countries around the world, including Australia.

Over the past few months I've begun work on an ambitious project: to develop a set of biodiversity indicators to provide information on local, national and global trends in the risk status of ecosystems. My aim is to use the information collected from the growing number of RLE assessments around the world to provide a measure of progress towards national and global biodiversity conservation targets.

I'm still in the early days of developing and testing the biodiversity indicators, so attending the Society for Risk Analysis – Australia and New Zealand (SRA-ANZ) conference was a very useful experience. I was able to present the preliminary approach to calculating the indicators, and received valuable feedback and ideas to help me improve the design and methods for testing the indicators to ensure they provide meaningful information. This was my first SRA conference and I am definitely keen to attend another in the future!



Best student talk winners Jessica Rowland & Calvin Lee with judges SRA-ANZ president Sandra Seno-Alday, CEBRA director Andrew Robinson and SRA International president Margaret MacDonell



SRA Presidential Award Winner: Sandra Seno-Alday

A huge congratulations to SRA-ANZ president Sandra Seno-Alday, who was awarded the 2017 SRA Presidential Merit Award in honour of her dedication to SRA, at the recent SRA Annual Meeting in Arlington, Virginia.



Updating your Membership

As a SRA-ANZ member you will be invited to attend meetings, workshops and events as well as participate in specialist discussion groups

Memberships for SRA-ANZ run from January to December and entitles holders to a hefty conference discount, so it is now time to renew your membership for 2018 if you haven't already done so! You can do this quickly and easily online at our website: <http://www.sraanz.org.nz/>

Upcoming Conferences & Events

SRA Asia Conference 2018

13-14 March, 2018, Takatsuki city, Osaka

The theme of the 2018 conference is 'Communication in risk diversity', and topics covered include: environmental risk assessment and management, chemical risk assessment and management, radiation risk assessment and management, industrial and process safety management, natural disaster risk, food safety, risk perception and risk communication, economic and insurance perspectives, emerging technology, risk governance and crisis management. There will also be a symposium on 'Homeland Security and Risk Analysis: Under the military tension in Korean Peninsula'. Early bird registrations close December 20.

2018 SRA Benelux Conference

26 March, 2018, Mol, Belgium

The theme of the 2018 conference is 'Change in risk—risk in change'. Our world is changing at a rapid pace and we are changing with it. New and emerging technologies, enhance, disturb, or transform existing societies, markets, and networks, as do organisational shifts and innovations designed to meet societal or environmental needs. Furthermore, the national and international political landscapes are undergoing profound changes as the balance of power is shifting in several directions. These trends profoundly affect the social, economic, environmental, and cultural outlooks of societies and individuals alike, creating momentous opportunities for change, as well as challenges, and risks. Abstract submissions close December 17.

SRA Europe Conference 2018

18-20 June, 2018, Östersund, Sweden

The theme of the 2018 conference is 'Risk & Uncertainty – From Critical Thinking to Practical Impact'. This theme reflects the current need to persist the phenomenon of knowledge resistance and alternative facts, as well as to develop applied research for risk analysis in open and democratic contexts. The conference will be held at Mid Sweden University in Östersund, a small town close to the mountains in the north of Sweden. During the conference you will experience the longest day of the year when the sun rises at 2.50 am, only a few hours after it sets. Abstract submissions close February 7, 2018.

SRA Fifth World Congress Call for Abstracts: Deadline Extended

SRA invites the submission of abstracts for presentations at the Fifth World Congress on Risk to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, May 6-8, 2019. The Fifth World Congress on Risk will focus on 'Development and Resilience' and aims to stimulate dialogue and education on risk issues of world-wide interest. SRA welcomes contributions on any topic related to risk assessment, risk characterization, risk perception, risk communication, risk management, risk governance, and policy relating to risk, in the context of risks of concern to individuals, to public and private sector organizations, and to society at a local, regional, national, or global level.

SRA-ANZ is looking for any further speakers who would like to submit an abstract to be added to our proposed symposium, 'Risk Analysis in an Interconnected World'. For the submission code to submit an abstract as part of the SRA-ANZ symposium, please contact Hong Jin:

Hong.Jin@foodstandards.gov.au



Our new website is here!
Check it out at
www.sraanz.org.nz

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up to date with news and
events!**

Society for Risk Analysis, Australia & New Zealand

The Society for Risk Analysis - Australia & New Zealand (SRA-ANZ) provides an opportunity for an inclusive, broad-based society that promotes communication between disciplines, a breadth of tools and viewpoints, and platforms for training, workshops, and conferences.

SRA-ANZ's Goals:

1. To serve as the focal point for interaction of members of the Society and other interested individuals and organisations in Australia and New Zealand.
2. To further understanding, awareness, and appropriate applications of risk analysis, and to promote an exchange of ideas and practical experiences among members of the academic, professional, industrial, and regulatory communities involved in risk analysis and risk management in Australia and New Zealand.
3. To hold scientific and educational meetings.

Executive Members

Executive Members

Sandra Seno-Alday (President)
Naomi Cogger (Immediate Past President)
Steven Corin (Treasurer)
Erica Kecorius (Secretariat)
Martina Hoffmann (Newsletter Editor)
Anca Hanea (Committee Member)

Past Presidents

2015 Naomi Cogger
2014 Tom Beer
2013 Mark Colyvan
2012 Rochelle Christian
2011 Simon Barry
2010 Janet Gough
2009 Jean Chesson
2008 Daniela Leonte
2007 Keith Hayes
2006 Nick Linacre

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