



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 Annual Conference 2016
- Best Student Talk: Angela Scott
- Journal of Risk Research special issue
- Pets during disasters

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Message from the President

Dear SRA-ANZ Members,

It has been a delight to serve as SRA-ANZ President for the past two years.

In my term as President we have worked hard to broaden the membership base and it was great to see a number of new faces at the 2016 Annual General Meeting at Central Queensland University's Appleton Institute in Adelaide, Australia.



SRA-ANZ President, Dr Naomi Cogger

The conference would not be possible without the support of many different organisations and people. Firstly, we need to acknowledge and thank the Society's long time sponsor, the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis, for their continued support and also for lending us their administrative wizard Erica Kecorius. I would also like to thank the Central Queensland University for hosting us and the local organising committee of Kirrilly Thompson, Chris Bearman, Jane Bearman, Monique Stewart and Daxine Waterman for constant support, energy and enthusiasm. Thanks also to the program committee of Sandra Seno-Alday, Kirrilly Thompson and Tom Beer for their work in pulling together the speakers.

The SRA-ANZ is continuing to develop our online presence with the efforts of Steve Corin and Kirrilly Thompson. All of this is a work in progress and we are looking for suggestions and inputs from members. The role of editor for the newsletter has been in a state of change this year. Tracey, who produced the first newsletter of the year, has had a break from this role as she takes on the new role of motherhood. I want to take the opportunity to wish her well in life's new adventures. This year also sees a change to the SRA-ANZ executive with Tom Beer who was SRA-ANZ President in 2014 finishing his term as Immediate-Past President. We will miss his sage words on the Executive.

With this being my last letter as President I want to welcome the President-elect, Sandra Seno-Alday, and wish her all the best in this role. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2017 at University of Melbourne. Thank-you and regards,

Naomi Cogger SRA-ANZ President



The 2016 SRA-ANZ Conference

SRA-ANZ 2016 Annual Conference: "Engaging Risk"

November 22-25 at CQUni's Appleton Institute in Adelaide, South Australia.

From November 22 to 25, SRA-ANZ members and risk aficionados were "Engaging Risk" at the 2016 annual meeting at Central Queensland University's Appleton Institute in Adelaide, Australia.

Prior to the conference, Anca Hanea ran a workshop exploring some of the ways to quantify uncertainty when using expert opinion. The day concluded with welcome drinks and the launch of Robert Sams' book, *Social Sensemaking*. The event provided an opportunity for members to discuss their research and ideas while enjoying some very nice Australian and New Zealand wine.



CQU Vice Chancellor Scott Bowman

Our first keynote speaker, David Swain, asked us to consider the growing social divide between farmers and consumers and the role this is playing in the maintenance of food security. We then moved onto a series of talks in the area of environmental risk, covering issues associated with the regulation of GM modified plants, governance and public engagement and confirmation bias in conservation decision-making. After a short break for lunch we were back with a focus on disease.

The session began with our second keynote by Nick Golding who explained how risk mapping could be used to highlight risk from emerging pathogens such as avian influenza, Ebola and Zika. We then moved onto animal disease, beginning with an assessment of avian influenza risk for Australian commercial chicken producers and concluding with a talk about horse owners' attitudes and practises in response to the zoonotic Hendra virus.



Keynote speaker Dave Swain

The final session of the day moved the focus to workplace and occupational risk. We covered a diverse range of topics including the rich decision-making context surrounding high-risk professions, risk associated with equine-assisted psychotherapy and risk profiling in small to medium-sized businesses. The presentations finished with a talk from SRA president James Lambert on resilience analytics. After a quick freshen up it was off to the conference dinner and more opportunity to socialise and share ideas.

The 2016 SRA-ANZ Conference

Day two of the meeting began with a Stewart Lockie's keynote address "Thinking the Unthinkable: Alien Invasion and Time Travel". The talk challenged us to consider whether we had reached a state of organised ignorance on matters such as climate change. After a quick break to sip coffee and ponder the question we were back to hear about how people make sense of risk. The session covered why parents are choosing not to vaccinate their children, the risks people take while evacuating animals, what to do when communities don't believe your risk assessment and integrated research around disaster risk.



After a lunch break we continued on the theme of people. First we heard preliminary results from a study exploring sleep restriction impairs glucose metabolism. Next, we learnt that when it comes to how well we self-rate driving ability, sleep duration and time of day matter. This was followed by a talk presenting results of a qualitative research exploring how nurses make decisions around safety and patient care and the final talk for the session discussed the role of the look-out during repairs to railway tracks. The final session for the conference was a risk potpourri which included what owners are willing to sacrifice for the safety of their animals in disasters, how to manage dingo-human interaction on Fraser Island and food security in an interconnected world. We then closed the day with an award to Angela Scott for the best student presentation.

However, the fun was not over with people staying on to attend post-conference workshops. The morning session was on risk psychology and social sensemaking with Robert Sams. In the afternoon we focused on career development with Kate Ames' "Putting on your Public Face: Social Media for early and mid-career researchers" and Lynette Browning's "Research careers and track records: Success factors for building your research career."

Conference Dinner

The conference dinner was held at the Belgian Beer café. A big thank you to Chris and Jane Bearman for organising this delicious and successful evening.





Best Student Talk Winner: Angela Scott

Angela is a PhD student at the University of Sydney, researching in the area of avian influenza. At the recent SRA-ANZ conference in Adelaide, Angela Scott won the prize for the best student talk, which includes a \$500 travel voucher to attend future conferences, courtesy of SRA.

I was first exposed to the concept of risk analysis during my veterinary science degree. During our fourth year we had a unit of study called *veterinary public health*, where we learnt about veterinary epidemiology. In all honesty, I wasn't particularly interested in risk analysis at the time. Instead I was interested in poultry health and was offered a PhD in avian influenza risk mitigation by our senior poultry lecturer, an offer at the time I believed I couldn't refuse. Little did I know that this PhD would force me to delve deep into the risk analysis world.

The skills and tools I have learnt to use during my PhD have opened my eyes in how adaptable risk analysis is; the fields of work it can be used in are limitless. So, despite the fact that my work focuses on the risk of avian influenza getting into Australian chicken farms, I can go to a risk analysis conference and understand a variety of topics because we all have risk analysis in common. However, I have faced challenges, especially since mathematics is not my strongest skill. My PhD involves creating scenario trees to assess the risk of avian influenza exposure and spread; the entire concept of this method had to be explained to me from the very beginning. In addition, learning new software to assess risk has also been a challenge.



PhD student Angela Scott

The first risk analysis conference I visited was the recent Society for Risk Analysis Australia and New Zealand (SRA-ANZ) conference, held in Adelaide in November 2016. I found the experience very enjoyable, thanks to both the people and the interesting presentations. I did not know such a community existed prior to my visit. It is good to have a society understand the technical methodology I used. I learn best from example, and a society like SRA-ANZ helps me by knowing what else is out there; what software and methodologies people are using. This enables me to assess both my work and theirs and ask questions such as "why did you choose that method"?

I signed up as a member of SRA-ANZ and am keen to continue my membership. I am looking forward to visiting more conferences in the future, particularly those held internationally, so that I can meet more members of the SRA community.

In the future, I see myself continuing to use the skills and tools I have learnt during my PhD. I'm not sure exactly where I will end up after my PhD—whether it is at a university, industry or government—but I feel I will still be involved in the risk analysis world. Because of my background in veterinary science, I may end up in a position relating to veterinary public health or veterinary epidemiology. Risk analysis tools are essential in both of these fields and I am thankful I have been introduced to these.

Journal of Risk Research Special Issue for SRA-ANZ

Putting People back into Risk Analysis

The aim of the special issue is to showcase the work of scholars and scientists in the region, so as to positively contribute to risk analysis and risk management practice and policy elsewhere in the world. Papers (up to 8000 words) in the special issue can explore one or a combination of the following (or related) questions:

- How can we enrich our understanding of the different ways in which risk and crises make an impact on individuals and people in organisations? Are there risk impacts on people that have remained underexplored in the literature?
- How can we extend the frontiers of our understanding of the ways in which people perceive different risks? What factors of risk perception merit further investigation? How can risk perception be influenced at the level of individuals, organisations, and society?
- What further insights can we gain into how people consciously or unconsciously think about risk and how people undertake the risk analysis process?
- In light of our understanding of how people tend to think about risk, what quantitative or qualitative methods and approaches can we use to support the risk analysis process for improved risk management outcomes?
- How can a variety of risk communication approaches be employed to influence the perception of risk and encourage constructive risk mitigation behaviour?
- How can we deepen our understanding of the risk-creating behaviour of people?

Submission process:

Please send your cover letter, title page (with corresponding author information), and manuscript (combined into one PDF file) to the special issue Guest Editor (sandra.seno-alday@sydney.edu.au) on or before **Friday, February 3, 2017**.

For more information and full details please visit <http://www.sraanz.org.nz/news/call-for-papers-journal-of-risk-research-special-issue-for-sra-anz>



Profile of an emerging risk researcher: Reframing risk-taking for pets during disasters

Joshua Trigg, PhD candidate, Psychology/Anthrozoology, Appleton Institute for Behavioural Science, CQUniversity, Adelaide



PhD student Joshua Trigg

Recently, I had the opportunity to discuss both my own and others' research at the SRA-ANZ conference on 'Engaging Risk,' hosted in Adelaide. During the conference, a number of researchers highlighted the ongoing concerns around managing both companion and other animals in the context of natural hazards. In South Australia this is a key public safety issue during bushfire emergency management.

By now, we have a rich body of research describing *how* companion animal owners act before and during disasters in Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere internationally (cf. Fukushima's dogs).

A neat *why* explanation, however, continues to elude us. And as someone examining relationships and risk propensity in these settings, it's clear that pet owners' behaviour is multiply determined. So we need to conduct research that moves us beyond the perspective 'I love my pets, they're my world, and I'll do anything for them,' because pet owners—and all people—have more complex motivations for high-stakes behaviour. We hold very different attitudes and values about the pet-keeping relationship and its role in risk perception and risk-taking during disasters. How we view and relate to our animals is my starting point when examining these motivations.

To understand motivational differences for heading back into the smoke to grab the dog from the yard, cat from the house, or peacock from the garden, we need to ask owners *why* they do this. Following the regional South Australian bushfires in 2015, we interviewed affected owners about what drives risk-taking for companion animals, and found some unanticipated reasoning. The relative value of different animals' lives, animals supporting multiple family members, the pattern of human-animal bonds in a household, feeling that control over animals introduces vulnerability, becoming 'paralysed' by animals' safety needs during disasters, and other reasons were highly influential. ^[1]

To apply this, we've designed a scale that measures two aspects of owners' risk behaviour for pets: potential intensity (*how far would they go*), and perceived efficacy (*how well could they perform*). ^[2] Both dimensions were grounded in these newly identified motivations, helping us to measure the *why*. In an upcoming paper, we are profiling pet-to-owner relationships along a variety of characteristics that may influence the likelihood of taking risks for pets. ^[3] We can then better understand risk propensity in disaster contexts, and examine real world variations of risk behaviours aimed at protecting companion animals.

At the end of all this, we plan on using patterns in personality, attitudinal, and human-animal bonds to identify why different types of human-animal relationships have differing risk propensities, so that tailored preparedness communication strategies can be made. Fire danger season has just begun here in South Australia, and with previous seasons' devastating impacts on people and their animals, there is a continual need for companion-animal owners to act early and effectively on survival and preparedness information.



For recent publications, or to get in touch, see the ResearchGate profiles of the authors below.

1. Trigg, J., Thompson, K., Smith, B., & Bennett, P. (2016). A moveable beast: Subjective influence of human-animal relationships on risk perception, and risk behaviour during bushfire threat. *The Qualitative Report*, 21(10), 1881-1903.
2. Trigg, J., Smith, B., Bennett, P., & Thompson, K. (in press). Developing a scale to understand willingness to sacrifice personal safety for companion animals: The Pet-Owner Risk Propensity Scale (PORPS). *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*.
3. Trigg, J., Thompson, K., Smith, B., & Bennett, P. (2015). Engaging pet owners in disaster risk and preparedness communications: Simplifying complex human-animal relations with archetypes. *Environmental Hazards*, 14(3), 1-16.

Upcoming Conferences & Events

SRA Policy Forum, Venice, Italy—March 1-3, 2017

The SRA Forum will be held on 1–3 March 2017 at Ca' Foscari University and Cultural Center Don Ori-
one Artigianelli, located in the historic centre of Venice, Italy. The theme is Risk Governance for Key
Enabling Technologies. For more information see: <http://www.sra.org/riskgovernanceforum2017>

Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis (SBCA) 2017 Annual Conference, Washington, DC, USA—March 15-17, 2017

The Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis (SBCA) is an international group of practitioners, academics and others who are working to improve the theory and application of the tools of benefit-cost analysis. Join them at their Ninth Annual Conference and Meeting, which is sponsored by SRA. To register or obtain additional information, please visit <https://benefitcostanalysis.org/2017-annual-conference>

SRA-E, Benelux chapter, Bilthoven, the Netherlands—March 20, 2017

The second annual meeting of SRA-E - Benelux will be held on 20 March 2017, at the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment - RIVM, Bilthoven, The Netherlands. This year's focal theme will be: From Vaccine to Anti-microbial resistance: exploring risk-risk trade-offs. Abstracts close February 15th. For more information see: <http://www.sra.org/events/annual-meeting-sra-e-benelux-chapter>

SRA-Europe, Lisbon, Portugal—June 19-21, 2017

The 26th Annual meeting and conference of Society for Risk Analysis Europe (SRA-E) will be held in Lisbon, Spain, 19-21 June 2017. The theme of this conference is New Challenges, New Threats: Resilience and Adaptation in a Risky World. Abstracts close January 16, 2017. More information at <https://sraelisbon2017.wordpress.com/>



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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

Naomi Cogger (President)
Kirrilly Thompson (President-elect)
Tom Beer (Immediate Past President)
Sandra Seno-Alday (Secretary)
Steven Corin (Treasurer)
Erica Kecorius (Secretariat)
Martina Hoffmann (Newsletter Editor)

Past Presidents

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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