



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 2018 conference
- SRA-ANZ 2018 Keynote speakers
- President elect Lee Bailey

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## Message from the President

**Dear SRA-ANZ Members,**

There's a fable that is said to have originated from the Indian subcontinent about some blind men and an elephant. There are many versions of the story, but the gist is pretty much the same. A group of men—blind from birth—heard that something called an 'elephant' had arrived in their town. Curious to know what an elephant was, they all reached out to touch it. One man reached out and happened to touch the trunk, and concluded that an elephant was some sort of snake. Another reached out and happened to touch one of the elephant's legs, and concluded that it was some sort of tree. And finally, the last one reached out and happened to grasp the elephant's tail, and concluded that an elephant was some kind of whip. A big argument ensued as to what an elephant actually was, with each of the men being partly right about its characteristics but also simultaneously completely wrong about its true nature.



Risk analysis has flourished into a rich and diverse field, with analytical approaches increasingly growing in sophistication. As a community, we certainly have much to celebrate in terms of pushing the boundaries of the analysis and management of different types of risk. The strength of the field, however, is the hallmark of its weakness: while we have explored the vast diversity of risk, we have also contributed to its fragmentation.

Have we become the blind men who have been independently trying to understand what an elephant is? Have we developed strong convictions about what we know about particular risks, but failed to see the big picture? As we continue to deepen our understanding of different risks, are we depriving ourselves of the opportunity to truly grasp its nature?

In order to push the boundaries of risk analysis, we need to bring our different perspectives and areas of expertise together. This is the only way for us to gain important insights into the complex nature of risk, and to appreciate how our work builds on and enriches each other's approaches.

It is in this spirit that SRA-ANZ is aiming to expand its membership base to include other areas of risk analysis that have not been traditionally well-represented in the Society. It is likewise in this spirit that this year's conference on **Risk Prisms** at the University of Sydney Business School brings together multidisciplinary panels aimed at analysing the same risk from different perspectives (early bird registration is closing soon!).

We need to break down our disciplinary silos. We need to talk about the elephant in the room.

**Sandra Seno-Alday, SRA-ANZ President**



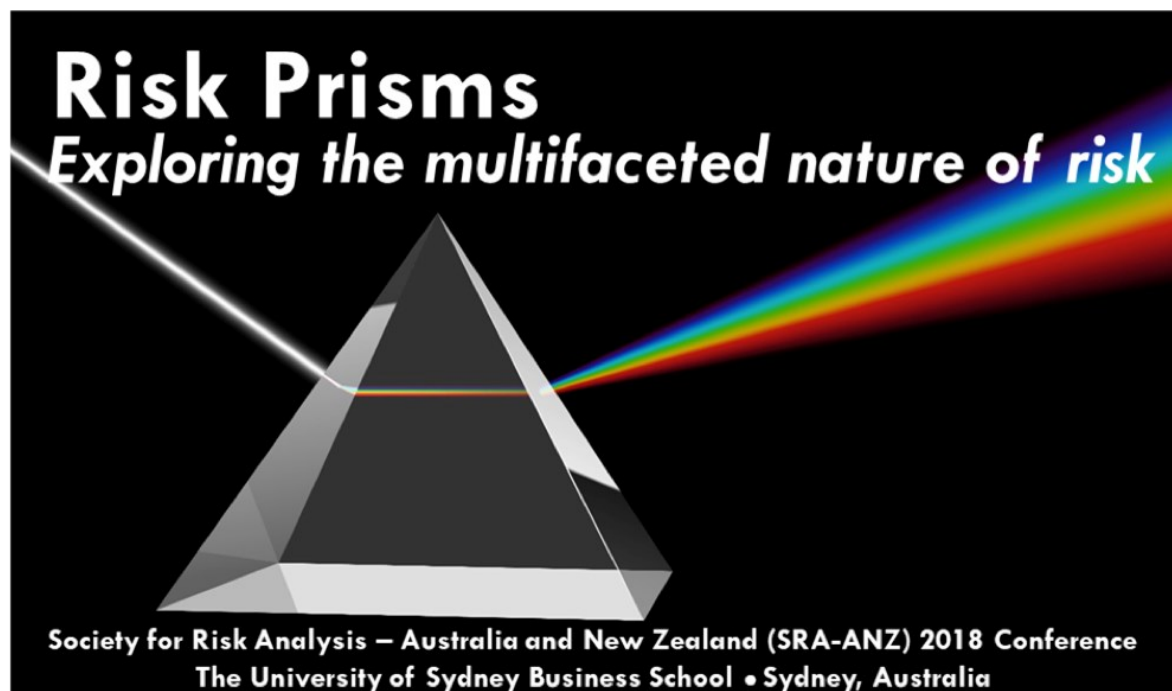
## SRA-ANZ 2018 Conference

### ***Risk Prisms: exploring the multifaceted nature of risk September 26-27 at the University of Sydney***

Risk Prisms: exploring the multifaceted nature of risk  
September 26-27 at the University of Sydney

In the same way that a single beam of light is in reality made up of different colours, the systems-based approach to risk analysis proposes that risk is likewise composed of different elements. While the rapid growth of risk research across multiple fields over the past few decades has successfully produced a large and rich body of literature, it has also resulted in diverse but disconnected perspectives on risk. This is because different disciplines have undertaken independent investigations into the nature of risk and its measurement. Observing light as it passes through different individual lenses effectively deprives scholars of the opportunity to gain rich insights into its multifaceted nature.

The 11<sup>th</sup> conference of SRA-ANZ will be held at the University of Sydney from September 26-27. The conference will comprise two days of panels and feature keynotes by Professor Terje Aven and Associate Professor Andrew Robinson, and a drinks reception. For more information, or to register, visit: [www.sraanzconference.org.nz/](http://www.sraanzconference.org.nz/)



## SRA-ANZ 2018 Conference: Keynote Speakers

### ***Professor Terje Aven, University of Stavanger***

Terje Aven is a Professor of Risk Analysis and Risk Management at the University of Stavanger, Norway. He is also a Principal Researcher at the International Research Institute of Stavanger (IRIS). Previously he was an adjunct Professor in Risk Analysis at the University of Oslo and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. He has many years of experience as a risk analyst and consultant in industry. He is the author of many books and papers in the field, covering both fundamental issues as well as practical risk analysis methods. He served as the President of the European Safety and Reliability Association (ESRA) during the period 2014-2018, and he is the current President of the Society for Risk Analysis International. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Risk and Reliability and associate editor for several journals, including Risk Analysis. At this year's conference, Terje will give a talk about 'The Risk Analysis Science: Foundation and Challenges', addressing some fundamental issues relating to risk analysis as a field and science.



### ***Associate Professor Andrew Robinson, Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis***

Andrew Robinson is the Director of the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis, and reader and associate professor in applied statistics. Andrew focuses on ways of making and using measurements, with particular interests in both biosecurity and forestry. This topic carries him through applications of sampling theory, experimental design, statistical modelling, simulation, risk analysis, and decision making. He has authored many papers and books, including Invasive



Species: Risk Assessment and Management (Cambridge University Press, 2017), which was launched at the 2017 SRA-ANZ conference. In his talk at this year's conference, 'Biosecurity and Risk Analysis: Multiple disciplines or multidisciplinary', Andrew will discuss the sociological challenge that is biosecurity, its biological and economic implications and the changing space of biosecurity research.



## SRA-ANZ president elect: Lee Bailey

***Lee Bailey MSc CGeol, Senior Advisor, Hazardous Substances Reassessments, Environmental Protection Authority|Te Mana Ruahī Taiao***

Lee recently joined the Society of Risk Analysis Australia New Zealand's (SRA-ANZ's) committee as President-Elect. He works for the Environmental Protection Authority|Te Mana Ruahī Taiao (EPA) in Wellington, New Zealand, reviewing chemicals that have been approved some time ago—some as early as the 1960s! Lee joined the reassessment team in December last year after working in the hazardous substances applications teams. This included an assignment leading the team in assessing the risks from pesticide active ingredients being brought into New Zealand for the first time.

Lee trained as a geophysicist at Leicester University in the UK. During his four year undergraduate degree, he enjoyed the modules and case studies in environmental pollution investigation and volcanology so much that he did his fourth year thesis on the geophysical monitoring of volcanoes. Lee escaped a PhD combining two geophysical methods to investigate the lava tubes on Mt Etna in Sicily when he realised that sitting at a computer writing and debugging Fortran code was not for him.

Disillusioned with programming, Lee returned to his other love: environmental impact investigation. Lee got a job for an engineering consultancy investigating the impact of England's industrial legacy on the environment and making sure that new developments did not put people at harm's way. After the 2008 global economic crash, which led to the closure of his office, Lee joined the English integrated waste and water regulator, the Environment Agency (EA). Lee spent 7 years with the EA, providing regulatory advice to planning authorities to improve groundwater quality when old industrial and commercial sites were being redeveloped. He was also involved in a number of large groundwater pollution investigations: project managing part of a £450,000 pilot project to remediate the chlorinated solvents impacts on a deep fractured chalk and a knock-out public water supply borehole from a historical tannery practice in Cambridgeshire. He also led investigations at an industrial estate in Hertfordshire to find the source of



*President elect Lee Bailey*

more chlorinated solvents that had knocked another public water supply borehole out of service and was threatening two more. Although Lee has never used his geophysics training in anger, he was able to finally use it in his work by being an intelligent client in commissioning downhole geophysics to confirm the geology beneath the site as a way of improving his conceptual understanding of how the solvents were getting to the abstraction boreholes.

Lee moved to New Zealand in January 2016, taking advantage of moving from a northern hemisphere winter into our southern summer. He brought his extensive risk assessment and regulatory skills with him to the EPA where he has been working to improve how risk assessments for new pesticides are conducted and reported. Lee wrote the Risk Assessment Methodology documents that the EPA recently consulted on, setting out their current approach to risk assessments. He will be using the feedback received from this consultation, in conjunction with a successor to his team leader role, to improve the models and approach the EPA use to risk assess and evaluate chemicals. Lee is keen to see the assessment write-ups capture the thought processes that he and his colleagues go through, so that applicants and interested New Zealanders can follow the EPA's conceptual understanding and risk assessment conclusions; for without writing for others, the science we work with in regulatory settings is harder for others to understand, follow and comply with.

## Upcoming Conferences & Events

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### ***SRA-Europe Nordic Chapter Meeting***

*8-9 November, 2018, Stavanger, Norway*

The 4th SRA Nordic Chapter conference aims to explore the status quo and the future directions of risk research. The conference wishes to harness its broad, interdisciplinary expertise by gathering researchers from academic institutions and practitioners from the risk, safety, security and resilience communities. We intend to build networks and discuss the most pressing issues within this area of research. The conference gathers academics, policy makers, and other professionals interested in risk research, policy, and practice. The conference is being organised in collaboration with ESRA Norway. For additional information about the conference (including instructions for submitting abstracts), please see the [conference website](#).

### ***SRA-International Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA—December 2-6, 2018***

*2-6 December, 2018, Louisiana, USA*

Join SRA-International in New Orleans, LA for this year's SRA Annual Meeting from December 2-6, 2018 for the premium opportunity to discuss all avenues of risk analysis with other risk enthusiasts from around the globe. Attending will be scientists and practitioners, trained in multiple disciplines and employed across a variety of organizations, who gather annually to share their diverse perspectives.





**Our new website is here!**  
Check it out at  
[www.sraanz.org.nz](http://www.sraanz.org.nz)

**Like us on Facebook and keep  
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)

Lee Bailey (President Elect)

Naomi Cogger (Immediate Past President)

Hong Jin (Secretary)

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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