

Session on

Social Risks in a Changing World

'At a time when disaster potential is on the increase, the coping mechanisms of many societies appear to have become less effective. In parallel with a rise in hazard potential, vulnerability has increased [...]. Given these recent challenges, the world is in urgent need of organizing a concerted effort to deal with systemic risks' (Renn, 2008).

Today's complex and systemic nature of risks has increasingly dissipated the traditional boundaries between risk assessment, risk perception and social coping mechanisms. Individuals and societies face multiple risks in their everyday lives, that although represented by domains that are fundamentally different in their nature — environmental, social, economic, ... — are deeply interconnected. Societal issues are complex and need radically transdisciplinary responses. This can imply cumulative and synergistic effects between these domains, which demands integrated responses to cope with them. Moreover, such risks often emerge from and have consequences across different levels of analysis, from micro to macro levels - intra and inter-individual; intra and inter-groups; intra and inter-organizational, countries and cultures. Therefore, it is inevitable that today's Risk Analysis should favour multi and inter-disciplinary approaches that are better equipped to respond to societal risks that are systemic in nature. Moreover, multi-method approaches and innovative methods for data collection and analysis are necessary, to address current and future challenges in this regard. Given this, this session and associated papers should address the above referred issues that current and future risk analysis research, practice and governance should address. Specific subjects could include (but are not limited to):

- Emerging natural and technological risks
- Social amplification of risks, the media and social media
- Crisis coping and resilience
- Risk, uncertainty and decision making
- Risk perception and communication
- Risk governance and policy making
- New data, new methods for risk analysis

Conveners:

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