ISCRAM2012

Integrative and Analytical Approaches to Crisis Response and Emergency Management Information Systems

9th International Conference on
Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management

Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue
Simon Fraser University

www.iscram.org/iscram2012

TRACK: **HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES**

Introduction of the track

The humanitarian context presents unique challenges for the design, deployment and use of information systems. While interpretations of the term '*humanitarian*' vary, it is generally associated with actions and operations that seek to alleviate human suffering in the face of threatening or existing crises as diverse as armed conflicts or political unrest, epidemics and public health threats, famine and natural hazards. These crises often occur in fragile environments characterized by higher levels of vulnerability including low incomes, sparse infrastructure and in some cases low levels of IT skills. Uncertainties linked to climate change brings with it new challenges such as environmental refugees and loss of livelihoods. Also, the response to these crises is often international in nature, generating the requirement that information systems foster information sharing and processing both locally and globally.

Humanitarian information management is therefore critical to a diverse range of organizations responding to these humanitarian challenges, including donor agencies, governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, Red Cross Movement, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), scientific and research institutes, academia, the media and private sector. Over the past decade these organizations have worked collectively to generate increasingly specific guidance on humanitarian information management, from the 2007 humanitarian information management principles (including accessibility, inclusiveness, interoperability, impartiality, and sustainability), to the recently articulated UN Inter-Agency Steering Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Common Operational Datasets.

This track invites papers that intend to showcase research results or practitioner cases that help overcome these unique challenges. In particular the focus will be on both the development of information systems artifacts, practices, methods or theories and studies of information management policies and processes that help further develop humanitarian practice and scholarship. This track also aims to create an understanding of the potential of ICT to improve disaster risk reduction and crisis response, considering the complex and integrated relationship with climate change and adaptation.
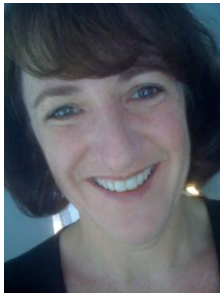
Track topics

- Information Management in Global and Field operations
- Humanitarian logistics
- Humanitarian response coordination
- Data collection in the Field
- Telemedicine and electronic medical records
- Training and Education in humanitarian information systems and management
- Local Community involvement

- Climate change and humanitarian crises
- Multinational disaster risk reduction

Track Chairs

Carleen Maitland* cmaitland@ist.psu.edu
Penn State University, USA

Bartel Van de Walle, bartel@uvt.nl
Tilburg University, The Netherlands

Dewald van Niekerk, Dewald.VanNiekerk@nwu.ac.za
North West University, South Africa

Corresponding Chair

Type of submissions

ISCRAM2012 is soliciting three types of submission:

1. Full research papers, which will be double blind peer reviewed. It is intended that these will report completed work which can be assessed to the highest academic standards. Such papers should be no more than 10 pages with figures & tables (~5000 words)

2. Work in progress and discussion paper which will be subjected to a light peer review to ensure clarity. Such papers should be no more than 5 pages with figures & tables (~2500 words)

3. Practitioner reports and discussions which raise issues, examples and case studies of importance in responding to and managing crises. Such paper will be subject to a light peer review to ensure clarity and should be no more than 5 pages with figures & tables (~2500 words)

Note that the designation of the paper and its reviewing will be indicated in the conference proceedings. Also we are not trying to create some concept of first and second quality papers. Rather we are aware that some report finished work which can be assessed in the sense of full peer review and contribution to research, while others offer ideas and thoughts which will stimulate discussion at ISCRAM conferences. The latter are vital if we are to make the conference valuable for shaping our

Note that the ISCRAM paper template is available at
www.iscram.org/iscram2012 under the "submissions" tab.
All submissions must conform to ISCRAM formatting guidelines.

subject. Full papers, work-in-progress papers and poster abstracts will be published in the proceedings.

Submission process and deadlines

Authors must submit papers and posters electronically at https://www.conftool.com/iscram2012/. All papers must use the ISCRAM MS Word template for papers. Deadlines for each submission format are listed below:

> ### Submission Deadline Schedule for Papers, Posters, and Doctoral Colloquium:
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> *Full paper submissions* -- November 15th, 2011
> *Work-in-progress paper, practitioner papers, posters* -- January 15th, 2012
> *Doctoral student colloquium papers* -- February 15th, 2012
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> Submission site: https://www.conftool.com/iscram2012/

About ISCRAM:

The ISCRAM Community is a worldwide community of researchers, scholars, teachers, students, practitioners and policy makers interested or actively involved in the subject of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. At its annual international conference alternating between the US and Europe, the ISCRAM Community gathers to present and discuss the latest research and developments in this growing area during an interactive and stimulating 3 day program. The ISCRAM Community also organizes an International Summer School for PhD students and ISCRAM-CHINA, an annual conference for ISCRAM research in China. Full information on ISCRAM can be found at www.iscram.org.