Introduction to the track

Difficulties in collaboration are a persisting problem in multi-agency response to disasters. Particular problems arise around the number of agencies and actors involved and the kinds of connections needed between them. Decision-makers in complex and uncertain settings may rely on foresight processes to plan and identify goals for uncertain futures, but actors in ad hoc situations lack time to develop multiple scenarios of collaboration and its projected outcomes. Sociological and computational network theories such as actor-network theory (ANT) or social network analysis (SNA) are useful lenses to gain better understanding of these connections spanning from local to global levels (Comfort, Ko et al. 2004; Wachtendorf 2004; Kapucu, Arslan et al. 2010; Sheperd and Williams 2014). With both approaches, dynamic network evolution can be investigated, in complementary ways: computational network analysis simulates probable evolution of inter-organizational cooperation; sociological network analysis retraces networks historically in narrative, qualitative studies. As the emergent interdisciplinary field of crisis studies increasingly adopts network models, the aim of this track is to assess research results, address research gaps and to develop common ground for future research.

This track will explore different approaches of network theory in crisis
management to debate complementary perspectives. In-depth empirical knowledge, quantitative and qualitative studies, back casts and forecasts, cases and simulations in order to analyze and explore emerging networks are invited. Different levels of coordination, cooperation and collaboration (Turner 1976; Turoff, Hiltz et al. 2013) in crises and disaster management will be addressed, and research should examine network dynamics from global, local or global-local levels. Of particular interest are contributions to changing networks of responders involved in the different phases of disaster management (i.e. preparedness, risk reduction, response, rehabilitation) as such transitions often remain opaque in the literature and create pitfalls for actors, practices of data sharing and learning. Another focus is on long term perspectives, sustainable outcomes and of linking relief and reconstruction.

This track also invites studies focusing on the “dark side” of networked processes, namely exclusion and/or disruptive phenomena challenging safety or locally sustainable solutions in mass collaborative settings. Finally, this track invites research on the broader role of visibility in Humanitarian multi-agency disaster management, exploring the connection of donor needs and interests with symbolic action in emergencies and reconstruction.

**Track topics**

Expected submissions topics:

- **Conceptualizations and models of collaboration in crisis management**
- **Collaboration networks case studies and best practices**
- **Integration and automatization of collaboration along the value chain and across organizations**
- **Design and implementation of technologies to facilitate collaboration in networked organizations**
- **Robustness, resilience and sustainability of networked structures and technologies**
- **Forecast and backcast instruments for dynamic networks**
- **Studies on transitions of response networks though out the crisis management cycle (preparedness, risk reduction, response and rehabilitation)**
- **Studies on actor network theory in crisis management**
- **Simulation and modeling of crisis management networks based on dynamic network analysis, social network analysis and complex networks**
- **Response network disruption and network exclusion in multi-**
agency crisis management
- Global-local networks in humanitarian crisis management
- Competition, Distribution and Collaboration in crisis response networks

Describe how you will recruit authors and reviewers

The track organizers stem from European NiTiM\(^1\) Graduate School (www.nitim.org). With its Marie Curie ITN\(^2\) on Network Crisis Management, NiTiM is well embedded in various European research institutions and communities and faculty and fellows have an extensive network across various academic communities. Specifically the virtual community Katnet will be one of the hubs through which we intend to address the scholarly and practitioner communities in Crisis Response in the German speaking countries. Envisaged other channels are ALNAP and ANDROID research groups, both based in the UK, London (www.alnap.org) and Salford (www.disaster-resilience.net).

The conference track will be promoted extensively within this network and the topic is conceptualized to bring new authors and audiences to the ISCRAM community.

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\(^1\) See attached Flyer NTIM Summer School, Bergamo 2014
\(^2\) FP7 People-2011 MC ITN: A networked and IT enabled firms perspective for crises management
Professor Dr. Ulrike Lechner

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Ulrike Lechner is Professor for Information Systems at the Universität der Bundeswehr München. She studied computer science and holds a PhD from the Universität Passau. She was project manager, lecturer and professor at the Universität St. Gallen and had a professorship position at the Universität Bremen. She chaired tracks at conferences as AMCIS or HICSS and a track on Crisis Management – Information Systems, Humanitarian Logistics and IT-based Decision Support at the Multi-Konferenz Wirtschaftsinformatik 2014. She was program chair at the 25th Bled eConference with the theme Dependability and edited a special issues on Dependability of the Journal Electronic Markets. Ulrike Lechner is faculty in Graduate School NiTiM on Networked Crisis Management, member of the Research Center Cyberdefense and is in the board of the Munich IT-Security Network. She chaired a seminar in the Leibniz Center for Informatics Schloss Dagstuhl on Civilian Crisis Response Models. Her research interests are crisis management, IT-Security of Critical Infrastructures and IT-Management and she has authored around 80 publications.

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Kees Boersma is Associate Professor at the VU University Amsterdam in the department of
Organization Science, faculty of Social Science. He has a background in science and technology studies. His research interest is in organization studies and information systems, and in particular in the interplay between safety, security and surveillance. In his work he uses sense-making approaches and network analysis. He published widely on these topics in journals and edited volumes.

He is project leader of AREA, the Amsterdam Research on Emergency Administration (http://www.area-vu.nl/) in which he works together with practitioners in the field of crisis management and humanitarian response. He is the coordinator of the NWO project (2014-2018) ‘Enhancing smart disaster governance: Assessing the potential of the net-centric approach’.

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John is a Ph.D. Candidate at Leiden University Campus Den Haag. His work involves research oriented in development of integral governance framework for disaster mitigation and crisis and security network management. His field of expertise stems from previous work in terrorism and warfare anthropology.

As a member of Leiden’s academic community, John’s work contributes to the Network for Information Technology and Innovation Management Consortium (NITIM), on segments of NITIM interests that focus on social networking paradigms and human relationship dynamics for the purpose of identifying existing digital technologies and best practice that will strengthen community resilience to natural and
synthetic crises and collaborative efforts between first responders and civilian communities.

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Christina Weber, sociologist, is working for “Strascheg Centre for Entrepreneurship”, Munich University of Applied Sciences since 2008. Before, she was project officer at Karl Kuebel Foundation for Child and Family, Bensheim, responsible for project coordination in rural development and disaster management with Indian partner organizations. She started professional life at ZUMA, Mannheim, as research assistant in qualitative research/ text- and content analysis. She is an external PhD candidate of the University of Leiden with the research project “Innovation networks in disaster management”.

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Nadia Noori is a researcher and a PhD Candidate at the FUNDACIÓN PRIVADA UNIVERSIDAD Y TECNOLOGÍA - FUNITEC La Salle in Barcelona. She started her PhD in Crisis Management Networks in 2013 as part of the ITN project. She holds a MSc in Computer and Control Engineering from Baghdad University (Iraq), Executive MBA from Goizueta Business School, Emory University (USA), and MASc in
Technology Innovation Management from Carleton University (Canada).
Before commencing her PhD studies, Ms. Noori was a Platforms and Product Manager at Coral CEA, a Canadian not-for-profit, an open innovation network focused on building platform-based ecosystems. Her research work in crisis management is in the area of organizational collaboration and coordination in dynamic environment and network governed structures.
References


