INTRODUCTION TO THE TRACK

Community Engagement is often an afterthought in crisis planning, recovery efforts, and research and has been repeatedly identified as a failure point in major disasters. Creating effective, enduring research partnerships that bring together information scientists, community engaged researchers, disaster management professionals (practitioners) and a wide range of community stakeholders can improve scientific understanding and strengthen community response capacity. Performance improvements in this domain must be based on an increased understanding of how practitioners and impacted communities actually conduct their response, operations, and logistics work,

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including stakeholder roles, strategies, practices, information usage, constraints, motivations, and environments.

Community Engagement in Research (CEnR) also is complex, resource intensive endeavour that is not as controlled as laboratory based research. This track will engage participants in a discussion of CEnR projects geared toward integrating community, informatics, and disaster management as well as the theoretical and practical problems associated with performing research in this space. Special attention will also be paid to citizen observatory and citizen sensor approaches.

**TRACK TOPICS**
Possible topics of interest for this track include the following:

- Community/Academic partnerships for disaster planning & response
- Crisis information systems design for underserved & marginalized communities
- Attitudes of practitioners towards using new technologies for crisis management
- Working effectively with civil defense & first responder experts and authorities
- Consideration of human rights in approaches to uncertainty during crisis response operations and the organizations that conduct them (for example, INGOs in humanitarian operations)
- Individual level human crises within the context of broader disaster events
- Visualizing community and neighborhood level data to inform crisis management efforts
- Network centric approaches to optimizing community, responder, and government interactions and coordination
- Healthcare and Public Health systems as a bridge to vulnerable communities during disaster events
- Disaster eHealth

**AUTHORS AND REVIEWERS RECRUITMENT**
Authors and reviewers with a transdisciplinary perspective, incorporating “on the ground” community views, information systems, collaborative design approaches, professional disaster management perspectives, and a strong interest in practical outcomes from ICTs are encouraged to apply. Past papers have included perspectives from disciplines such as Anthropology, Psychology, Ethnography, Community Engagement, Healthcare, etc., in combination with contributions from HCI, computer supported work, and other information systems disciplines. The track aims to merge social science and computational approaches.

**TRACK CHAIR AND CO-CHAIRS**

Zeno Franco, PhD*, Associate Professor, Family & Community Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin, USA; Computer Science, Marquette University, USA. Dr. Franco is a former board member of ISCRAM and former US Dep. of Homeland Security Fellow. His research focuses on community engagement, community collaborative ICT design, and domestic (US) disasters in marginalized / health disparities communities. zfranco@mcw.edu
Bas Lijnse, PhD, Assistant Professor, Radboud University, Netherlands. Dr. Lijnse’s work focuses on dynamic workflows for crisis management, command and control, and programming languages to support these tasks. He has worked extensively with the Netherlands Coast Guard to develop task management strategies for search and rescue activities using the Clean language. Dr. Lijnse is a long time member of ISCRAM, having chaired the Research Methods track, among others.

Reem Abbas, PhD candidate, Auckland University of Technology (AUT). Ms. Abbas is interested in eHealth and finding ways of improving healthcare delivery during natural and human-made disasters. Her research on cross-agency collaboration and information exchange addresses the communication challenges between clinical and emergency management personnel during disasters, and how these two groups can make effective use of the available e-health tools that are currently revolutionizing mainstream healthcare. Her research also aims at developing a curriculum framework that could be standardized for enhancing communication during disasters.

Sheikh Iqbal Ahamed, PhD, Professor, Marquette University, USA. Dr. Ahamed’s research work focuses on building customized and innovative patient communication methods through technology, developing new and innovative approaches for health monitoring, pain management, mapping technologies, and activity monitoring for smartphones. He has worked with hospitals in the U.S. and internationally on a number of projects, as well as with leading healthcare companies in the healthcare industry. Dr. Ahamed has worked with a number of engineers, nurses, and physicians on 20 healthcare grants over the past 13 years.

Tony Norris, PhD, Adjunct Professor, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand. e-health and disaster management, disaster e-health (DEH) to achieve improvement in the quality and appropriateness of disaster health planning, response, and recovery. Key research questions concern inter-agency communication and terminology, the data sets used by agencies in disaster situations, the selection of appropriate e-health technologies to improve DEH, protocols for their application, and their integration with existing care processes.

*Corresponding Chair
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