



European  
Sociological  
Association

## Biennial Report

1. RN22 **Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty**
2. **Past term board (2015-2017)**

### Board:

Chair: Adam Burgess (2015- 2016); Aiste Balzekiene (2016-2017)  
Vice- chair: Aiste Balzekiene (2015-2016)  
Patrick Brown, University of Amsterdam  
Kayhan Delibas, Adnan Menderes University  
Jeremy Dixon, University of Bath  
Efim Fidyra, Emmanuel Kant Baltic Federal University  
Bert de Graaff, Univ. of Amsterdam  
Maria Grazia Galantino, Sapienza University of Rome  
Kirill Gavrilov, Russian Academy of Sciences  
Gemma Mitchell, University of Leicester  
Susanna Öhman, Mid Sweden University

### Advisory board:

Renata Motta, Freie Universität, Berlin  
Piotr Matczak, Adam Mickiewicz Univ.  
Gabe Mythen, University of Liverpool  
Anna Olofsson, Mid Sweden University  
Jens Zinn, University of Melbourne  
Jörgen Sparf, Mid Sweden University

### **New term board (2017 – 2019), elected at board meeting, ESA Athens conference**

### Board:

Chair: Aiste Balzekiene, Kaunas University of Technology, <aiste.balzekiene@ktu.lt>  
Vice- Chair: Patrick Brown, University of Amsterdam, <P.R.Brown@uva.nl>  
Veronica Moretti, Bologna University (Early Career) <veronica.moretti4@unibo.it>  
Jeremy Dixon, University of Bath (Secretary) <J.Dixon2@bath.ac.uk>  
Efim Fidyra, Emmanuel Kant Baltic Federal University <efim.fidyra@gmail.com>  
Bert de Graaff, Univ. of Amsterdam <mbdegraaff@gmail.com>  
Maria Grazia Galantino, Sapienza University of Rome (Editor Newsletter)  
<mariagrazia.galantino@unitelma.it >  
Kirill Gavrilov, Russian Academy of Science <gavrilov@socio.msk.ru>  
Gemma Mitchell, University of Leicester <gm95@leicester.ac.uk>

Susanna Öhman, Mid Sweden University (Treasurer) <Susanna.Ohman@miun.se>

**Advisory board:**

Kayhan Delibas, Adnan Menderes University <kdelibas@gmail.com>

Piotr Matczak, Adam Mickiewicz Univ. <matczak@amu.edu.pl>

Anna Olofsson, Mid Sweden University <Anna.Olofsson@miun.se>

Jens Zinn, University of Melbourne <jzinn@unimelb.edu.au>

During the term of 2015-2017, the Chair Adam Burgess stepped out, therefore from 2016 vice – chair Aiste Balzekiene took over, mainly for the organization of RN22 sessions in ESA conference in Athens.

The board is well represented in terms of regional representation and gender balance. In new term there is a new member for Early career research.

### 3. Activities

- **ESA conference Athens, 2017.** RN22 sessions:

The Research Network RN22 “Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty” at the ESA 2017 conference has organized 9 sessions with 38 presentations. Topics discussed included theoretical and methodological advancements in risk and uncertainty research; risk research related to inequalities, health and social care, media representations and discourses. The Network has also organized a joint session with RN12 Environment and Society on research trends in environmental risk perception. The participants represented a broad range of countries (e.g. Sweden, Italy, Germany, Russia, Poland, Netherlands, Lithuania, Finland, UK, and else). Also the sessions included presentation from scholars at different career stages.

Sessions at the conference:

1. Methods and methodologies in Risk Research
  2. Public Discourses and Media Representations of Risk (I & II)
  3. Theoretical Advancements in Risk Studies
  4. Current Research in Risk Perceptions and Understandings
  5. Risk, Uncertainty and Inequality (I & II)
  6. Risks in Health and Social Care (I & II)
- Mid-term. In 2016, the mid-term conference of RN22 was going to be held in Turkey, however due to the uncertain political situation it had to be cancelled.
  - **Newsletter.** RN22 has quarterly newsletter, that presents new publications, forthcoming conferences, networking opportunities, reports about RN22 activities and else. From 2017, Newsletter is prepared together with thematic group (TG04) Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty, International Sociological Association (ISA). The newsletter is distributed through the mailing list of ESA RN22, and also other professional networks. The joining for the efforts of two networks seems efficient in terms of efforts and dissemination.
  - **Social media.** Network is active in social media (twitter <https://twitter.com/riskuncertainty> and also ESA and ISA Sociology of Risk and uncertainty are presented in webpage

<http://www.riskanduncertainty.net/>. The network is planning to use more of the possibilities provided by renewed ESA webpage for dissemination purposes.

- **Cooperation with other professional networks.** The members of ESA RN22 are actively involved in the activities of ISA TG04, so the European and International networks of sociology of risk and uncertainty closely cooperate. Significant part of members are also involved with Society for Risk Analysis (International, Europe and Nordic Chapter), that opens up the possibilities for interdisciplinary audiences in risk research. From the thematic perspective, RN22 cooperates with networks of Environment and Society, Sociology of Professions, theory and methods networks and others. RN22 with RN12 submitted application for Semi-Plenary Session at Athens conference, and also organized joined session.
- **Publications, workshops.**
  - During the reported period, following book was published, as an output from earlier Mid-term conference: Brown, P. and Oloffson, A. (eds.) (2016) *Risk, Uncertainty and Policy*. London: Routledge.
  - Based on the professional networking within RN22 of ESA, KTU with partners from 5 universities had Erasmus+ project "*Risk and Security Governance in Nordic – Baltic Countries*" (2016-2018). Final conference "*Risks for Regions and Regions at Risk*" was organized in Vilnius, prof. Anna Olofsson was one of plenary speakers.
  - Network members organized workshop *Researching Risk and Uncertainty – Methodologies, Methods and Research Strategies*. November 29-December 1. 2016, Ostersund, Sweden. The contributions will be peer reviewed and published in an edited book on methodologies, methods and research strategies within the book series *Critical Studies in Risk and Uncertainty* with Palgrave Macmillan (series editors are Patrick Brown, Anna Olofsson and Jens O. Zinn).
- **Future activities**

In 2018, Mid-term conference of RN22 "*Complexities of risk and uncertainty*" is going to be organized at Kaunas university of Technology, Lithuania, 4-5 October. Pre-conference PhD workshop will be organized in order to attract PhD students to the network and help them to improve their work in risk sociology. There will be a financial support for the best students to attend the workshop.

In coming term, RN also will focus more on publishing opportunities for papers from Mid-term conferences and sessions at ESA conferences.

Prepared by Aiste Balzekiene, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania