



## **Biennial Report of Research Network 22: Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty 2019-2021**

### **Board and Network Co-ordinators (2019-2021)**

Elected at board meeting, ESA Manchester conference

Coordinator: Patrick Brown, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands [P.R.Brown@uva.nl](mailto:P.R.Brown@uva.nl)

Vice-coordinator: Maria Grazia Galantino, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy  
[mariagrazia.galantino@unitelma.it](mailto:mariagrazia.galantino@unitelma.it)

### **Board members:**

Aiste Balzekiene, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania  
Anna Olofsson, Mid Sweden University, Sweden  
Bert de Graaff, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands  
Efim Fidyra, Emmanuel Kant Baltic Federal University. Russia  
Gabe Mythen, University of Liverpool, UK  
Jens Zinn, University of Melbourne, Australia/Germany  
Jeremy Dixon, University of Bath, UK  
Kayhan Delibas, Adnan Menderes University, Turkey  
Kirill Gavrilov, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia  
Piotr Matczak, Adam Mickiewicz University. Poland  
Veronica Moretti, Bologna University (Early Career), Italy

### **Incoming Board and Network Coordinators**

Elected at board meeting, ESA Barcelona conference (held online)

Coordinator: Maria Grazia Galantino, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy  
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Vice-co-ordinator: Bert de Graaff, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands  
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### **Board members:**

Aiste Balzekiene, Kaunas University of Technology, LT  
Patrick Brown, University of Amsterdam, NL  
Jeremy Dixon, University of Bath, UK  
Barbara Fersch, University of Southern Denmark, DK  
Efim Fidyra, Emmanuel Kant Baltic Federal University. RU  
Kirill Gavrilov, Russian Academy of Sciences, RU  
Piotr Matczak, Adam Mickiewicz University. PL  
Veronica Moretti, Bologna University (Early Career), IT  
Jens Zinn, University of Melbourne, Australia/DE

## Activities

### *Mid-term conference*

Along with the University of Perugia, the Italian Sociological Association and our sister network in the ISA (TG04), we planned a mid-term conference which was initially due to take place in October 2020. The pandemic situation in Spring 2020 led us to postpone the conference by a year and indeed the conference finally took place entirely online from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The excellent organizational work of our colleague Fabio D'Andrea led to a smooth and well run even, the costs of which were covered by sources available at the University of Perugia – hence there were no costs to the network. Full details of the different sessions are available here - <https://twitter.com/SoRU21Narni> - but in summary:

11 sessions including 3 keynotes and a Decolonising Risk Sociology roundtable towards the end of the conference, which was run in English and Spanish with translation.

60 participants, who each received a certificate of attendance, and more than 200 spectators for the streamed sessions.

As a prelude to the conference, Fabio had also organised a live-streamed Roundtable *Multi-dimensional risks* which formed part of the Festival della Sociologia, Narni, Italy, 16 October 2020. This latter event was run by the Italian Sociological Association and University of Perugia.

### *RN22 Activities at the main ESA Barcelona Conference*

At the main ESA conference we ran 10 online sessions with 32 papers. These numbers were somewhat lower than in Manchester though the quality of papers and presentations was noticeably higher. We also coordinated far more joint sessions with other networks than we had done before and again, this led to high quality and very engaging sessions. This involved a further 31 more papers across 9 joint sessions – including 3 joint sessions with RN13 (Families and intimate lives) and 2 each with RN01 (Ageing in Europe), RN12 (Environment and Society), and RN16 (Sociology of Health and Medicine). Discussions are taking place regarding the turning of some of these joint sessions into journal special issues.

### *PhD Workshop*

RN22 had planned to run a PhD workshop in Barcelona which would have followed on from the main ESA conference. Planning for this was made uncertain by the pandemic and the eventual shift in the plans for the main conference. We then looked into possibilities of running the workshop later in October in Amsterdam and we were planning on using ESA funds to help different PhDs attend the conference. However, eventually, a combination of the family situations and other commitments of the PhDs (and thus some late withdrawals) and the wider uncertainty led us to hold the workshop online. We had 3 PhDs in the end (1 each from India, the Netherlands and Sweden), and due to the small numbers we were able to devote much time to written chapters by each of them. The workshop was led by Anna Olofsson, Maria Grazia Galantino and Patrick Brown, with excellent input and organisational input from Veronica Moretti, our board member focused on PhDs and ECRs. Alongside three lectures on risk theory (one tailored to the interests of each of the PhDs) and in depth feedback sessions, we also held a session on getting published as a PhD/ECR.

### *Newsletter*

We continue to publish a quarterly newsletter which we publish in cooperation with our sister network in the ISA (TG04). In this past term we have shifted the email onto the Mail Chimp platform

which has made for more creative and mobile phone friendly layout, more pictures and also enables us to track which items attract most interests. A big thank you to Maria Grazia Galantino, Bert de Graaff and Patrick Brown for their work on the newsletter. Due to Covid-19 working pressures and fewer events, the number of issue reduced from 4 to 3 per year but we hope to return to normal soon.

#### *Social media and web presence*

RN22 continues to have a growing social media presence through twitter (<https://twitter.com/riskuncertainty> ) which is run by ESA and ISA Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty members. We also have a LinkedIn group was created <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12184487/>

Our existing website has gradually become un-usable but given the success of our mid-term conference website we are looking into ways of cooperating with our ISA sister network to develop blogs and more of a website presence. Plans are already being made and we hope to realise this in the coming term.

#### *Collaboration with other networks*

As apparent in the above, we work closely with colleagues on Risk and Uncertainty in the ISA (TG04) as well as other ESA networks. The growing number of joint sessions in Barcelona will hopefully lay the basis for further cooperation and joint work on publications in the future.

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*Confidential to the RN Council Chair and ESA's RN Committee – not placed on the website:*

A big thanks for all the support to us, especially the openness of Bernadette to thinking along with us as we tried to realise our plans for the PhD workshop. I think the committee has coped well amid the difficulties of the pandemic. Some of the communications (from the committee and beyond) regarding the difficulties faced by the ESA exec and earlier execs/colleagues in the preceding period has been unfortunate. Hopefully this can be resolved soon.