



European
Sociological
Association

Biennial Report 2017-2019

1. RN22 Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

2. Past term board (2017-2019)

Board:

Coordinator: Aiste Balzekiene, Kaunas University of Technology, <aiste.balzekiene@ktu.lt>

Vice- Coordinator: Patrick Brown, University of Amsterdam, <P.R.Brown@uva.nl>

Veronica Moretti, Bologna University (Early Career)

Jeremy Dixon, University of Bath (Secretary)

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 Science

Gemma Mitchell, University of Leicester

Susanna Öhman, Mid Sweden University (Treasurer)

Advisory board:

Kayhan Delibas, Adnan Menderes University

Piotr Matczak, Adam Mickiewicz Univ.

Anna Olofsson, Mid Sweden University

Jens Zinn, University of Melbourne

New term board (2019-2021), elected at board meeting, ESA Manchester conference

Coordinator: Patrick Brown, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands P.R.Brown@uva.nl

Vice-coordinator: Maria Grazia Galantino, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

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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

The board is well represented in terms of regional representation and gender balance.
The membership of the research network has increased from 45 in 2017, to 60 in 2019.

3. Activities

- **Mid-term conference:**

RN22 Mid-term conference “Complexities of Risk and Uncertainty”, 4-5th October, 2018, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Pre-conference Phd workshop p “**Researching Risk and Uncertainty**”, October 2-3, 2018

Mid-term conference and Phd workshop were attended by more than 50 participants.

Keynote speakers were:

Sakari Taipale (University of Jyväskylä), Esther Versluis (Maastricht University) and Sylvia Walby (Lancaster University)

PhD workshop was led by prof. Jenz Zinn (University of Melbourne) and Anna Olofsson (Mid-Sweden University).

The link to the conference page: <https://shmmf.ktu.edu/riskconference/>

The link to the Intensive workshop for Phd Students: <https://shmmf.ktu.edu/riskworkshop/>

E-book of conference abstracts was published online:

<https://www.ebooks.ktu.lt/einfo/1441/complexities-of-risk-and-uncertainty-mid-term-conference-of-european-sociological-association-research-network-22-sociology-of-risk-and-uncertainty%E2%80%9D/>

The conference and the pre-conference PhD workshop were very successful and positively received. Conference ensured nice geographical and subject-wise representation of risk researchers. Also the participants appreciated the format of the conference, with a limited number of parallel sessions, allowing the networking. The Phd workshop was represented by PhD students from variety of countries, and they indicted the added value of this course and the provided materials for the advancement of their PhD theses. Report about the event in the KTU website:

<https://fssah.ktu.edu/news/ktu-and-european-sociological-association-conference-on-risk-and-uncertainty-valuable-discussions-and-shared-knowledge/>

- **ESA conference Manchester, 2019.** RN22 sessions:

The Research Network RN22 “Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty” at the ESA 2019 conference in Manchester has organized 9 sessions with 33 presentations.

Also RN22 participated in the calls for semi-plenaries (participated in 3 calls), and organized one semi-plenary session: ‘**Understanding Risk and Uncertainty in Anthropocene**’, and one joint session JS_RN16_RN22_RN30 - Adolescents and Obesity in Context: Moving Beyond Individual Choice

Topics discussed in RN22 regular sessions included theoretical and methodological advancements in risk and uncertainty research; risk research related to inequalities, health and social care, climate change, emergency preparedness media representations and discourses. 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. Current research in Risk Perception and Representation
 2. Theoretical Advancements in Risk and Uncertainty Studies
 3. Risk and Uncertainty in Everyday life
 4. Risks in Health and Social Care
 5. Public Discourses and Media Representations of Risk
 6. Social Responses to Climate Change and Environmental Risks
 7. Risk, Uncertainty and Inequality
 8. Risk Governance and Emergency Preparedness
 9. Risk, Healthcare and Professional Work
- **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. In 2019, the format of newsletter was changed to the web/ online format. Subscription to the newsletter is by email list-manager[at]kent.ac.uk.
 - **Social media.** Network has accounts 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/>. During this term, LinkedIn group was created <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12184487/>
 - **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. (ISA TG04 president Jens O. Zinn is board member of RN22) Significant part of members are also involved with Society for Risk Analysis (International, Europe and Nordic Chapter). From the thematic perspective, RN22 cooperates with networks of Environment and Society, Sociology of Professions, theory and methods networks and others.
 - **Future activities**
In 2020, Mid-term conference of RN22 is going to be organized jointly with Italian sociological association in October 2020.
In coming term, RN also will focus more on publishing opportunities for papers from Mid-term conferences and sessions at ESA conferences.
RN should focus more on attracting young scholars, for example providing prizes for best papers, covering the conference fee and providing an allowance for travel and accommodation