

# Unscheduled Events

Research Committee on the Sociology of Disasters



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# PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to this issue of *Unscheduled Events*. We have all sorts of news and information for you to read about in this issue! First, I wish to acknowledge the increasingly tumultuous times we live in. The pace and intensity of climatic events, politics, and conflict have reached levels that I could never have anticipated. I want to take a moment to recognize our family, friends, colleagues, and peers who are working in challenging and dangerous conditions. It hardly seems enough, but I want to thank you all for the work that you are doing. I am humbled and grateful.



As April rushes away from us, I want to remind you to be on the lookout for information regarding the **XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology, July 4 – 10, 2027, in Gwangju, Korea!** Tiffany Cousins and I will be serving as your program coordinators. The portal for submitting session abstracts will open on May 2 and close on June 25. A link to the ISA website with relevant information will be provided within the newsletter. Remember, you determine the program! Please start thinking about topical sessions you would like to see and chair. Also, think about the work that you would like to present. Encourage students and colleagues to attend! It is an amazing experience and an opportunity for those at all stages of their careers.

For those planning to attend either the Natural Hazards Workshop or the Researchers Meeting, remember that they are EARLY this year. While both have been held in mid-July, the dates are now mid-June. The new dates for the Natural Hazards Workshop are 14 June – 17 June in Broomfield, CO. The Researchers Meeting will follow and be held from 17 June to 18 June. We always have incredible presentations at both events. For more information, please see the following link: <https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2026>. Marlon Era, your VP, Tristan Wu, your Secretary/Treasurer, Tiffany Cousins, your Newsletter Editor, Rosie Lin, your Social Media Coordinator, and I will all be there. Please look for us! Say hello and grab a coffee!

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Marlon Era



Rosie Lin and Tiffany Cousins



Tristan Wu



When you see Shigeo Tatsuki at Natural Hazards, tell him “Happy Retirement from teaching at Doshisha University in Kyoto.” As of March 31, Shig is now in control of his own time – no more department meetings, but an amazing edited volume on the way! I was thrilled and honored to be able to co-teach two classes with Shig in the Spring/Summer of 2025. Thanks for the amazing opportunity and experience, Shig!

Stay safe and well!!

With tremendous respect,  
 Michèle Companion ❤️



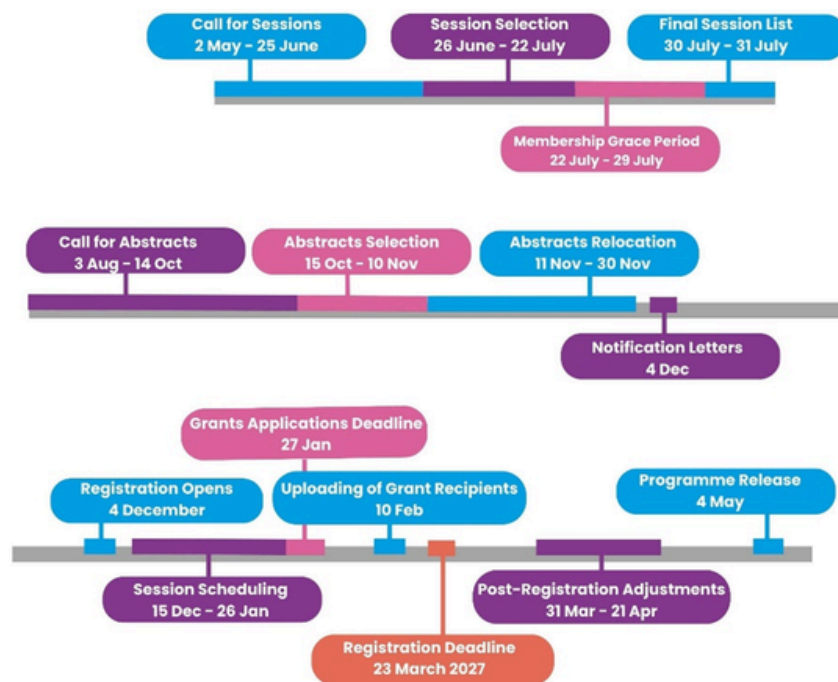
XXI ISA WORLD CONGRESS  
 OF SOCIOLOGY **2027**  
 GWANGJU, KOREA

# ISA WORLD CONGRESS 2027 IS GEARING UP!

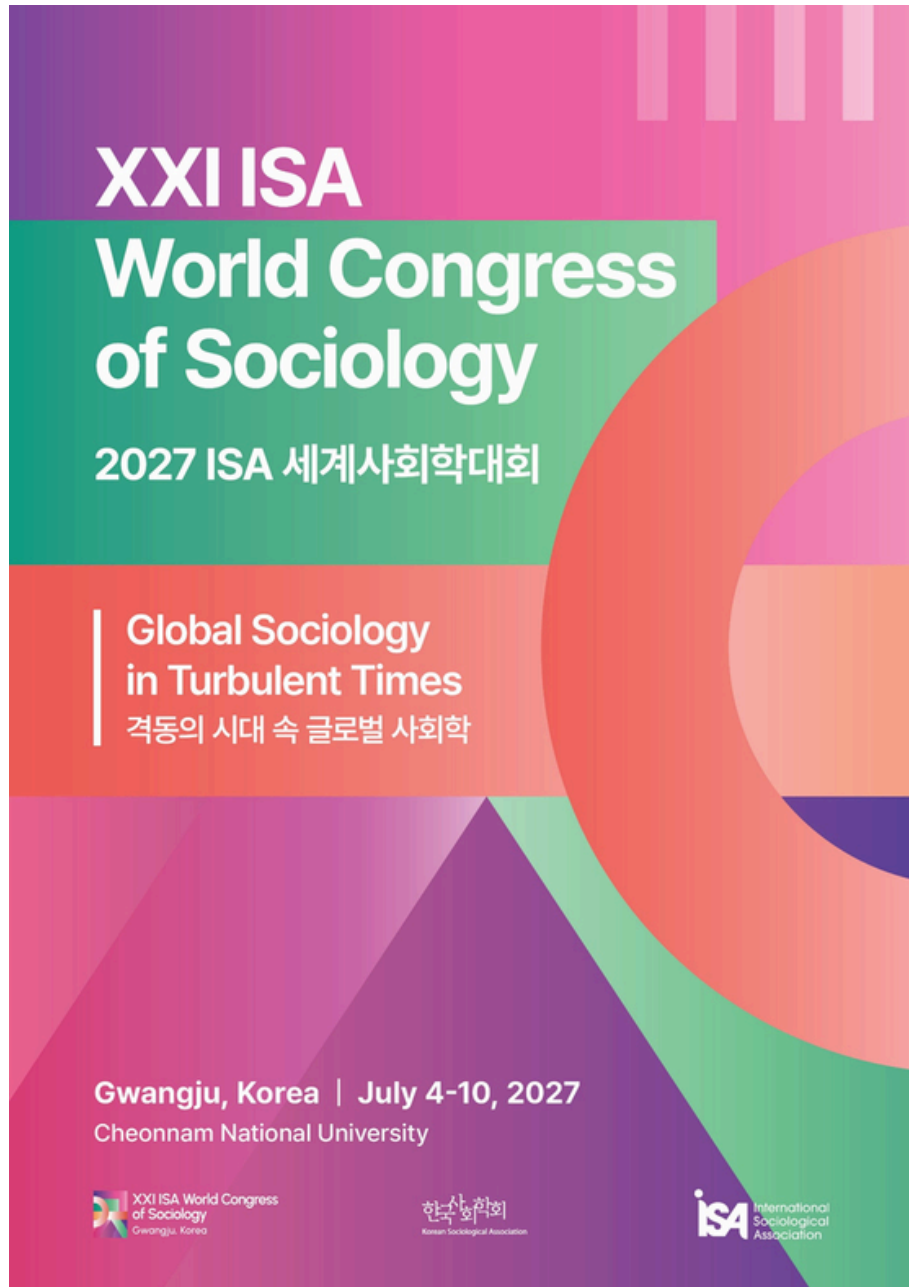
It is an exciting time. RC-39 has just submitted our Program Coordinators to ISA. Our Coordinators will be Michèle Companion and Tiffany Cousins. Thank you both for taking on this very important role!

The theme for the World Congress is a critical one: Global Sociology in Turbulent Times. Taken from the thematic document, ISA notes, “In a rising number of countries, state leaders are promoting distrust in science, and attacks on the social sciences are multiplying. Fake news circulates more widely and with greater impact than research-based analysis. An unprecedented concentration of wealth allows a small number of billionaires to control both mass media and social media. Scientific evidence is being denied to dismiss systemic environmental and societal emergencies. National or personal interests and logics of power prevail over the rule of law, international law, and human rights, fuelling violence, war, and settler colonialism. Artificial intelligence is reshaping the nature of knowledge and intellectual work, introducing tools that may serve both surveillance capitalism and emancipatory projects. On every continent, academic freedom is under threat” ([XXI ISA Congress Theme](#)).

This means that it is more important than ever to come together to share our incredible work and to support each other. Building a strong program that reflects our contributions is a first step. The number of sessions each RC is allotted at the World Congress is determined by the total number of section members. Based on that, we have 19 session spaces! If we have 5–6 presenters per session, we can showcase the contributions of at least 95 scholars! That is a tremendous impact. Presentations are incredible resume builders, as is being a session organizer or moderator. We need people to submit session abstracts between May 2 and June 25. This vital first step creates/frames the opportunities to organize submissions. This is a great opportunity to refine a topical focus that interests you and to bring researchers together for networking. If you plan to attend, this is a great way to get involved. Students and scholars of all ranks are encouraged to submit session abstracts. You can learn more about the ISA Guidelines for the World Congress under the tab “Roles and Responsibilities: [Roles and Responsibilities](#).”



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The website also has detailed information regarding registration grants and deadlines. We have included a deadline chart below. Check all of that out at: [XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology](#)

There will also be a business meeting held at the World Congress. At that time, the reins of leadership will be handed over to a new president, vice-president, treasurer/secretary, and council. Please be on the lookout for calls to be on the ballot and for voting.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Gwangju!

# THE NATURAL HAZARDS WORKSHOP & RESEARCHERS' MEETING

The **51st Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop** will be held Sunday, June 14, to Wednesday, June 17, 2026, in Broomfield, CO, USA. It will be immediately followed by the Researchers Meeting from Wednesday, June 17, to Thursday, June 18. The workshop schedule is full of amazing sessions and talks. You can find an overview of the schedule at the following link: [Natural Hazards Center || 2026 Natural Hazards Workshop Schedule](#). Check back for a finalized schedule. Information about the Researchers Meeting can be found here: [Natural Hazards Center || Researchers Meeting](#)

Some important dates are coming up, though. Please note that the ability to book a room as part of the discounted conference block in the Omni Hotel (conference venue) closes May 10. The booking block at the nearby Renaissance Hotel (it's walkable; there is also a shuttle) closes on May 22. Online registration for both the Natural Hazards Workshop and the Researchers Meeting will close on June 7.

If you are attending, there are also some special events. These include a panel on the “Transpacific Coalitions: Strengthening U.S.-Japan Partnerships in Disaster Science.” This will be held on Monday, June 15, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. MDT during the lunch break. For those of you who are early risers or those willing to sponsor early risers for a good cause, please support the **12th Annual Bill Anderson Fund Disaster Dash**. The Disaster Dash 5K is an easy jog (or walk, if you prefer). Proceeds from the run support the [Bill Anderson Fund's](#) mission to expand the number of professionals from historically underrepresented groups in the fields of hazards and disaster research and practice. If you are not interested in running or walking the 5K, the Fund also offers the option to support individuals and teams in the race or to donate directly to the organization. The Disaster Dash website is: [BAF Disaster Dash](#).

Participants will meet in the Omni Interlocken Hotel Lobby at **6:00 a.m. on June 17**, ready to dash! From there, it is a short walk out to the course where the Dash starts promptly at 6:30am.



# GREAT NEWS!

Congratulations to our amazing colleagues!

## New Publications:

1. **Jim Goltz and his colleagues** have recently published a piece on earthquake early warning systems

Abstract: This essay will address issues associated with the use of earthquake early warning (EEW) by individual recipients of alerts. Periodic reviews of the literature are of considerable importance in establishing baselines for continued evaluation of the use, perceived value, and most importantly, behavioral response to this briefest of all hazard warnings. In the development of EEW systems, the near-universal expectation has been that even a few seconds of warning is sufficient for alert recipients to take protective actions. Emerging empirical evidence indicates that behavioral responses to EEW are diverse, but taking officially recommended protective actions is uncommon. This review should be of value to organizations that operate and manage EEW systems, social scientists who study human behavior in disasters and earthquake preparedness and response, and educators who have promoted strategies of self-protection (e.g., drop, cover, and hold on). Our objective is to identify a useful set of criteria to evaluate whether EEW systems are effectively meeting users' needs and contributing to the safety of populations vulnerable to earthquake hazards.

Citation: Goltz, J. D., Nakayachi, K., & Vinnell, L. (2026). Individual User-Derived Assessments of Earthquake Early Warning Systems: A Social Science Review of Response, Perception, and Evaluation of Usefulness. *Natural Hazards Review*, 27(1), 03125001.

2. **Russel Dippy** has published an article which relates to the final outcome of his Doctoral research. It is open source and available to all. He had the opportunity to share his findings at the ISA World Congress in Melbourne.

Abstract: Emergency management in Australia continues along a path of professionalisation. To support that process, a range of activities must be completed, and research into the human capacities of the emergency manager role in Australia was undertaken. Emerging from that research is the Emergency Management T-Shaped Transdisciplinary Model. The model provides a framework for selecting, developing, and recognizing the defined roles of Emergency Manager, Response Manager, and Recovery Manager. By using the Emergency Management T-Shaped Transdisciplinary Model, the key roles can be identified, discussed, evaluated, and adopted. Thus, the development of these roles is described and provides a means to develop an understanding of the roles and underlying human capacities that require training, education, certification, and policy to be developed and applied in a consistent manner. This will support future emergency management practitioners as well as the professionalisation of emergency management in Australia.

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Link:

[Professionalism: the Emergency Management T-Shaped Transdisciplinary Model | AJEM January 2026](#)

Or

<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/ajem-january-2026-professionalism-the-emergency-management-t-shaped-transdisciplinary-model/>

### Announcements:

1. Tadashi Nakasu is pleased to share amazing sources and information with everyone. First, the launch of the Disaster Links Library (DLL) — a curated web reference featuring 500+ resources organized across 32 thematic categories: <https://disasterlinklibrary.site/>

Second, the Global Disaster Research Navigator (GDRN) has been fully renewed and refreshed: <https://globalnavi.site/>

For those who would like a guided introduction to either resource, Tadashi has also written Medium articles for each:

- DLL: <https://medium.com/@tadashi.nakasu/disaster-links-library-a-curated-web-reference-500-resources-one-page-introducing-the-e3177c84d894>

- GDRN: <https://medium.com/@tadashi.nakasu/global-disaster-research-navigator-your-gateway-to-the-worlds-disaster-risk-reduction-resources-eb72ed4fb97f>

2. **Piotr Matczak** wishes to share the following information:

UrbEaT (Urban greenery mitigates the effects of the urban heat island: a comparative study of Beijing and Warsaw) is a research project conducted in partnership between Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, and two institutes in China: the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Yunnan University. The project began in 2024 and is scheduled to continue until 2027.

The project focuses on examining how urban development influences the intensity of urban heat islands and their impacts on human health and well-being, as well as identifying the determinants of adaptation. The study investigates two cities: Beijing and Warsaw. Land-use simulations are performed to identify the spatial and temporal characteristics of urban heat islands in both cities. Geo-questionnaires are used to assess the ecosystem services provided by urban greenery. In addition, residents' perceptions of thermal comfort are examined through longitudinal measures. The final results will be discussed with stakeholders and interpreted in the context of urban planning policies. We invite you to visit our website to learn more: <https://urbeat.site>.

3. **Michèle Companion**, the Series Editor for the Berghahn Books series Indigenous Studies: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives, invites you to submit monograph or edited volume proposals. Please pass this information to colleagues! This is a great publication opportunity for colleagues. You can find out about the series here:

<https://www.berghahnbooks.com/series/indigenous-studies>

Brief series description:

Around the globe, Indigenous Peoples, organizations, and entities are actively engaged in the exercises of sovereignty, empowerment, and decolonization, as guided by their own unique cultures. However, historical and continued abuses of power, legacies of settler colonization, and other manifestations of structural violence have contributed to socially, culturally, politically, and economically inequitable circumstances, leading to silencing and gaps in the literature. This series will redress silencing by presenting positive examples of Indigenous empowerment through the work of Indigenous authors and their proponents in the academic and professional communities. This series will elevate Indigenous voices, perspectives, successes, and challenges, encompassing a variety of topics, including climate change.

Formal submissions should be sent directly to Berghahn Books. For more information on Berghahn's manuscript submission procedure, please look at the [Info for Authors](#) section on this website. All submissions to this series, as well as any queries about the formal procedure, should be sent to [Berghahn](#).

# DONATIONS AND LEGACY FUNDING

The International Research Committee on Disasters is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization. This was the original name for ISA's Research Committee 39 – Sociology of Disasters. The charitable organization uses this name. Tax-deductible donations can be made to IRCD to help us support students and members from Category B and C Countries (See the following link for ISA's Table of Economies by Category: [Table of Economies by Category \(isa-sociology.org\)](http://isa-sociology.org)). We can apply donations to support both member and student registration and travel grants to ISA/RC-39 World Forums and World Congresses. We have (funding permitting) the T. Joseph Scanlon Student Travel Award, which is given to a student attending the ISA World Congress who demonstrates exceptional talent to provide financial support for participation. To donate, please reach out to our Secretary/Treasurer, Tristan Wu, at [ircdsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ircdsecretary@gmail.com) for more details on donations or providing for IRCD in your will or trust.



Joe Scanlon (1933 – 2015)




# Sociology of Disasters

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International Journal of  
Mass Emergencies & Disasters