

SRA Europe Nordic Chapter Second Annual Meeting: Where are we and where are we going?



SRA 2016 Nordic Annual Meeting, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Randa Kachef, SRA News Editor

All photos by Randa Kachef

Risk practitioners and academics from around the Nordic-Baltic region met in Gothenburg from November 14-15 for the Second Annual Meeting of the SRA Europe Nordic Chapter. At the meeting, participants experienced first-hand the Nordic Chapter's fantastic platform for promoting conversations on risk in the Nordic-Baltic area and further networking within the many practices and domains of risk.

The event began with the first plenary of the meeting, introduced by an uplifting welcome from Nordic Chapter president Ullrika Sahlin and long-time SRA member Åsa Boholm. Current SRA President James H. Lambert took the stage next and gave a thorough presentation on the SRA's many working parts, including an introduction to the other Regional Organizations that operate under the SRA umbrella. Dr. Lambert concluded his presentation with information on his own areas of research, encouraging others to network and proclaiming, "We are all here to find work!"

The plenary's second speaker was Past-Past SRA President Ortwin Renn, who provided listeners with a talk that truly exemplified the theme of the meeting "**Where are we and where are we going?**" Dr. Renn reflected on the success of risk as a research area by looking at life expectancy as an indicator. Since the 1950s risk research has been implemented in occupational health and safety, food safety legislation, and many other sectors, resulting in an increased life expectancy across the globe.

Dr. Renn then looked to the future, noting that the many domains of risk do not work in parallel but are complexly intertwined; that risk does not abide by state boundaries; that it is truly stochastic in nature and is not a predictable linear equation. Dr. Renn concluded his talk with an appeal to all present that further education on risk is the wave of the future and that we must keep people informed so that we can mitigate losses before we experience them.

After a Nordic-style coffee break, parallel sessions broke out, covering topics ranging from risk communication to risk perception, and soon meeting-goers took a well-needed break over lunch in the hotel restaurant.

Professor Nick Pidgeon was the keynote speaker at the second plenary of the meeting where he presented the results of his project on European perceptions on climate change (EPCC). The EPCC is an ongoing project, collecting results on climate change perception in the UK since 2006. Alongside the results, which can be viewed at

<http://www.jpi-climate.eu>,

Professor Pidgeon noted that adaption is crucial to successfully deal with climate change. Adaptation, however, will only come about through behavior change, he said, citing the meeting itself as having a sizeable carbon footprint from attendees' travel.

As participants reflected on the words of Professor Pidgeon, more parallel sessions got under way, highlighting and promoting the incredible regional work that is taking place within the Nordic-Baltic region. At the Nordic Chapter Business Meeting, members discussed the future of the chapter and volunteered ideas on funding and locations for upcoming meetings. The upcoming 2017 3rd Nordic Chapter Annual Meeting will take place in Esbo, Finland, during the dark month of November. In an interesting contrast, Mid Sweden University will host the following SRA 2018 Europe Annual Meeting in Östersund during the ever bright month of June.



Ullrika Sahlin, Lund University.



Ortwin Renn, Stuttgart University.

It was established that the Nordic Chapter would aim to host the 2018 4th Annual Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland.

The day's session was capped by a delicious meal and soon meeting-goers retired in anticipation to another day of intelligent discourse.

The meeting's second day began with further parallel sessions, and after a brief

(Continued from page 4)

catch up over coffee, members congregated in the main hall for the third and final plenary of the meeting.

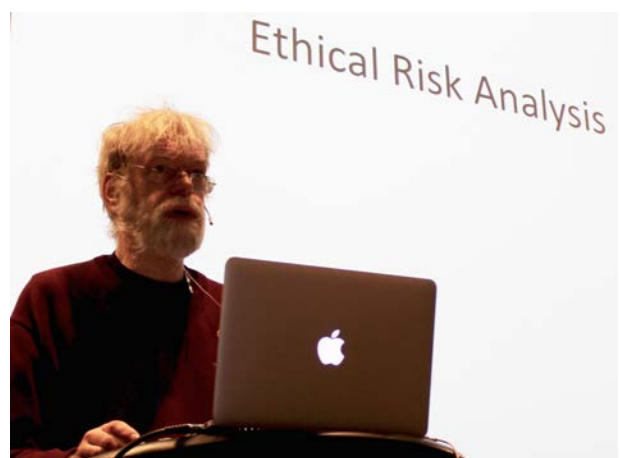


Chris Bennett, King's College London.

Professor Ragnar Löfstedt, one of the key initiators of the SRA Nordic Chapter, expertly prefaced the talks of the three guest speakers who went on to present a wide range of provocative research and career observations.

Barbara Czarniawska, the first speaker, provided unprecedented insights on operational risk within the EU stemming from translations between countries. She introduced the term Glocalization, a true issue when complying with both European Union and local legislation. Dr. Czarniawska noted that the practice of simply “cutting and pasting” translations when dealing with operational risks is inefficient and that a local aspect is required to ensure proper compliance, especially within the finance sector.

Second up in the plenary was Jaana Kallio-Husu, a woman whose resume includes prestigious positions within the European and Finnish food safety sectors. A veterinarian by education, Dr Kallio-Husu reflected on the success of risk assessment in improving the level of food safety in the EU, stating that food safety standards have come a long way since the BSE crisis and noted, rather ominously, that it has now been quite some time since the last epidemic.



Sven-Ove Hansson, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden.

Finally, Sven-Ove Hansson shared some interesting thoughts on the ethics of risk analysis, providing the audience with an entertaining Venn diagram of the dynamics between the risk-exposed, the decision-makers, and the risk beneficiaries. His insight on decision-making based on packages that include risks and benefits were spot-on and easily understood.

Closing remarks by Ullrika Sahlin and Åsa Boholm included awards given to Caroline Fredriksson for her presentation of her PhD work titled “Statistical Analysis of Extreme Sea Water Levels at the Falsterbo Peninsula, South Sweden,” as well as to Christina Mauléon and Maria Spante for their presentation on “Safety and the Use of Management Control Systems and Key Performance Indicators at a Swedish Nuclear Power Plant.”

All in all, the meeting exemplified the high quality research taking place within the various member countries of the Nordic-Baltic region. The collaboration between researchers in and outside the Nordic-Baltic regions on relevant cross-disciplinary issues will be vital in continuing the trajectory of successful risk management and assessment, both regionally and internationally. Clearly, where we are is gratifying, and where we are going is rich with exciting new directions.



*Fredrik Johnsson, Swedish
Defense University.*



Dinner in the Clarendon Post Hotel.



Sunset in Gothenburg, Sweden.

View all photos from the meeting on the SRA Flickr account:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/society_for_risk_analysis