

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### ***Coping with Uncertainty***

A Multidisciplinary Research Conference on Risk Governance in the Baltic Sea  
Region

Stockholm, 15-17 November 2009

Complexity, uncertainty and socio-political ambiguity are key challenges in modern environmental governance. Integrated approaches are needed in order to foster collaboration between diverse sets of actors, over wide ranges of issue-areas, emphasizing sustainability, human health and ecosystem integrity.

The aim of this conference is to discuss *implications of uncertainty at science-policy interfaces* connected with environmental, social and economic risks in the Baltic Sea Region. Authors are invited to submit abstracts for oral presentations relating to *coping with uncertainty* in general, and to the individual workshops presented below in particular. The aim is that a selection of the presented abstracts will be invited to participate in a special issue of an international journal.

This conference will combine keynotes by leading scientists and practitioners with presentations and discussions in thematic workshops. Scientists, experts, practitioners and stakeholders interested in science-policy interactions are invited to participate in the conference. Platform presentation is not a requirement for attendance. Total number of attendants will be limited to 120.

- Venue:** Stora Brännbo, Sigtuna
- Hotels and Travel:** **Hotel:** Accommodation at Stora Brännbo.  
**Address:** Stora Brännbovägen 2, 19333 Sigtuna.  
Phone: +46 8 592 575 00 Fax: +46 8 592 575 99  
**How to get there:** From the airport you use Taxi 020, phone: + 46 -0-20 20 20 20. The taxi fare with Taxi 020 costs ≈ 25 Euro. It is also easy to travel by commuter train from Stockholm to Märsta and from there SL bus to Sigtuna and bus stop "Stora Brännbo".  
**More information:** <http://www.storabrannbo.se/>
- Early Registration:** **September 1, 2009.**
- Late Registration: October 15, 2009.
- Abstract Submission: Abstracts (350 words) should be sent to [uncertainty09@sh.se](mailto:uncertainty09@sh.se)  
Deadline: September 1, 2009.
- Conference Organizer: Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEES),  
Södertörn University.
- Further Information:** [www.sh.se/uncertainty09](http://www.sh.se/uncertainty09)

### ***Case-study workshops***

Authors are invited to submit abstracts (350 words) for oral presentations at five parallel workshops. A discussant will be assigned to each presentation. The author is expected to present the paper in 15 minutes. Thereafter follows questions and comments from the discussant and from other workshop participants. Because of the limited time allotted to the workshops, a subset of submitted abstracts may need to be selected based on scientific originality and relevance for the workshops.

On the basis of the presentations and discussions at the conference, the possibilities to produce a special issue in a suitable journal will be explored.

### ***Workshop Themes***

#### ***i. Climate change and climate policy in the Baltic Sea region (coordinator: K. Kern)***

Not only is it widely acknowledged that climate change is one of the most important environmental, social and economic risks at global level, it has also become a major risk in the Baltic Sea region. This fact has been accepted by the scientific community, governments and non-governmental actors from the local to the global level. While the Nordic countries and Germany have long been among the international leaders in climate change policy, the new Member States in the Southern part of the region have been strongly influenced by the EU's innovative climate change agenda. Papers for this panel may focus on the impact of climate change on the natural environment and the variation of local vulnerabilities and risks in the region, on climate mitigation and adaptation policies at national and subnational level, and on the Europeanization of climate change policy and new forms of transnational climate governance in the region.

#### ***ii. Environmental risks in the Baltic Sea (coordinator: B. Hassler)***

The Baltic Sea ecosystem is stressed and vulnerable to human perturbations. Complexities and uncertainties in terms of, for example, understanding links between risk sources and environmental consequences, as well as ambiguities connected with risk evaluation and identification of appropriate management measures pose serious challenges for science and policy-making. Thus, understanding how risks and uncertainties are framed, assessed and communicated in science and among stakeholder is of key importance. Papers focusing environmental risks of various kinds are invited to this workshop. Topics include specific issue-areas (e.g. chemicals, eutrophication, fishing, marine transportations and threats to biodiversity) as well as overarching subjects such as environmental governance, ecosystem-based management, risk management and risk communication, but should preferably adopt some kind of multidisciplinary perspectives. Scientific approaches may be explanatory, normative or both. The primary geographical focus is the Baltic Sea region, but multi-level perspectives and comparisons with other regions are also of high relevance. The workshop theme is linked to the RISKGOV project, a part of BONUS+.

#### ***iii. Democalypse? - the Health and Population Crisis in Eastern Europe (coordinators: J. Rodin/I. Mäkinen)***

Since the collapse of communism a sharp decline in public health has been observed in many former Soviet countries. Specifically, the combination of a falling birth rate and sharply increasing death rate has resulted in decreasing life expectancy and population decline. Researchers in both the East and West have advanced a number of theories to explain this phenomenon ranging from increasing societal stress accompanying the transition to a market economy through to emphasizing the extremely detrimental impact alcohol is having on health. In relation to this, the aim of the workshop 'Population and Health Risks' is to explore

differing aspects of this health crisis. In particular, it will examine the key proximal factors (both actual and perceived) underlying the current health crisis, and if its effects have been the same everywhere in terms of both population health and movement. In addition, there will also be a focus on the response of both the state and society to this demographic challenge.

***iv. Risks and CSR (coordinator: M. Boström)***

Responsibility is one of the grand catchwords of contemporary global politics and organizational life. Social movements and journalists report and protest about the misdeeds of powerful organizations and call for ‘greater responsibility’. Companies face credibility risks and need to show, in the name of CSR, that they really have considered environmental risks and the health and well-beings of the workers and local communities. This can also be seen as a communication and public relations strategy.

This workshop draws attention to the implication of *complexity and knowledge uncertainty* for the development, use, and communication of CSR strategies. How can CSR strategies cope with the extremely complex global value and commodity chains we find in such sectors as food, textiles, and forest products? How to gain insight and knowledge about social, environmental, and economic risks along all steps in these chains? What role does civil society, the affected publics, journalists, and other claim-makers have in providing knowledge and monitoring?

***v. Risks and Urban Planning (coordinator: J. Bylund)***

Urban planning and management can be seen as dealing quintessentially with risks. Quite simply, the justification for planning stems out of the need to control uncertainty and anticipated risks. This knowledge practice thus implies various practical means to assess, characterize, and/or map phenomena in complex situations and processes. Practical means is an inclusive category which can denote anything from mapping software, rhetoric or discursive techniques, formalizations such as statistics or economics, to material risk minimizing or enhancing implementations in the cityscape.

In this workshop, we will focus on how urban planning and management handle risks in practice in a wide span of sectors, from cultural planning to climate change. What are shop-floor practices in identifying and managing particular risks? How are various practical means used? How does planning practice change – or not – in the face of new risks and uncertainties? In particular, how is the ideal of deliberation handled in contemporary urban planning from this point of view?

## Preliminary Programme:

### ***When?***

### ***What?***

#### **Sunday, Nov 15**

19.00 Opening address, cocktails

#### **Monday, Nov 16**

09.00 Registration, Coffee  
10.15 Conference Opening Speech  
10.30 Keynote I: Ortwin Renn *On risk and uncertainty*  
11.00 Coffee  
11.30 Keynote II: Rolf Annerberg *On Swedish perspectives*  
12.00 Lunch at Stora Brännbo  
  
13.30 Parallel sessions with invited speakers  
15.00 Coffee  
15.30 Parallel sessions, continued  
17.00 Parallel sessions end  
  
19.00 Conference dinner at Stora Brännbo

#### **Tuesday, Nov 17**

08.30 Parallel sessions with invited speakers  
10.00 Coffee  
10.30 Parallel sessions, continued  
12.00 Lunch at Stora Brännbo  
  
13.30 Parallel sessions, continued  
15.00 Coffee  
15.30 Panel debate: *Coping with uncertainty: What do we know  
– What do we not know?*  
17.00 Summary  
17.30 Conference ends