



### CCPR at a Glance

#### Klinenberg to Brief Congress

Sociologist Eric Klinenberg will brief Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and other members of Congress this September on including socially vulnerable urban populations in U.S. disaster planning. Klinenberg leads CCPR's Urban Issues Research project, which examines the role of social factors in urban disaster.

#### Chinese Red Cross Official Tours CCPR

In July, CCPR welcomed Wenbo Ma, Chinese Red Cross Society Desk Officer for Asia, America & Oceania, for a day of presentations laying the groundwork for further international collaboration. Wenbo received briefings on CCPR's LaSER modeling project and exchanged ideas with InterCEP staff on business continuity and resilience.

#### CCPR Presents at Natural Hazards Conference

Carlos Restrepo presented his work on heat waves and vulnerable populations in May at the 2007 Annual Hazards Applications Workshop, hosted by the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The two papers presented by Restrepo were co-authored with Rae Zimmerman, who leads CCPR's work on risk communications and infrastructure.

#### Researcher on the Move

After two fruitful years with CCPR, Research Associate Ryan Hagen will leave his post this September to work with *Freakonomics* author Stephen Dubner.

# Successful Testing of LaSER Model Sharpens Powerful Planning Tool

At the end of three years of extensive testing, CCPR's Large Scale Emergency Readiness (LaSER) team has successfully completed internal sensitivity testing on a groundbreaking computer simulation that can be used to simulate medical responses to catastrophes.

The model, dubbed PLAN C (Planning with Large Agent Networks against Catastrophe), has retrospectively validated the outcome of a chemical warfare scenario based on two historical Sarin releases in Japan and various other field studies. Moreover, the team have also started work on a biological outbreak and radiological and conventional explosives scenarios. The major agents in the model -- hospitals, on-site responders, individual people and the

catastrophic agents themselves -- now appear to behave in a manner consistent with established and standardized data of their real-world counterparts.

The model has been successfully tested on actual Geographic Information System (GIS) maps of New York City, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C, and Boston, and can be easily modified to incorporate any city for which GIS data is available.

Ultimately, emergency managers, in collaboration with the LaSER team, will be able to use PLAN C to simulate existing emergency medical response plans. The model's optimization component will then suggest changes that can improve outcomes across a wide range of objectives, such as overall public health and mortality rate.

The U.S. Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security will be among the first groups to test PLAN C in its external validation phase over the coming year. Local and international emergency management officials have expressed interest in the model.

During this phase, it is expected that the model will become a key component of pandemic influenza planning at the local and national level. The LaSER team next hopes to use the model to simulate the progress of influenza through New York City, as checked by the city's Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan.

More information on PLAN C is available at:

[www.nyu.edu/ccpr/laser](http://www.nyu.edu/ccpr/laser)

## FEMA Roundtable Bridges Public-Private Gap

At an August roundtable hosted by the International Center for Enterprise Preparedness (InterCEP), local, state and federal emergency management officials came together with representatives from critical areas of the private sector to discuss mobilizing private resources for disaster relief.

Discussion at the roundtable was organized around an all too plausible scenario -- landfall of a category 3 hurricane in FEMA Region II, which includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Drawing on past experience, participants discussed ways to overcome obstacles

that could hamper an effective response and recovery to disaster in the metropolitan area.

Major topics of discussion included: credentialing that allows relief supplies to cross multiple jurisdictions in a crisis, and workers in to their places of employment; pre-contracting and the pre-identifying sources of goods and services for use in disaster relief; and legal and regulatory relief in times of crisis.

InterCEP continues to provide research support for FEMA's efforts to mobilize private sector resources to disasters.

# Project Highlights

## Using Creative Play to Improve Preparedness

Playful activities such as storytelling, reflective dialog, and aesthetic experience may be useful tools for sharpening practical wisdom among managers in a world that demands preparedness for a wide range of threats. InterCEP Associate Director Matt Statler makes the case for structured play as an invaluable tool in his book *Everyday Strategic Preparedness: The Role of Practical Wisdom in Organizations*, which was published this July by Palgrave Macmillan, UK. The book provides a theoretical foundation for Statler's work with InterCEP, is co-authored by Johan Roos, Bo Rydin and SCA Professor of Strategy at Stockholm School of Economics.

## Zimmerman's Infrastructure Expertise in the News

New York's infrastructure was highlighted in several news stories in recent months, from the foiled plot to destroy an oil pipeline at J.F.K. Airport to the steam pipe explosion in Midtown Manhattan in August. For expert testimony, the media turned to Rae Zimmerman, who heads CCPR's Public Infrastructure Support for Protective Emergency Services project. Zimmerman was cited by NBC Nightly News, the *New York Times*, *New York Post* and *Newsday*.

## Four Papers by CCPR Projects Published

Two papers from the Large Scale Emergency Readiness (LaSER) project have been accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals: "Organization Based Incident Management: Developing a Disaster Volunteer Role on a University Campus" will appear in the August-September 2007 issue of the *Journal of Disaster Management and Response*. "Organizational Safety Net: An Evaluation of an Academic Setting" will be published in the September 2007 edition of the *Journal of Business Continuity & Emergency Planning*.

The latest paper by CCPR's dental team, "All Hazards Training: Incorporating a Catastrophe Preparedness Mindset into the Dental School Curriculum and Professional Practice" has been accepted for publication this October by the *Journal of the Dental Clinics of North America*. The paper recommends additional course offerings from the freshman through senior years of dental school education, with the aim of preparing future dentists as a ready reserve corps of first responders in case of a catastrophic event.

Also this October, members of CCPR's Public Safety Trauma Response project will present their paper "Challenges to Providing Disaster Mental Health Services to Police Officers: Clinicians' Perspectives" at the annual meeting of the Council on Social Work Education in San Francisco.

## Preparedness Metrics a Hot Topic at Annual Florence Summit

The development of preparedness metrics were a major point of discussion at the second annual International Public-Private Preparedness Summit, hosted by the International Center for Enterprise Preparedness (InterCEP) in Florence, Italy, May 3-4.

In the words of one participant, preparedness is like anything else: "If you can't measure it, you can't manage it."

Summit participants also discussed education programs for resilience professionals, new programs to safeguard relief workers in conflict zones, managing do-

nations of goods and services from the private to public sector for disaster relief, information sharing before, during and after disaster, means to combat the spread of pandemic flu, and the recent revival of Al Qaeda.

The summit, held at New York University's Florence campus at Villa La Pietra, brought together high-level decision makers from government and industry in the United States and European Union.

In addition to roundtable sessions, participants took in keynote addresses by

the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Safety and Security, Microsoft's Global Security Manager, Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Private Sector Office, and the Assistant Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police.

The next summit will be held May 29-30, 2008.

The InterCEP summit is part of a larger initiative to advance business incentives for corporate preparedness, made possible in part by a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

**CCPR BACKGROUND**

The Center for Catastrophe Preparedness and Response (CCPR) at New York University (NYU) was founded in 2002 as a university-wide, cross-disciplinary center to improve preparedness and response capabilities to catastrophic events including terrorism, natural disasters, and public health emergencies. Drawing on the resources of NYU's fourteen schools, CCPR facilitates research projects that address issues ranging from first responder capacity during crises, to public health response, to legal issues relating to security, to private sector crisis management and business continuity.

CCPR currently manages twenty-two research projects including over sixty faculty and staff. The Center is a national resource with added focus on the unique issues related to emergency preparedness and response in the urban environment.

For more information, please visit [www.nyu.edu/ccpr](http://www.nyu.edu/ccpr)

**STAFF & PROJECTS**

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Projects

- Center for Law and Security
- Medical and Dental Enhancements Project
- Public Safety Trauma Response
- Large Scale Emergency Response (LaSER): Modeling and Simulation
- LaSER: Organization-Based Incident Management and Community Response
- LaSER: Organizational Safety Net
- LaSER: Risk Communications
- LaSER: Legal Issues
- Improving Robustness And Resiliency In Catastrophe Response Networks
- Public Infrastructure Support for Protective Emergency Services
- International Center for Enterprise Preparedness
- Responding to Epidemic Threats Using Modern Bioinformatics Tools
- Telecommunications in Catastrophe Preparedness and Response
- Prospects for Non-Military Means of Ending Radical Islamists' War on the U.S.
- The Project On Organizational And Community Preparedness
- The Politics of Facial Recognition Systems: Issues and Policy
- Documentary Film -- Extended Stay
- The Effects of Power on Sense-Making and Communication
- Cultural Integration and Social Capital Development in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina
- American Diaspora: Displaced Students and the Effects of Selected Educational Policies post-Katrina
- Disaster Planning: Moving Image and Sound Collections
- Organizational and Community Preparedness
- Astrodome Interviews