



IDRiM

Lecture

Series

4th

Date: 20 June 2023

Time: 11:30 am (UTC)/13:30 pm (CEST)

Lecturer: Prof. Ortwin Renn

Title

**Inclusive Resilience: A New
Approach to Risk Governance**



Guest Lecturer



Ortwin Renn

Prof. Ortwin Renn is a retired scientific director at the *International Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)* in Potsdam (Germany) and a retired professor for environmental sociology and technology assessment at the University of Stuttgart. He also directs the non-profit company *DIALOGIK*, a research institute for the investigation of communication and participation processes. Renn is *Adjunct Professor for "Integrated Risk Analysis"* at Stavanger University (Norway), *Honorary Professor* at the Technical University Munich and *Affiliate Professor for "Risk Governance"* at Beijing Normal University. His research interests include risk governance (analysis perception, communication), stakeholder and public involvement in environmental decision making, transformation processes in economics, politics and society and sustainable development.

Ortwin Renn has a doctoral degree in social psychology from the University of Cologne. His career includes teaching and research positions at Clark University (Worcester, USA), the Swiss Institute of Technology (Zuerich) and the Center of Technology Assessment (Stuttgart). His honours include the National Cross of Merit Order, honorary doctorates from the Swiss Institute of Technology and the Midsweden University, the "Outstanding Research Award" of the Society for Integrated Disaster and Risk Management (IDRiM) and the "Distinguished Achievement Award" of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA). In 2019, he was awarded the Order of Merit from the State of Baden-Württemberg for special achievements in scientific policy advice.

Renn is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences "Leopoldina", the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences (Berlin), and of the Board of Directors of the German National Academy of Technology and Engineering (Acatech). He is a member of the Federal Government's "Climate Change" research platform and chairs the Sustainability Council of the State of Brandenburg. In 2011 he served on the Ethics Commission "The Future of Energy" appointed by Chancellor Angela Merkel. Until 2014, he was a member of the "Science and Technology Advisory Council", an advisory body for EU Commission's President Jose Manuel Barroso.

Renn has published more than 30 monographs and over 250 peer reviewed articles. His most prominent English publication is the book "Risk Governance. Coping with Uncertainty in a Complex World (London: Earthscan 2008).



Abstract

Inclusive Resilience: A New Approach to Risk Governance

Ortwin Renn

The concept of resilience has been used in many disciplines for different notions of being able to respond adequately when the system is under severe stress. It has been widely applied in ecological research and denotes the resistance of natural ecosystems to cope with stressors. Resilience is focused on the ability and capacity of systems to resist shocks and to have the capability to deal and recover from threatening events. This idea of resistance and recovery can also be applied to social systems. The main emphasis here is on organizational learning and institutional preparedness to cope with stress and disaster. The governance framework suggested by the International Risk Governance Council depicts resilience as a normative goal for risk management systems to deal with highly uncertain events or processes (surprises). It is seen as a property of risk-absorbing systems to withstand stress (objective resilience) but also the confidence of risk management actors to be able to master crisis situations (subjective resilience).

In my webinar I will explain the connection between inclusiveness of risk governance based on multiple stakeholder involvement, and the need to enhance resilience, understood here as the capability of a socio-technical system to cope with events that are uncertain and ambiguous. This approach has been inspired by Lorenz, who distinguishes adaptive, coping and participative aspects of resilience. For this purpose, the resilience concept by Lorenz can be applied to link risk governance strategies with the three major aspects of resilience: adaptive management capacity, coping capacity for dealing with multiple stressors simultaneously, and participative empowerment. The three risk characteristics –complexity, uncertainty and ambiguity– can be linked to these three aspects of resilience.

Whereas the analysis of simple and –to some degree– complex problems is better served by relying on the physical and technical risk-based management methods, uncertain and ambiguous problems demand the integration of social constructions and mental models of resilience, operationalized as confidence in one's coping capacity, for both understanding and managing these problems. I will use this classification to discern between three management styles which correspond to these three aspects of resilience. I have called them: risk-informed (corresponding to adaptive capability); precaution-based (corresponding to coping capability) and discourse-based (corresponding to participative capability).



Zoom & Time

<https://kyoto-u-edu.zoom.us/j/82729643759?pwd=MzZuOUdaYUJ2S0ZiVjNJazhNNVV0UT09>

Meeting ID: 827 2964 3759

Passcode: 061967

Timezone	Time
EDT	7:30 am
UTC	11:30 am
CEST	13:30 pm
IST	17:00 pm
JST	20:30 pm