

# Risk and Disaster in Public Policy

Policy Studies Organization panel at  
the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in  
Washington, D.C., Labor Day Weekend 2010

Questions of risk, hazards and societal crises have always been with us, demanding that we learn to address and anticipate such issues by creating policies that help to ameliorate damage while fostering learning and innovation. Under the hard circumstances of economic stress, how will our ability to effectively tackle such problems be challenged? And what implications should be considered at the moment of policy making?

Sponsored by the Policy Studies Organization and one of its newest publications, *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy* (<http://www.psocommons.org/rhcpp>), published in cooperation with Berkeley Electronic Press, this panel facilitates an academic debate about how to deal with crisis prediction, preparation, mitigation, response and recovery, among other issues. Many of these problems are already well documented but more answers are needed for what is a strongly emerging field in the study of public policy.

Chair: Thomas A. Birkland, *North Carolina State University*

Paper presentations and participants:

**American Education in "Crisis"**

Paul Teske and Kelly Hupfeld, *University of Colorado, Denver*

**Homeland Security and Organizational Robustness: Understanding the Effects of Incident Type and Scale on Local Government Capacity and Capability**

Brian J. Gerber, Warren Eller, and David Cohen. *Louisiana State University*

**The National System for Civil Crisis Management of Catastrophic Events Endangering Americans: An Assessment of Current Policy and Practice**

William R. Cumming, *Vacation Lane Group*

**Networks, Gaps and Communication Among State and Local Emergency Managers in a Crisis**

Hank C. Jenkins-Smith, Joseph Ripberger, and Carol Silva, *University of Oklahoma*

Panel Discussant: Dr. Kevin B. Smith, *University of Nebraska, Lincoln*

Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy



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