

Meeting Schedule:

- 20th – 21st April 2006: Managing Volcanic Crises Hosted by UCL
- 7th – 8th September 2006: Making Maps to Reduce Vulnerability, UEA
- 3rd – 5th January 2007: Organising Committee Meeting
- 29th – 30th March 2007: Facilitating Knowledge Transfer: Science to Practice in Disaster Management, Coventry
- 31st May – 1st June 2007: Portsmouth
- tbc 20th/21st September 2007: Institute of Development Studies
- tbc November 2007: Cambridge University

For details of future meetings and conference reports, please see www.spidernetwork.org/events

Getting involved

There are a number of ways to get involved with the SPIDER Network:

- You can attend, present or submit a poster for a forthcoming meeting
- You can author a working paper for the SPIDER Network website
- You can join the New Disaster Researchers database and discussion list
- You can contribute to annotated bibliographies of literature examining the role of science in disaster risk reduction

For more details contact Tom Mitchell (t.mitchell@ids.ac.uk), the Network co-ordinator or visit the Network's website:

www.spidernetwork.org

Sponsorship

The SPIDER Network is sponsored by two UK research councils:

- The Economic and Social Research Council
- and Natural Environment Research Council



SPIDER Network Partners:

- Cambridge University Department of Geography
- University College London Department of Earth Sciences
- Coventry University Centre for Disaster Management
- University of East Anglia School of Environmental Sciences
- Portsmouth University School of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Institute of Development Studies at University of Sussex



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Development Studies



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Portsmouth



designed by Lucy Stanbrough

SPIDER Network 
Science and Policy Interfaces for Disaster Reduction



Image: Kyle Niemi, 2005

Re-examining the role of science in
reducing disaster risk

The Science and Policy Interfaces for Disaster Reduction (SPIDER) Network is re-examining the role of scientific knowledge for disaster risk reduction. Through a series of linked meetings and activities, six UK-based academic departments from different universities and diverse disciplinary traditions are attempting to forge a new collaborative partnership

About SPIDER Network

The rise of disaster risk reduction as a more community-centred, vulnerability-based approach to managing disasters is challenging how traditional hazard-related scientific knowledge is generated and communicated. There is broad recognition that scientists, social scientists, policy-makers, communities and practitioners need to reconsider their relationships with each other and critically assess the way different forms of knowledge are used in attempts to generate safer communities.

New Disaster Researchers

The SPIDER Network is committed to promoting the work of new researchers in the disasters field. The website hosts a database of new researchers and currently has around 80 members.

An e-mail based discussion list is used to share research ideas, conference announcements, funding opportunities and to ask questions. New researchers are able to advertise their research interests and find other new researchers with similar interests.

Forthcoming SPIDER Network meetings are expected to host new researchers sessions to establish new networks.



Discussions in UEA meeting
image: Jenni Barclay, 2006

To join the new disaster researchers database and discussion list, please visit:

<http://www.spidernetwork.org/nds.htm>

Outputs

- The Network members are planning a series of working papers, with the intention of publishing them in a special issue of a leading interdisciplinary journal
- In partnership with members of the New Disaster Researchers database, The SPIDER Network is compiling a series of annotated bibliographies of interdisciplinary disaster risk reduction related research
- Each SPIDER Network meeting will produce a conference report, paying particular attention to the discussions and the emerging research questions
- Collaborative proposals to funding agencies

Research questions

The SPIDER Network is seeking to build new relationships by inviting diverse stakeholders to a series of linked meetings over a two-year period. These meetings and other linked activities will seek to address the following research questions:

- Who takes responsibility for leading initiatives that attempt to build institutional, community and household resilience in multi-hazard, high vulnerability areas?
- How can scientists and other stakeholders engage the public and policy-makers in the production of scientific knowledge that promotes trust through feelings of co-ownership?
- How can awareness of uncertain, high-magnitude, low-frequency hazard events be improved, and how can vulnerability to these events be reduced?
- What dynamics of power, personality, and resources, influence the value of different knowledge in the governance of disasters?
- How can climate and disaster scientists work more closely to increase the impact of messages about the need to take action?



images courtesy of: Andy Bell, 2004; Wolfgang Beyer, 1980; NASA JPL, 2005; NOAA, 2005