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# Risk Acceptability According To The Social Sciences

## Social Research Perspectives Occasional Reports On

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Communities of Fate

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Risk Assessment for Water Infrastructure Safety and Security

The Perception and Acceptability of Risk

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## **SHAFFER ROBERSON**

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*Understanding Risk Regulation Regimes*  
Psychology Press

One of the seventeen critical infrastructures vital to the security of the United States, the water supply system remains largely unprotected from the threat of terrorism, including possible revenge by Al Qaeda over the killing of Osama Bin Laden. Recognizing and identifying prospective events of terrorism against the water infrastructure is critical

to the protection of the nation, as the consequences triggered by a terrorist attack on the water supply would be devastating. Risk Assessment for Water Infrastructure: Safety and Security provides a unique quantitative risk assessment methodology for protection and security against terrorist contamination, vandalism, attacks against

dams, and other threats to water supply systems. Focusing on the human safety, environmental, and economic consequences triggered by potential terrorist attacks and other threats, the book presents: The development of an integrated approach of risk assessment based upon the cumulative prospect theory The qualitative/quantitative processes and models for security and safe facility operations as required by EPA, DHS, and other governmental and regulatory agencies The application of an integrated model to the risk assessment of surface water, dams, wells, wastewater treatment facilities, reservoirs, and aqueducts of large urban regions The development of intelligence analysis incorporating risk assessment for terrorism prevention Finally, the book presents the legal and regulatory requirements and policy related to the protection and security of water infrastructure from terrorism and natural hazards to both human health and the environment. By analyzing potential terrorist risks against the water supply, strategic improvements in U.S. water infrastructure security may be achieved,

including changes in policy, incorporation of intrusion detection technology, increased surveillance, and increased intelligence. More information can be found on the author's website.

**Communities of Fate** Routledge  
Over the last two decades, there has been an increase in the number of natural hazards which have culminated in catastrophic consequences, severely impacting on people and livelihoods. In response to this escalation, the Swiss Natural Hazards Competence Centre (CENAT) organized a workshop entitled "RISK21" at the Centro Stefano Franscini, Mon

The Government of Risk National Academies Press

Risk is always present; only the probabilities of risk vary. Communities of Fate offers an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the social origins and organization of risk. By emphasizing the social aspects of risk and illustrating the range of circumstances in which risk is not only socially defined but socially created, the author helps demonstrate the extent to which reducing risk is not a technical problem, but, within Habermas'

framework, a practical one. In short, how do we encourage all people, including those predisposed to technical solutions, to appreciate the extent to which risk is socially constructed and, thus, to join the socio-political struggle to reduce it where that is possible? Contents: Introduction; Theoretical Frameworks-The Classical Statements; Theoretical Frameworks-The Contemporary Statements; Empirical Case Studies of Risk; Policy Implications.  
*Risk Assessment for Water Infrastructure Safety and Security* Routledge  
Every day, it seems, we become aware of some new technological or chemical hazard. Yet it is also possible that this very awareness is new, or at least newly heightened. Why are certain kinds of risks suddenly so salient? Are public perceptions of risk simply the sum of individual reactions to individual events, or do social and cultural influences play a role in shaping our definitions of safety, acceptable risk, and danger? Prompted by public outcries and by the confusion and uncertainty surrounding risk management policy, social scientists have begun to address themselves to the issue of risk perception. But as anthropologist Mary

Douglas points out, they have been singularly reluctant to examine the cultural bases of risk perception, preferring to concentrate on the individual perceiver making individual choices. This approach leaves unexamined a number of crucial social factors—our concepts of what is "natural" or "artificial," for example; our beliefs about fairness, and our moral judgements about the kind of society in which we want to live. This provocative and path-breaking report seeks to open a sociological approach to risk perception that has so far been systematically neglected. Describing first some exceptions to the general neglect of culture, Douglas builds on these clues and on her own broad anthropological perspective to make a compelling case for focusing on social factors in risk perception. She offers a challenge and a promising new agenda to all who study perceptions of risk and, by extension, to those who study human cognition and choice as well. "An altogether brilliant piece of writing—far-reaching and a joy to read." —Amartya Sen, Oxford University A Volume in the Russell Sage Foundation's Social Science Frontiers Series

*The Perception and Acceptability of Risk*  
Springer Science & Business Media  
The 1989 Annual Meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis dramatically demonstrated one of the most important reasons for having the Society - to bring together people with highly diverse backgrounds and disciplines to assess the common problems of societal and individual risks. The physical scientists emphasized the analytical tools for assessing environmental effects and for modeling risks from engineered systems and other human activities. The health scientists presented numerous methods of analyzing health effects, including the subject of dose-response relationships, especially at low exposure levels - never an easy analysis. The social and political scientists concentrated on issues of risk perception, communication, acceptability, and human touch. Others discussed such issues as cost-benefit analysis and the risk-based approach to decision analysis. Use of risk assessment methods for risk management continued to be a matter of strong opinion and debate. The impacts of state and federal regulations, existing and planned, were assessed in sessions and in

luncheon speeches. These impacts show that risk analysis practitioners will have an increasingly important role in the future. They will be challenged to provide clear, easily understood evaluations of risk that are responsive to society's concern for risk, as evidenced in laws and regulations. Of course, the various risk analysis specialties overlapped in domains of interest.

#### **Actions Around Uncertainty in Urban Planning and Infrastructure**

**Development** Manchester University Press

A study of the question tablets from the oracle at Dodona and binding-curse tablets from across the ancient Greek world, These tablets reveal the hopes and anxieties of ordinary people, and help us to understand some of the ways in which they managed risk and uncertainty in their daily lives.

*Oracles, Curses, and Risk Among the Ancient Greeks* Routledge

Those tasked with the planning and construction of infrastructure and development operations face an increasingly uncertain context in which they must address risks across a number

of different fields. These range from the environmental and archaeological to the social, political and financial. As a consequence, the formal and informal practices of stakeholders often incorporate projections of risk and opportunity. *Project Risks* analyzes this paradigm shift. It reviews the origin and nature of these uncertainties, and the practices implemented by the actors to mitigate or take advantage of them. Paradoxically, these practices generate new risks and power relations that are not compatible with the collaborative planning model. These paradoxes force the rethinking of practices such as project territorialization, risk taking in planning and the responsibility of actors, as well as the societal and political choices that must be made between the realization of projects and the protection of the environment.

*Ancient Greek Divination in Context*  
Springer Science & Business Media  
"Garrett Galvin examines biblical texts from a number of different time periods (1 Kgs 11:14-12:24; Jeremiah 46; Matt. 2:13-15, 19-21) in order to highlight the importance of literary genre for understanding the phenomenon of Egypt

as a place of refuge in the Old Testament."--Back cover.

**An Essay on the Selection of Technological and Environmental Dangers** Routledge

First published in 1985, Mary Douglas intended *Risk and Acceptability* as a review of the existing literature on the state of risk theory. Unsatisfied with the current studies of risk, which she found to be flawed by individualistic and psychologistic biases, she instead uses the book to argue risk analysis from an anthropological perspective. Douglas raises questions about rational choice, the provision of public good and the autonomy of the individual.

**Embracing Risk** University of Chicago Press

Effective risk management is essential for the success of large projects built and operated by the Department of Energy (DOE), particularly for the one-of-a-kind projects that characterize much of its mission. To enhance DOE's risk management efforts, the department asked the NRC to prepare a summary of the most effective practices used by leading owner organizations. The

study's primary objective was to provide DOE project managers with a basic understanding of both the project owner's risk management role and effective oversight of those risk management activities delegated to contractors.

**Towards a New Ecology** John Wiley & Sons

Can we know the risks we face, now or in the future? No, we cannot; but yes, we must act as if we do. Some dangers are unknown; others are known, but not by us because no one person can know everything. Most people cannot be aware of most dangers at most times. Hence, no one can calculate precisely the total risk to be faced. How, then, do people decide which risks to take and which to ignore? On what basis are certain dangers guarded against and others relegated to secondary status? This book explores how we decide what risks to take and which to ignore, both as individuals and as a culture.

Cognitive Bases of Acceptability of a Radioactive Waste Repository CRC Press

This book examines how child protection law has been shaped by the transition to

late modernity and how it copes with the ever-changing concept of risk. The book traces the evolution of the contemporary child protection system through historical changes, assessing the factors that have influenced the development of legal responses to abuse over a 130-year period. It does so by focussing on the Republic of Ireland where child protection has become emblematic of wider social change. The work draws on a wide range of primary and secondary sources including legislation, case law and official and media reports of child protection inquiries. It also utilises insights developed through an extensive examination of parliamentary debates on child protection matters. These materials are assessed through the lens of critical discourse analysis to explore the relationship between law, social policy and social theory as they effect child protection. While the book utilises primarily Irish sources, this multidisciplinary approach ensures the argument has international applicability. The book will be a valuable resource for all those with an interest in the development of child protection law. The Analysis, Communication, and

#### Perception of Risk SAGE

Flexibility is the distinguishing feature of ancient Greek divination. *Worlds Full of Signs* offers a systematic approach by discussing the divinatory sign, homo divinans, text and uncertainty management from a comparative perspective, using Republican Rome and Neo-Assyrian Mesopotamia as comparanda.

#### Towards Determinants of Acceptance Risk Cambridge University Press

Using data obtained from participant observation and interviews, *Bodybuilding, Drugs and Risk* explores bodybuilding subculture from the perspective of the bodybuilder.

#### *Risk and Culture* BoD – Books on Demand

As the study of social policy comes increasingly to address issues of theorising welfare in a period of fundamental social change, Culpitt's book is especially welcome in helping to update the reader in many of the debates and explorations surrounding social change, in particular those instigated by Foucault some two decades ago - his work on "governmentality" is central to Culpitt's book - and by Beck on risk more recently.

The book also serves as a useful introduction to other key thinkers influencing social theory today whose work also addresses issues central to social policy, such as Giddens, Honneth and Turner' - Martin Hewitt, University of Hertfordshire This book examines the notion of risk in relation to social policy. It takes ideas about risk (as expressed by sociologists such as Ulrich Beck in *Risk Society*), and applies them to recent changes in welfare. The author shows neo-liberals have used various aspects of risk to attack welfare dependency, and how various rhetoric's of risk have been used to reshape contemporary politics. *Social Policy and Risk* makes a major contribution to our understanding of contemporary welfare politics.

#### *Communication and Social Order* Risk and Acceptability

But the risks from a few hazards were quite badly mis-perceived. Respondents were asked for their views of what would be the acceptable levels of risk from various hazards. These levels were usually thought of as a fraction of the present levels.

#### **Workshop Summary** BRILL

Drawing on theory from anthropology, sociology, organisation studies and philosophy, this book addresses how the perception, communication and management of risk is shaped by culturally informed and socially embedded knowledge and experience. It provides an account of how interpretations of risk in society are conditioned by knowledge claims and cultural assumptions and by the orientation of actors based on roles, norms, expectations, identities, trust and practical rationality within a lived social world. By focusing on agency, social complexity and the production and interpretation of meaning, the book offers a comprehensive and holistic theoretical perspective on risk, based on empirical case studies and ethnographic enquiry. As a selection of Åsa Boholm's publications throughout her career, along with a newly written introduction overviewing the field, this book provides a unified perspective on risk as a construct shaped by social and cultural contexts. This collection should be of interest to students and scholars of risk communication, risk management, environmental planning, environmental management and environmental and

applied anthropology.

### **Readings in the Social Organization of Risk**

Univ of California Press  
Safety Risk Management for Medical Devices, Second Edition teaches the essential safety risk management methodologies for medical devices compliant with the requirements of ISO 14971:2019. Focusing exclusively on safety risk assessment practices required in the MedTech sector, the book outlines sensible, easily comprehensible, state-of-the-art methodologies that are rooted in current industry best practices, addressing safety risk management of medical devices, thus making it useful for those in the MedTech sector who are responsible for safety risk management or need to understand risk management, including design engineers, product engineers, development engineers, software engineers, Quality assurance and regulatory affairs. Graduate-level engineering students with an interest in medical devices will also benefit from this book. The new edition has been fully updated to reflect the state-of-the-art in this fast changing field. It offers guidance on developing and commercializing

medical devices in line with the most current international standards and regulations. Includes new coverage of ISO 14971:2019, ISO/TR 24971 Presents the latest information on the history of risk management, lifetime of a medical device, risk management review, production and post production activities, post market risk management Provides practical, easy-to-understand and state-of-the-art methodologies that meet the requirements of international regulation  
**Encyclopedia of Social Theory** CRC Press

As the capability and utility of robots has increased dramatically with new technology, robotic systems can perform tasks that are physically dangerous for humans, repetitive in nature, or require increased accuracy, precision, and sterile conditions to radically minimize human error. The Robotics and Automation Handbook addresses the major aspects of designing, fabricating, and enabling robotic systems and their various applications. It presents kinetic and dynamic methods for analyzing robotic systems, considering factors such as force and torque. From these analyses, the book

develops several controls approaches, including servo actuation, hybrid control, and trajectory planning. Design aspects include determining specifications for a robot, determining its configuration, and utilizing sensors and actuators. The featured applications focus on how the specific difficulties are overcome in the development of the robotic system. With the ability to increase human safety and precision in applications ranging from handling hazardous materials and

exploring extreme environments to manufacturing and medicine, the uses for robots are growing steadily. The Robotics and Automation Handbook provides a solid foundation for engineers and scientists interested in designing, fabricating, or utilizing robotic systems.

**Project Risks** Oxford University Press Herbicides are one of the most widely used groups of pesticides worldwide for controlling weedy species in agricultural and non-crop settings. Due to the extensive use of herbicides and their value

in weed management, herbicide research remains crucial for ensuring continued effective use of herbicides while minimizing detrimental effects to ecosystems. Presently, a wide range of research continues to focus on the physiology of herbicide action, the environmental impact of herbicides, and safety. The authors of Herbicides, Physiology of Action, and Safety cover multiple topics concerning current valuable herbicide research.