

# Risk Acceptance and Risk Communication

March 26-27, 2007  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California, USA

## First Announcement and Call for Abstracts

### Workshop sponsors:

American Society of Civil Engineering's Engineering Mechanics Division  
Joint Committee on Structural Safety  
The John A. Blume Earthquake Engineering Center

### Organizing committee:

Jack Baker, Stanford University, USA  
Bruce Ellingwood, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA  
Michael Faber, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

### Aim of the workshop

Engineering design requirements are created with the intention to implicitly or explicitly ensure that structures achieve an acceptable level of safety. Developments in performance-based engineering, structural reliability and decision theory have enabled researchers to better predict the reliability of designed structures, and to make design decisions based on the risks associated with failures. Fully utilizing these abilities requires that criteria for risk acceptability be known or identifiable, and that affected parties be able to understand these risks.

The following topics fall within the scope of this workshop:

- Identifying or defining target levels of acceptable risk
- Criteria for risk acceptance in design of structures
- Resolving apparent variations in societal acceptance of risks from varying sources
- Risk- and reliability-based calibration of design requirements (i.e., design codes)
- Fixed reliability criteria versus cost/benefit analysis in system design
- Quantifying uncertainties in risk assessments
- Quantifying failure consequences
- Dealing with low-probability, high-consequence events in risk assessment
- Case studies in risk assessment
- Risk communication

This workshop is aimed at gathering experts in the field for the purpose of identifying state-of-the-art practices. At the conclusion of the workshop, a discussion will be held to identify points of consensus as well as issues requiring further consideration.

## **Venue**

The workshop will be held on the campus of Stanford University, in Stanford, California, USA. Stanford is easily accessible from the San Francisco and San Jose international airports. Maps and travel information, along with a list of hotels, will be made available in the near future. A nominal registration fee, to be announced this fall, will be charged to cover the cost of meals and meeting space.

## **Abstracts and papers**

Please submit a one page abstract by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006, by e-mail to walzer@ibk.baug.ethz.ch. Invitations to submit eight-page papers will be based on the acceptance of submitted abstracts. Each presenter is expected to bring copies of his/her full final paper to the workshop for distribution among the participants.

Presentations and conclusions from the workshop will be published in an electronic proceedings, and papers will also be included in the proceedings if the author chooses. Selected papers identified by the technical committee will be submitted to a special issue of an international journal on the topics of the workshop.

## **Local contact**

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## **Technical committee**

Ross Corotis, University of Colorado, USA  
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Anne Kiremidjian, Stanford University, USA  
Marc Maes, University of Calgary, Canada  
Peter May, University of Washington, USA  
Torgeir Moan, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway  
Mahesh Pandey, University of Waterloo, Canada  
Mark Stewart, University of Newcastle, Australia  
Ton Vrouwenvelder, TNO Delft, Netherlands

**Further information will soon be made available at**  
**<http://www.jcss.ethz.ch/>**