

The Disaster and Crisis Anthropology Network (DICAN) has undertaken the following activities in the past year:

**Archiving and Memorializing Disasters, International Workshop, 16th March 2015, Tohoku University, Japan**

Sébastien Penmellen Boret and Akihiro Shibayama,

The World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan (March 14-18, 2015) brought together several members of DICAN and other fellow anthropologists of disasters during a public forum, Archiving and Memorializing Disasters. For this international and interdisciplinary workshop, Sébastien Penmellen Boret and Akihiro Shibayama invited anthropologists, historians and information scientists from the USA, Europe and Asia to discuss the roles of digital archives, collective memory and memorialization in the aftermath and the prevention of disasters.

**Anthropology and disaster studies: a symbiotic relationship ASA15, 13th-16th April 2015, University of Exeter, UK**

DICAN members Seumas Bates, Andrea Butcher and Sébastien Boret Penmellen arranged the session Anthropology and disaster studies: a symbiotic relationship at the meeting of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (ASA) held at the University of Exeter in April of 2015. The DICAN sponsored this double session. Read more at: [www.nomadit.co.uk/asa/asa2015/panels.php5?PanelID=3354](http://www.nomadit.co.uk/asa/asa2015/panels.php5?PanelID=3354)

**Moral landscapes in crisis, conflict and catastrophe, SANT 17th-19th April 2015, Lund University, Sweden**

Carolina Holgersson Ivarsson and Susann Baez Ullberg convened a DICAN sponsored session called Moral landscapes in crisis, conflict and catastrophe at the annual conference of the Swedish Association of Social Anthropology held at Lund University on 17-19 April 2015. The theme of this year's conference was anthropology and morality. The DICAN sponsored session addressed how moral arguments and actions are voiced, articulated, negotiated and contested in social contexts of upheaval in which values are at stake, such as in communities affected by disaster and conflict. Read more about the conference and the session here (in Swedish and English): [santkonferens2015.blogg.lu.se](http://santkonferens2015.blogg.lu.se)

**The role and contribution of anthropology to the interdisciplinary disaster studies, IUAES Conference, May 4th-9th 2016, Dubrovnik, Croatia**

Susanna Hoffman has submitted a panel proposal to the Inter-Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in May 2016 with the joint support of the DICAN and the Risk and Disaster Topical Interest Group of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

“Over the past thirty years, disasters of both geophysical and technological origin had become ever more frequent and severe across our planet. The alarming situation was due in large part to the increasing conditions of vulnerability among the human community, affecting ever larger numbers of people. The previous set of driving factors of disaster is now combined with grave new components, global warming, coastward migration, and urban densification. Coincident with the increase in number and severity of disasters and the growing vulnerability of the human populations, the level of interest concerning the issues that surround both calamities and hazard has markedly expanded in the field of anthropology. Indeed, anthropology has become a major contributor to the understanding of risk, hazard, human vulnerability, and disaster. Along with anthropology’s holistic approach, engaging the environmental, biological, and socio-cultural, and its comprehensive perspective encompassing the developmental and comparative, recently the key concept of the discipline, culture, has risen to the forefront in almost every arena dealing with risk, disaster and sustainability.”