

Editorial Preface

Ethiopia Child Labor, India Banks and Argentina Disasters: Could Big Data Analytics Help?

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Change is inevitable so I am changing *International Journal of Risk and Contingency Management (IJRCM)*. First I am dropping the rigid structure for the editorial preface because I found it limited my own creativity. Secondly I am making changes to the editorial review board (ERB) that will improve our strategic management. I intend to have global advisors who also read manuscripts to ensure they remain in touch with contemporary issues and practices. Third I want to expand our keywords into the data analytics topics in as far as uncertainty, risk analysis and contingency management techniques are concerned. I also want *IJRCM* writers to revisit teaching and training case studies as a core type of manuscript that we wish to publish. Teaching cases provide the critical link between practice and learning for universities and their students so we need to improve this deficiency in our service to the readers. Special thanks go to editorial review board members who did more than their share of double blind peer reviews to keep all 2016 issues on time: Niro Udumalagala, Roy Nersesian, Gerry Wymar, John Ford, and Drew Sugarett. We want to also thank our Associate Editors for support on this new editorial preface: Rao Vajjhala, Yolande Goodwin, and Don Jung.

This issue includes four research articles and a contemporary book review. I chose the first manuscript primarily due to its uniqueness in terms of risk application during teaching children in Ethiopia. Akalewold started with a focused problem followed by a relevant literature review. He presented a strong research design, which consisted of collecting quantitative and qualitative ethnographic data on the vulnerability of children working in solid waste management activities. He used the cross-sectional survey method, focus group discussion note taking, participant observation and key informant interviews. That is powerful triangulated data collection. The rest of his study was very convincing. I think it serves as a good role model for all of us not just developing countries. Nice work Dr. Akalewold.

I chose Baber's manuscript for this important reason (beyond it being related to our *IJRCM* keywords): It clearly described the research design – a qualitative descriptive analysis. This type of paper shows how to research the qualitative factors that could later support quantitative or further qualitative research. Although credit risks in the banking industry have been extensively examined in the literature, as Baber points out, India is a globally competitive country and this alone makes it important to explore the risk behavior of one of its top banks.

This led me to select Das's article as a contrast to Baber's study. Both examined financial institutions in India but from different perspectives with diverse results. The first study was from a large commercial bank while the second paper was written from the perspective of the federal reserve bank. Interesting contrasts.

I included Xing's article to stimulate research into big data analytics – and also to show how we can adapt to the changing needs of readers. His critical literature review analysis of the big data paradigm questions why many researchers are not more focused on investigating how to improve the reliability and value (veracity). He asserts that most of the big data literature simply rehashes what

we already know, including the other four “v”s of big data (volume, velocity, variety) and variability (Sun, Zou, & Strang, 2015).

In fact, my colleagues and I (Vajjhala, Strang & Sun, 2015) examined applications of big data analytics using scaled down models to demonstrate how analytical techniques could provide decision making value to organizations. Interestingly, my colleague Alamieyeseigha and I (Strang & Alamieyeseigha, 2015) studied global terrorism using descriptive statistics on big data collected through the literature. I later analysed a big database using cluster analysis to locate patterns between terrorist ideology and their preferred attack methods (Strang, 2015). These are example studies of how to achieve what Xing is calling for. We encourage researchers to submit more articles on big data analytic risks, contingency management, and the techniques used to quantify uncertainty associated with information or relationships.

I would like to see more researchers actually analyze big data rather than merely review the literature or create more conceptual models. Sun and I (Strang & Sun, 2016) used Hadoop and Google Analytics along with other search engines to collect big data about global terrorism. Then we investigated the patterns using correspondence analysis.

I believe other researchers could examine important global issues by collecting big data and then quantifying the uncertainty within factor relationships. For example, could someone bring together health history and medical science practices to develop immunization for the Zika virus? World wide terrorism continues - why can't we stop this by diving deeper into the data on a global cross disciplinary basis? Why is the global economy still faltering - could our financial economists not add the newest results to the history to create big data for value-added risk analysis? There just seems no logical explanation to why gas prices remain so high in many countries while the price of oil is depressed – could data analytics explain this uncertainty? How about analyzing social norms and behavioral intention big data to predict national election outcomes? My vision is that you should be able to find manuscripts in *IJRCM* that explore uncertainty and risk in the categories that show up in a daily search through news.google.com, namely: business, technology, health, science, sports, entertainment and so on. These are the everyday topics that could benefit from risk analysis in *IJRCM*.

On a slightly different topic, we also want to encourage researchers to examine the uncertainty and risks within the literature. It was interesting to read Cabell's coverage of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) ICAM 2016 conference topic of selecting reputable journals. Their session brought attention to the “white list” and also to the work of Beal which revealed the uncertainty associated with “Predatory Publishers” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-d4U1t_Nsxx). Beal's work suggests that scholars and government researchers could be facing career uncertainty if they publish in predatory journals (<https://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/>).

On the other hand, I would like to know if the impact factors and various other indexes of good journals may be relied on to quantify the quality of journals? What actually goes into an impact factor? We would like to see researchers tackle that topic from a risk management or uncertainty quantification angle.

Finally, I chose Korstanje's book review because it discussed the foundations of risk in Argentina. I thought this book review was one of the high points of the issue second to Akalewold's world class study of learning risks in Ethiopia. Korstanje translated his interpretation of the book *Riesgos al Sur: diversidad de riesgos de desastres en Argentina* which according to him means “Risks Southwards: diversity of risks in disaster-related contexts for Argentina”. I hope Korstanje and others will accept this challenge to conduct studies to further explore the topics raised in his review. Please check out the call for papers (<http://ijrcm.multinations.org/>) to guide you in making your decision to submit manuscripts to *IJRCM*.

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