



ESRC Research Seminar 5

Applied Complexity Theory as the New Framework for Public Policy

LSE Complexity Research Programme & Department of Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism Management, Business School, Oxford Brookes University

“Terrorism and the Complexity of Soft Targets: The Case of the Tourism Industry”

Organised by Alexandros Paraskevas at the Conference Centre Oxford

Wednesday 10 March 2010, from 9.30 to 17.00 hrs

Soft targets (relatively unguarded sites where people congregate, normally in large numbers) have always attracted international and national terrorist groups as the impact of such attacks can be devastating in terms of damage, intimidation and media attention. In the last two decades, tourism destinations, attractions, hotels, restaurants, clubs and events have been the preferred targets of terrorists. The vulnerabilities of such targets are multiple and complex whereas ‘hardening’ them is not an easy, if not impossible, task. The ‘command and control’ approach often taken, in attempting to reduce the risk of a terrorist attack on such targets, has often proved ineffective. Complexity thinking can provide a framework for a new, perhaps more realistic view of countering the threat of a terrorist attack on a soft target that will enable academics and practitioners to move beyond current practice and to explore new possibilities of action and reaction. This seminar aims at setting the context for this exploration by introducing the complexity of securing soft targets and by looking at how a ‘paradigm shift’ in this area may produce better outcomes.

One of the objectives of the ESRC-funded Seminar Series is to identify key challenges and to prepare research project proposals for submission. The first session will therefore set the scene and the last session will allow time to start the discussion on potential project ideas.

Another objective is to bring together practitioners and academics to discuss these challenges in depth, to offer some insights from complexity theory, and to consider whether it can provide a new framework for policy.

Please visit www.lse.ac.uk/complexity for further information and to access the application form. Places are limited and early application is advised.

Provisional Programme

- 09.30 - 10.00** Registration & coffee
- 10.00 – 10.30** Welcome Address (Business School, Oxford Brookes University)
Introduction to the Grand Challenges on Complexity and the Soft Targets of Terrorism, Prof. Eve Mittleton-Kelly (LSE), Alexandros Paraskevas (Oxford Brookes University)
- 10.30 - 11.15** **Bernard Donoghue**, Head of Government and Public Affairs, VisitBritain and Deputy Chair of TIER – Tourism Industry Emergency Response Group.
- 11.15 – 12.00** **Alan Orlob**, Vice President, Corporate Security Marriott International Lodging
- 12.00 - 13.00** Lunch
- 13.00 - 13.45** **Prof Alex Schmidt**, Director of Terrorism Research Initiative (TRI) and editor of the Journal Perspectives on Tourism
- 13.45 – 14.30** **Dr Dawn Gilpin**, Assistant Professor, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University
- 14.30 - 15.00** Tea break
- 15.00 - 15.30** “Insights from Complexity” – Prof. Eve Mittleton-Kelly (LSE) and Alexandros Paraskevas (Oxford Brookes University)
- 15.30 - 16.30** Exploration of ideas for research projects (in breakaway groups)
- 16.30 - 17.00** Open discussion on Grand Challenges on Complexity and the Soft Targets of Terrorism led by Prof. Eve Mittleton Kelly (LSE)
- 17.00** Close

**Media
Partners:**



TravelDailyNews
International .com
DAILY TRAVEL & TOURISM NEWS PORTAL
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TRADE MARKET SINCE 1999