MANAGING THE IMPACTS OF NATURAL HAZARDS

Christopher W. Zobel, Ph.D.
Virginia Tech

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6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Farzaneh Hall, Room 148

As the Earth's population continues to grow, many aspects of our global society, including communities, businesses, and critical infrastructure, are subject to increasing risk from natural hazards. Although we typically cannot prevent such hazards from occurring, we can try to manage the resulting societal impacts by developing approaches that are able to more effectively mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from them. This can be difficult to do because of the inherent complexity and uncertainty surrounding such efforts, however, even small improvements in our ability to manage these impacts can save lives and help preserve livelihoods. This presentation explores a number of different research efforts that are focused on accomplishing this, and it discusses how taking an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving can help one to better understand both the nature of the problems and the effectiveness of the solutions.

Christopher W. Zobel is the R.B. Pamplin Professor of Business Information Technology in the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech. He earned a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering from the University of Virginia, an M.S. in Mathematics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a B.A. in Mathematics from Colgate University. Dr. Zobel's primary research interests include disaster operations management, humanitarian supply chains, and supply chain resilience, and he has published over 75 articles in archival journals and academic conference proceedings. He served two terms on the Board of Directors of the International Association for the Study of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM), and he has been the Track Chair for the Analytical Modeling and Simulation track at the annual ISCRAM World Conference since 2011. Dr. Zobel is currently serving as one of the Co-Directors of Virginia Tech's Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program in Disaster Resilience. He was a 2015 Fulbright Scholar to Karlsruhe, Germany, and he is a faculty fellow in Virginia Tech's Global Forum on Urban and Regional Resilience, and an affiliated faculty member of the Global Change Center.

Analytics of Resilient Cyber-Physical-Social Networks

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