

Integrating Science and Policy

Baruch Fischhoff
Carnegie Mellon University

Extreme Weather and Climate Change:
How Can We Address Uncertainty?
The Rutgers Initiative on Climate and Society
March 28, 2012



The Panel first met at a major interdisciplinary workshop organized by the AAAS at Annapolis, Maryland in April of 1979. Using as a reference a hypothetical scenario of how the climate might change as the result of CO₂ emissions, the panel identified a variety of important issues and research questions pertaining to the nature of possible societal perception of and responses to a climate change. The Panel's report, published in a DOE document, *Workshop on Environmental and Societal Consequences of a Possible CO₂-Induced Climate Change* (Carbon Dioxide Effects Research and Assessment Program, Report 009, U.S. Department of Energy, CONF-7904143, 1980), emphasized the unusual characteristics of the "CO₂ problem", including its long-term, slowly developing, and irreversible aspects, and underscored the importance of viewing the problem in the general context of other societal problems and rapid societal change.

CONF-7904143

① United States Department of Energy ③ MISC - October 1980

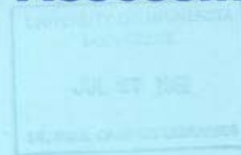
E 1.10: 7904143

Assistant Secretary for Environment
Office of Health and Environmental Research



009

Carbon Dioxide Effects Research and Assessment Program



Workshop on Environmental and Societal Consequences of a Possible CO₂ — Induced Climate Change

CO₂

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SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES

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⁰ Panel IV Social and Institutional Responses. The CO₂ issue appears to be a gradually developing problem that is so far proceeding too slowly to attract significant public notice. Yet it does have aspects that are linked to other high-priority social problems, including the development of alternative energy systems and certain environmental threats. Uncertainties inhibit precise definition of the social costs and benefits of CO₂-induced climate change. Impacts of climate change will not be distributed uniformly; consequently, the economic and social effects for each region would vary greatly. Prevention of CO₂ build-up is a global matter, but individual nations or other political units could act independently to adapt to changing climates. As scientific research on CO₂ progresses, information regarding the risks and benefits of climate change should be diffused through the hierarchy of social units -- ranging from individuals, families, and communities to nations and international groups. Institutions then will be better able to identify and implement appropriate strategies for dealing with the situation. Because of the varied geophysical, biological, and societal effects that may result from CO₂ build-up, the problem calls for an unprecedented interdisciplinary research effort. The format used in this undertaking can perhaps be applied to other complex social problems as well.

9 Hot Air: The Psychology of CO₂-Induced Climatic Change

Baruch Fischhoff
Decision Research
A Branch of Perceptronic

Fischhoff, B. (1981). Hot air: The psychology of CO-induced climatic change. In J. Harvey (Ed.), *Cognition, social behavior and the environment* (pp. 163-184). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum

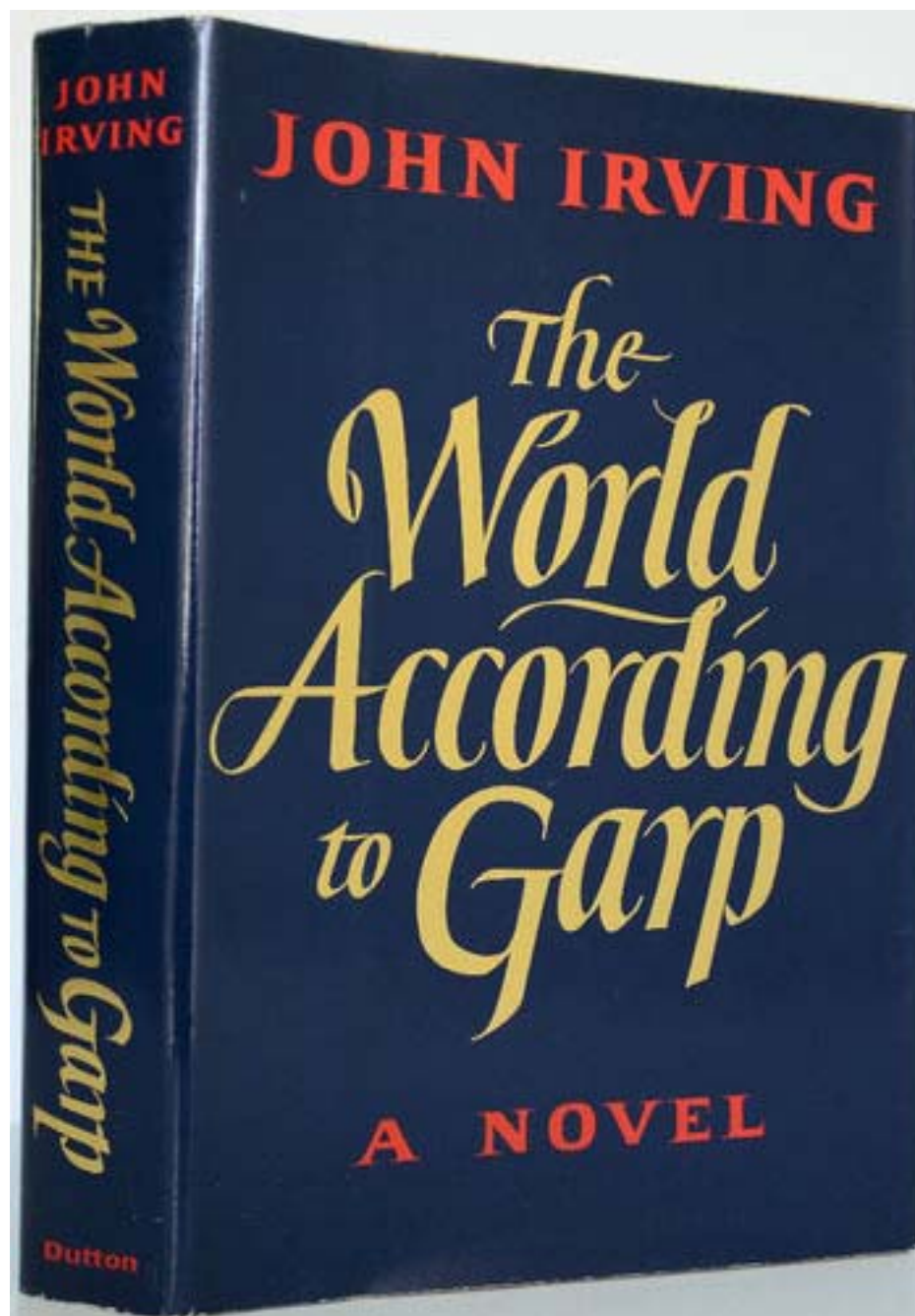
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Edited by

Robert S. Chen

R. S. Chen, E. Boulding and S. H. Schneider (Eds.), *Social science research and climate change: An interdisciplinary perspective* (pp. 183-203). Dordrecht, Holland: D. Reidel.

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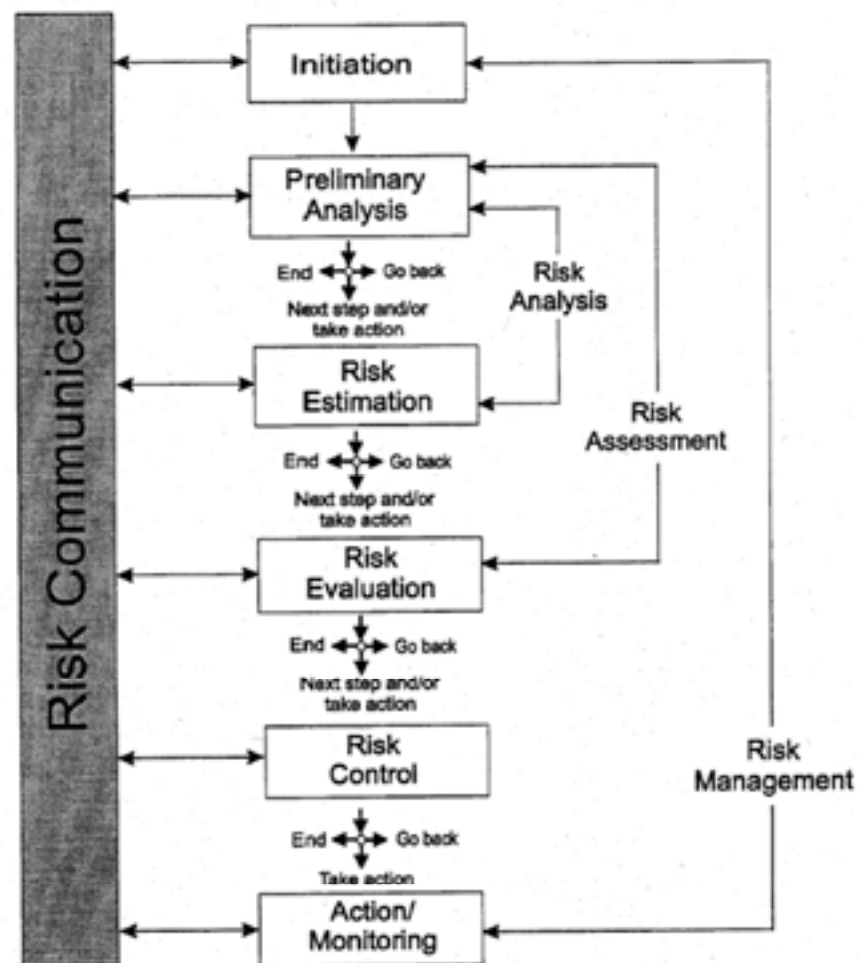
A Model for Integrating Science and Policy



CAN/CSA-Q850-97
***Risk Management:
Guideline for
Decision-Makers***

*A National Standard of
Canada*





Note: Risk communication with stakeholders is an important part of each step in the decision process.

Figure 2
Steps in the Q850 Risk Management Decision-Making
Process — Simple Model

In this view

Public involvement is a sustained, two-way process that is essential to creating relevant policy options and the supporting science.

The social, behavioral, and decision sciences can guide that process – and make progress through the work.

Three Design Principles

Design Principle 1: Treat public involvement as a scientific activity.

RADIOLOGICAL ATTACK DIRTY BOMBS AND OTHER DEVICES

— Making the Nation Safer
National Research Council (2002)

WHAT IS IT?

A **radiological attack** is the spreading of radioactive material with the intent to do harm. Radioactive materials are used every day in laboratories, medical centers, food irradiation plants, and for industrial uses. If stolen or otherwise acquired, many of these materials could be used in a “radiological dispersal device” (RDD).

Radiological Dispersal Devices, a.k.a. Dirty Bombs

A “dirty bomb” is one type of RDD that uses a conventional explosion to disperse radioactive material over a targeted area. The term dirty bomb and RDD are often used interchangeably in technical literature. However, RDDs could also include other means of dispersal such as placing a container of radioactive material in a public place, or using an airplane to disperse powdered or aerosolized forms of radioactive material.

A Dirty Bomb is Not a Nuclear Bomb

A nuclear bomb creates an explosion that is thousands to millions of times more powerful than any conventional explosive that might be used in a dirty bomb. The resulting mushroom cloud from a nuclear detonation contains fine particles of radioactive dust and other debris that can blanket large areas (tens to hundreds of square miles) with “fallout.” By contrast, most of the radioactive particles dispersed by a dirty bomb would likely fall to the ground within a few city blocks or miles of the explosion.

How an RDD Might be Used

It is very difficult to design an RDD that would deliver radiation doses high enough to cause immediate health effects or fatalities in a large number of people. Therefore, experts generally agree that an RDD would most likely be used to:

- contaminate facilities or places where people live and work, disrupting lives and livelihoods.
- cause anxiety in those who think they are being, or have been, exposed.

What is ionizing radiation?

When radioactive elements decay, they produce energetic emissions (alpha particles, beta particles, or gamma rays) that can cause chemical changes in tissues. The average person in the United States receives a “background” dose of about one-third of a rem* per year—about 80% from natural sources including earth materials and cosmic radiation, and the remaining 20% from man-made radiation sources, such as medical x-rays. There are different types of radioactive materials that emit different kinds of radiation:

Gamma and X-rays can travel long distances in air and can pass through the body exposing internal organs; it is also a concern if gamma emitting material is ingested or inhaled.

Beta radiation can travel a few yards in the air and in sufficient quantities might cause skin damage; beta-emitting material is an internal hazard if ingested or inhaled.

Alpha radiation travels only an inch or two in the air and cannot even penetrate skin; alpha-emitting material is a hazard if it is ingested or inhaled.

* A rem is a measure of radiation dose, based on the amount of energy absorbed in a mass of tissue. Dose can also be measured in Sieverts (1 Sievert=100 rem).

BE INFORMED

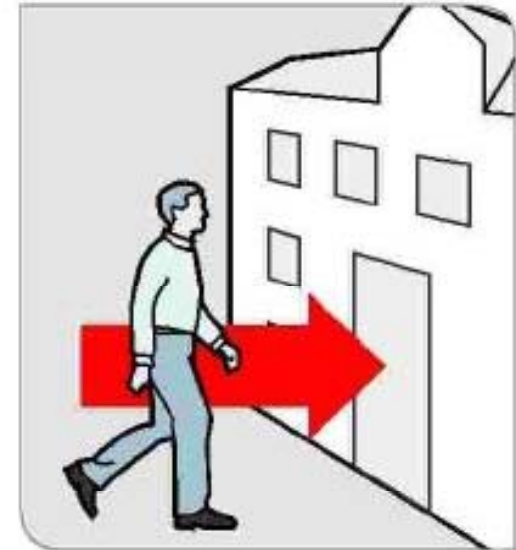
NUCLEAR BLAST



1. Take cover immediately, below ground if possible, though any shield or shelter will help protect you from the immediate effects of the blast and the pressure wave.



2. Consider if you can get out of the area;



3. Or if it would be better to go inside a building and follow your plan to "shelter-in-place".

(<http://www.ready.gov/america/downloads/nuclear.pdf>) [removed]

DHS to Scrap Color Code Terror Alerts by April

Homeland Security Advisory System criticized for "scaring, not preparing"

By **PIERRE THOMAS** and **JASON RYAN**

January 26, 2011



Russia Adopts Color-Coded Terror Alert System

By **ELLEN BARRY**

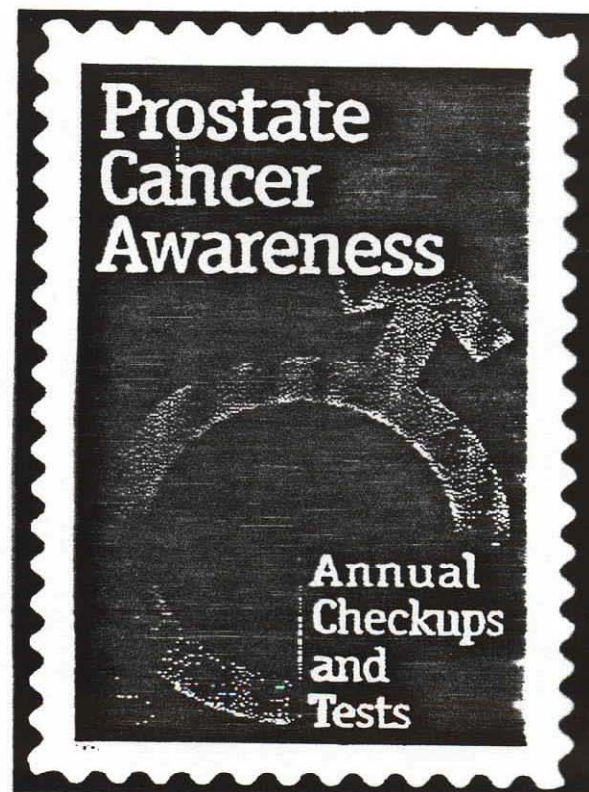
Published: January 28, 2011

The New York Times

Design Principle 2: Adopt an analytical, empirical, pan-theoretic approach to the science.

Analytical research is needed because

We need to identify the facts most relevant to others' decisions, from among all those that we could conceivably produce and convey.



**Empirical research is needed because
we can't trust our intuitions**

Empirical research is needed because we can't trust our intuitions

common knowledge effect

false consensus effect

fundamental attribution error

self-serving biases

myths (panic, adolescents' unique sense
of invulnerability, ...)

poor feedback (absent, distorted,
delayed)

...

**A pan-theoretic approach is needed
because basic research is
indeterminate in applied settings.**

Basic research is indeterminate

Decision making follows simple principles.

Basic research is indeterminate

Decision making follows simple principles.

However,

- the set of principles is large,
- the contextual triggers are subtle, and
- the interactions are complex

As a result, decision-specific research is needed.

Some Principles of Judgment

People are good at tracking what they see,
but not at detecting sample bias.

People have limited ability to evaluate the
extent of their own knowledge.

People have difficulty imagining themselves
in other visceral states.

People have difficulty projecting non-
linear trends.

People confuse ignorance and stupidity.

Some Principles of Choice

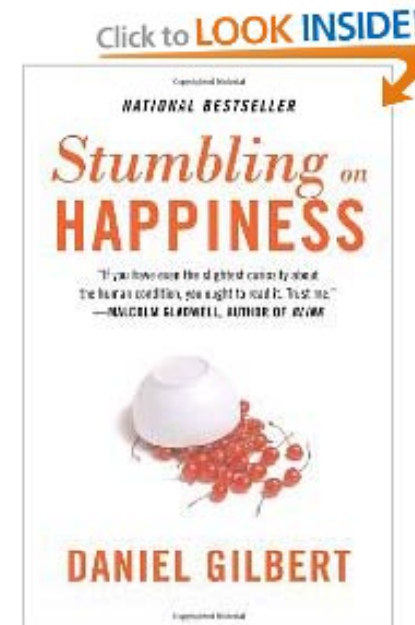
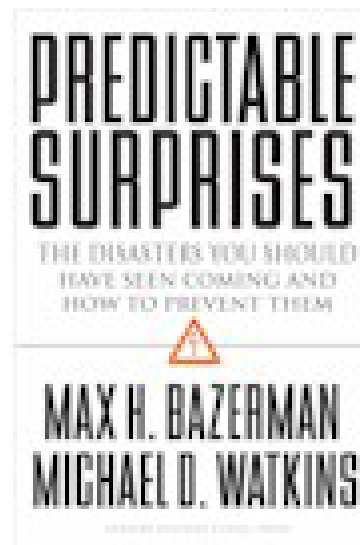
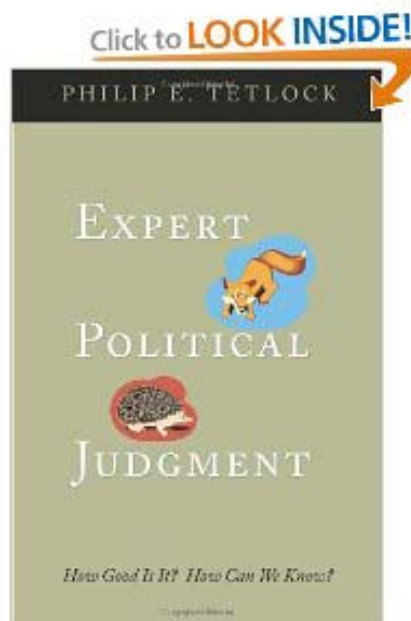
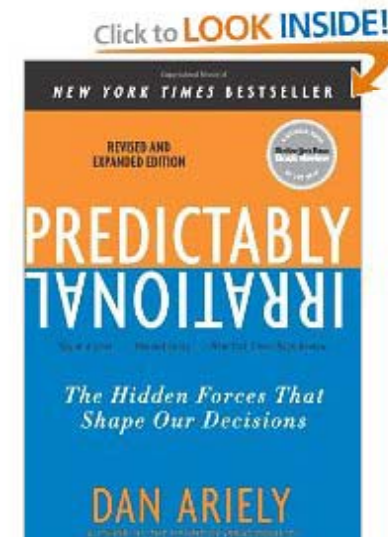
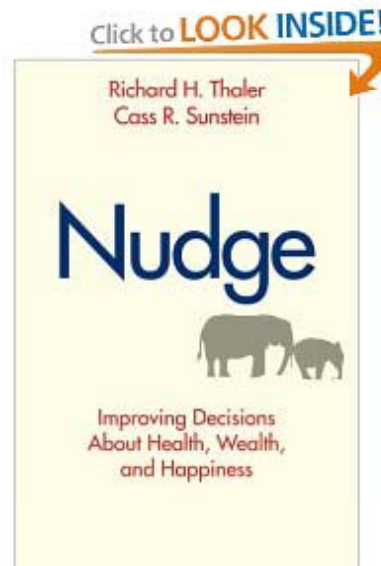
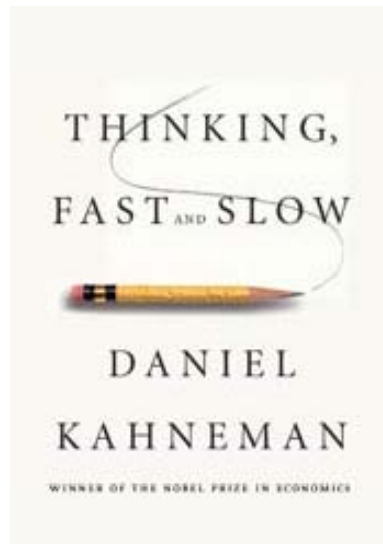
People dislike uncertainty,
but can live with it.

People consider the return on their
investment in making decisions.

People are insensitive to opportunity costs.

People are prisoners to sunk costs,
hating to recognize losses.

People may not know what they want,
especially with novel questions.



Design Principle 3: Treat the science as a strategic activity.

**FDA'S
STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR
RISK COMMUNICATION**

Fall, 2009

Communication Recommendations for Emerging Events

Have a consistent policy in all domains

Provide useful, timely information

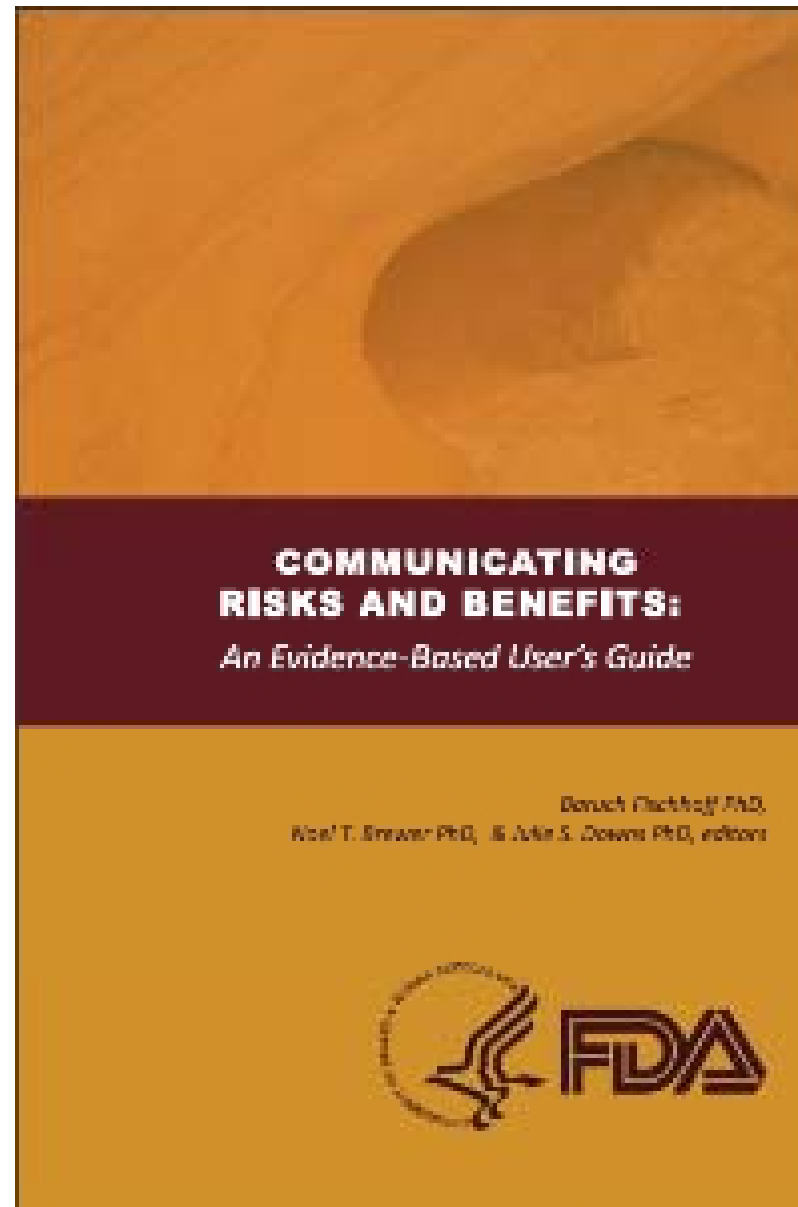
Address: risks and benefits, uncertainty,
personal actions, FDA actions

Audience needs should drive agency
analyses

Use standard formats; evaluate routinely

Consider needs of diverse populations

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/advisory/OCRCACACpg.html>




<http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/ReportsManualsForms/Reports/ucm268078.htm>²⁸

The National Academy of Sciences invites you to attend the
Arthur M. Sackler Colloquium on



THE SCIENCE OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

 Arthur M. Sackler
COLLOQUIA
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

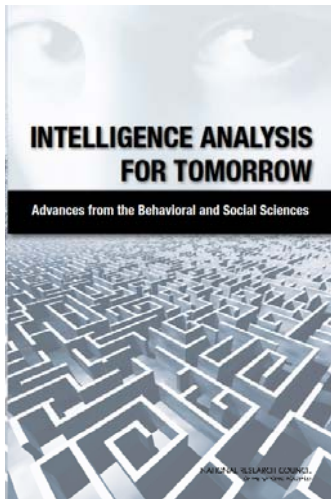
May 21–22, 2012
at the newly restored
National Academy of Sciences building
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

HEALTHNEWSREVIEW.ORG

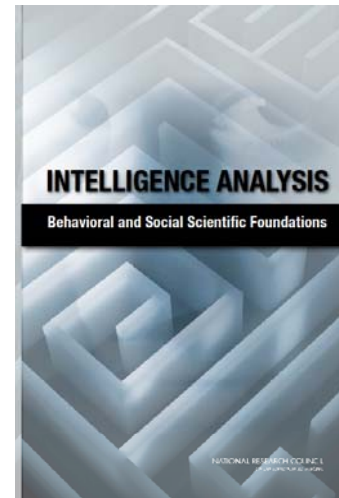
INDEPENDENT EXPERT REVIEWS OF NEWS STORIES

- + What's the total cost?
- + How often do benefits occur?
- + How often do harms occur?
- + How strong is the evidence?
- + Is this condition exaggerated?
- + Are there alternative options?
- + Is this really a new approach?
- + Is it available to me?
- + Who's promoting this?
- + Do they have a conflict of interest?

Decision Science in Intelligence Analysis



**Analysis,
Recommendations, &
Immediate Actions (100
pages)**



**Introduction to Methods
and Evidentiary Base
(350 pages)**

Intelligence Analysis for Tomorrow (Consensus Report): http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13040

Intelligence Analysis: Behavioral and Social Scientific Foundations (Collection of Readings): http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13062

Define events clearly and consistently

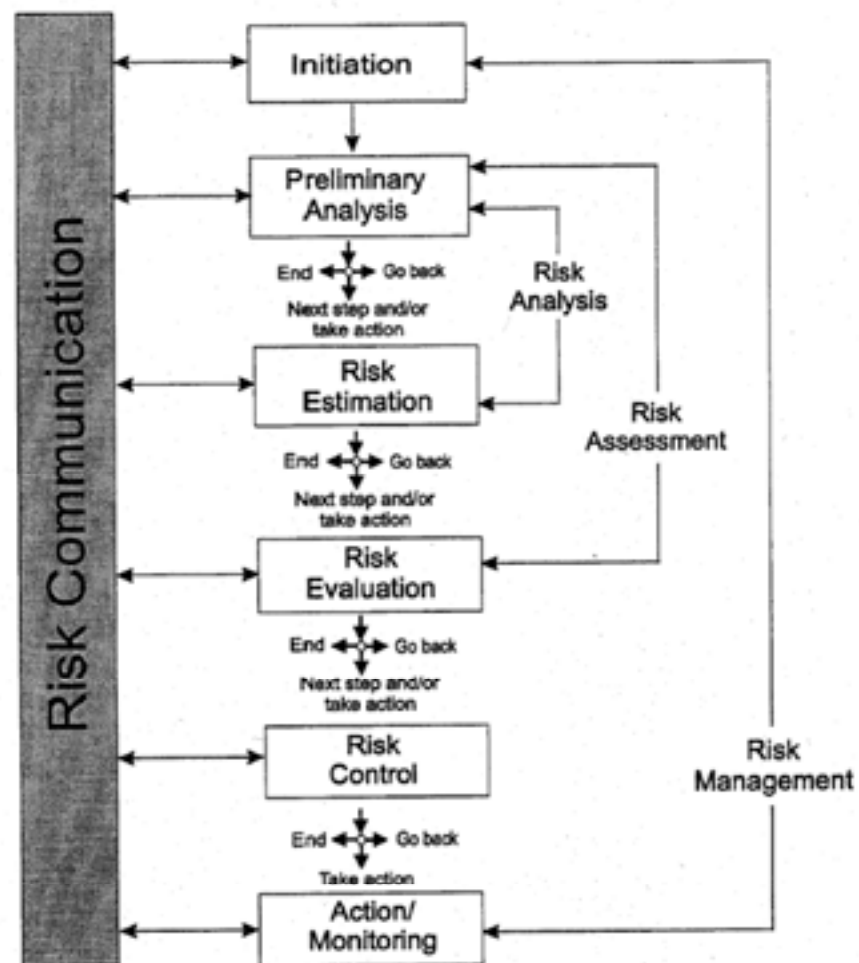
Misinterpretations of Precipitation Probability Forecasts

Allan H. Murphy¹, Sarah Lichtenstein²,
Baruch Fischhoff², and Robert L. Winkler²

**Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.
1980, 61, 696-701.**

Three Design Principles

Treat public involvement as a scientific activity.
Adopt an analytical, empirical, pan-theoretic
approach to that science.
Treat that science as a strategic activity.



Note: Risk communication with stakeholders is an important part of each step in the decision process.

Figure 2
Steps in the Q850 Risk Management Decision-Making
Process — Simple Model

Use numbers to guide perceptions

Avian Flu Predictions

1. What is the probability that H5N1 will become an efficient human-to-human transmitter (capable of being propagated through at least two epidemiological generations of affected humans) sometime during the next 3 years?

Overall

Median=40%

No idea=6

Expert

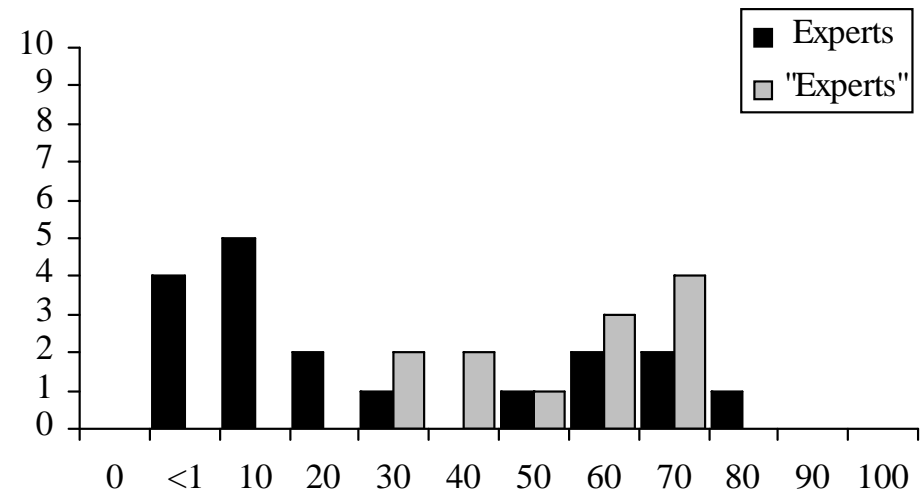
Median=15%

No idea=1

"Expert" Median=60% *

No idea=5

* Mann-Whitney U, $p < .05$



Bruine de Bruin, W., Fischhoff, B., Brilliant, L., & Caruso, D. (2006). Expert Judgments of pandemic influenza. *Global Public Health* 1(2), 178-193

Prescription Drug Facts: Lunesta (Eszopiclone)

What is this drug for?	To make it easier to fall or to stay asleep
Who might consider taking it?	Adults age 18 and older with insomnia for at least 1 month
Who should NOT take it?	People under age 18
Recommended testing	No blood tests, watch out for abnormal behavior
Other things to consider doing	Reducing caffeine (especially at night), exercise, regular bedtime, avoid daytime naps

LUNESTA STUDY FINDINGS

788 healthy adults with insomnia for at least 1 month -- sleeping less than 6.5 hours per night and/or taking more than 30 minutes to fall asleep-- were given LUNESTA or a sugar pill nightly for 6 months. Here's what happened:

What difference did LUNESTA make?	People given a sugar pill	People given LUNESTA (3 mg each night)
Did LUNESTA help? LUNESTA users fell asleep faster (15 minutes faster)	45 minutes to fall asleep	30 minutes to fall asleep
LUNESTA users slept longer (37 minutes longer)	5 hours 45 minutes	6 hours 22 minutes
Did LUNESTA have side effects?	None observed	
<i>Life threatening side effects</i> No difference between LUNESTA and a sugar pill		
<i>Symptom side effects</i>		
More had unpleasant taste in their mouth (additional 20% due to drug)	6% 6 in 100	26% 26 in 100
More had dizziness (additional 7% due to drug)	3% 3 in 100	10% 10 in 100
More had drowsiness (additional 6% due to drug)	3% 3 in 100	9% 9 in 100
More had dry mouth (additional 5% due to drug)	2% 2 in 100	7% 7 in 100
More had nausea (additional 5% due to drug)	6% 6 in 100	11% 11 in 100

How long has the drug been in use?

Lunesta was approved by FDA in 2005. As with all new drugs we simply don't know how its safety record will hold up over time. In general, if there are unforeseen, serious drug side effects, they emerge after the drug is on the market (when a large enough number of people have used the drug).

Words of Estimative Probability

Sherman Kent (1964)

<https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/books-and-monographs/sherman-kent-and-the-board-of-national-estimates-collected-essays/6words.html> (accessed 11/6/11)



**National
Intelligence
Estimate**

**Prospects for Iraq's Stability: A
Challenging Road Ahead**



January 2007

Some Additional Sources

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<http://www.hss.cmu.edu/departments/sds/src/faculty/fischhoff.php>

Carnegie Mellon Electricity Center: <http://wpweb2.tepper.cmu.edu/ceic/>

Center for Climate and Environmental Decision Making: <http://cedm.epp.cmu.edu/index.php>

Center for Risk Perception and Communication: <http://sds.hss.cmu.edu/risk/>

Center for Human Rights Science: <http://www.cmu.edu/chrs/>