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## **Simulation and Hazard Mitigation**

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# Preface

Natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, fires and others, have always affected human societies. Man-made hazards, however, played a comparatively small role until the industrial revolution when the risk of catastrophic events started to increase due to the rapid growth of new technologies. We live now in an increasingly complex society with the potential for regional and major worldwide scale disasters to occur frequently. The interaction of natural and anthropogenic risks – as in the well known case of climate change – adds to the complexity of the problem.

Scientific knowledge and research are essential to our better understanding of risk.

Advances in computational methods and the ability to model systems more precisely now enable hazards to be quantified, their effects to be simulated and risk analysis to be pursued with greater accuracy, providing for more effective risk management. These developments are not only important for all areas of human endeavour but have particular relevance to environmental issues where the risks involved are substantial. Effective risk management and the mitigation of possible hazards have become a high priority of government and a public concern.

This volume of the Transactions of Wessex Institute contains papers presented at RISK 2008, the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computer Simulation Risk Analysis and Hazard Mitigation, covering a series of important topics which are of current research interest and have practical applications. This volume contains contributions in many aspects of risk analysis and hazard mitigation, ranging from specific amounts of risk to mitigation associated with both natural and anthropogenic hazards.

RISK 2008 in Cephalonia, Greece follows on from other successful meetings in the series, which started in Valencia, Spain (1998) and continued in Bologna, Italy (2000), Sintra, Portugal (2002), Rhodes, Greece (2004) and Malta (2006).

The Editors would like to express their appreciation to the authors for the contributions published in this Volume, as well as to the members of the International Scientific Committee and others colleagues who helped select the papers contained in this volume.

The Editors  
Cephalonia, Greece, 2008

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