

Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Threats and Emergencies News and Updates – Spring 2026

Retrospective and Prospective

I am happy to report on CREATE's accomplishments and activities since the last Newsletter in Spring 2025. I begin by thanking all CREATE Fellows, staff, and research assistants for their important contributions.

The past 12 months have been a period of personal transitions and challenges. Randy Hall stepped down in June 2025 after 4 years as Director, during which time he led CREATE to even greater heights (see more about Randy's important contributions below). Detlof von Winterfeldt ably led CREATE during the last half of 2025, and I have served as Director for most of the first half of 2026.

Detlof retired from USC in December 2025, and we thank him for co-leading the effort to establish CREATE 22 years ago and for his outstanding leadership during 2 terms as Director during the 2000s and 2010s (see a brief news story about Detlof on the CREATE website). Also, Isaac Maya, who served as Associate Director for Research for many years, more recently as Associate Director for Research Transition, and for a stint as Interim Director, retired last September (see the forthcoming news story about him on our website). Jeff Countryman, who served us well for many years as our Business Manager, was shifted to the position of Post-Award Analyst in the USC Viterbi Office of Research last September. Also, Yannis Yortsos is stepping down as Dean of the Viterbi School of Engineering after 21 years at the helm. We are grateful for his strong support of CREATE over these many years.

We are fortunate, however, to welcome 4 additions to CREATE. Joe Arvai, Director of USC's Wrigley Institute for Environment and Sustainability, has joined us as a Senior Research Fellow. Ian Sue Wing, Professor of Earth and Environment at Boston University, and Misak Avetisyan, Professor of Economics at Texas Tech, have joined us as Senior External Research Fellows. Tony Cheesebrough, formerly Chief Economist at the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), joined us as a Senior External Fellow. Please refer to the CREATE Website for news stories about them.

CREATE Researchers maintained their ties with other DHS Office of University Programs Centers of Excellence (COEs). Randy Hall and Isaac Maya held major roles within the Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC). Richard John and Jun Zhuang continued their working relationship with the Soft Target Engineering to Neutralize the Threat Reality (SENTRY) Center. Adam Rose and Zhenhua Chen continued their research with the Command, Control, and Interoperability Center for Advanced Data Analysis (CCICADA). Richard John, Robin Dillon, and Adam Rose

submitted proposals to the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE).

The challenges that began in January 2025 continued to mount this past year. Funding flows from DHS continued to diminish further. However, CREATE USC Fellows were able to continue their excellent research through a combination of using their discretionary time and receiving a limited amount of funding from one of the remaining Centers of Excellence in Research and Education (COEs), but, most importantly, we continued to diversify by receiving large amounts of funding from DOD, NSF, and other federal agencies.

There is reason for optimism about the future with the recent passage of an appropriations bill for DHS and indications that some previously active COEs will be reinstated. In addition, CREATE continues to receive funding consideration from DHS S&T and other DHS offices and components. Moreover, we will continue to diversify our research portfolio, as we have successfully done in recent years.

It's clearer than ever that there is a need for CREATE's contributions in research and policy advising. The frequency and severity of natural disasters continue to rise. Terrorism continues to be an ever-present threat, and recent warfare in the Middle East has already reached our shores in the form of limited physical and cyber-attacks, and those may only be the beginning.

I'm happy to serve a 2nd, albeit very brief, term as CREATE Director. This marks my 20th year at USC and my 21st year associated with CREATE (I served as an external affiliate during my last year at Penn State). A major factor that has made the association with CREATE so worthwhile and pleasant has been the opportunity to work collegially with so many outstanding internal and external fellows, staff, and students. I look forward to this continued great working relationship and wish everyone the best in the years ahead.

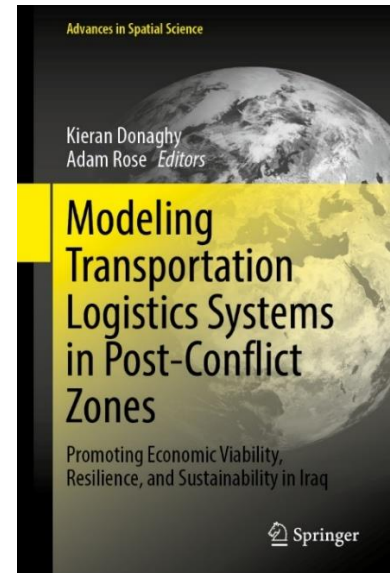
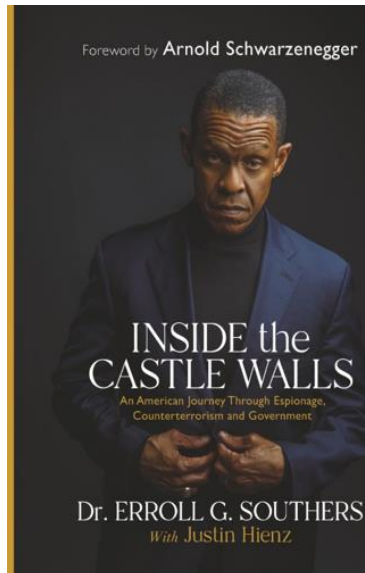
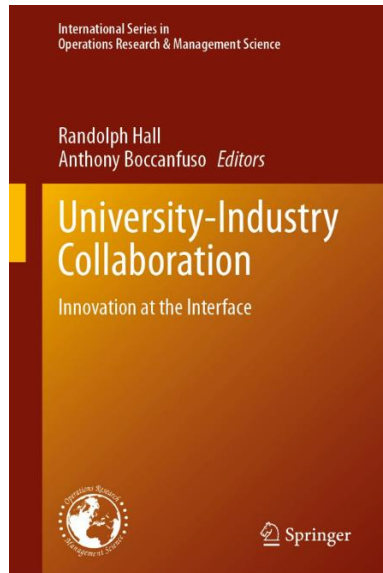
Adam Rose
CREATE Director

Randy Hall Appointed CREATE Director for 2026-27

Dr. Randolph Hall will serve as CREATE Director beginning July 1, succeeding Dr. Adam Rose. Along with Detlof von Winterfeldt, Randy served as founding co-director for CREATE. He returned as director between 2021 and 2025. He is a Professor in the Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. His research and publications span supply chains, transportation logistics and technology, healthcare delivery and scheduling, and queueing systems. His research has focused on innovation and higher education strategy, including the books *Managing Innovation Inside Universities* and *University-Industry Collaboration*, as well as the upcoming book *Innovation and Security in Global Universities*. Randy's university service includes serving as USC's Vice President of Research, Senior Associate Dean for Research in the Viterbi School, and Chair of the Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering when it became USC's first named academic department.

He served as board chair for the University Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP) and currently serves as a Senior Fellow at UIDP. He was also the founding director of the National Center for Metropolitan Transportation Research (METRANS). Randy developed and teaches the course Engineering Decisions, Economics, and Ethics. He holds Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, in Civil Engineering and Industrial Engineering & Operations Research.

Books



Hall, R. & Boccanfuso, A. (eds.) (2026). ***University-Industry Collaboration: Innovation at the Interface***. Springer.

This book, co-edited by CREATE Senior Research Fellow Randolph Hall and Anthony Boccanfuso, President of the University Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP), provides a roadmap for building leadership, strategy, and culture supporting impactful innovations arising from companies and universities working together. In October 2025, Randy presented research from this book and his previous one, *Managing Innovation Inside Universities*, at the Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), the Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi), and Plaksha University (Chandigarh). Randy is also editing the book *Innovation and Security in Global Universities*, which will examine how principles within Vannevar Bush's *Science the Endless Frontier* apply in the present day and the future.

Southers, E. G. (2025). ***Inside the Castle Walls: An American Journey Through Espionage, Counterterrorism and Government: An American Journey Through Espionage, Counterterrorism and Government***. Gouché Publishing House.

This personal memoir details former CREATE Associate Director (and current Associate Senior Vice President of Safety and Risk Assurance at USC) Erroll Southers' career in national security, from his early experiences as a Black man in New Jersey to his time as an FBI agent and counterterrorism expert. The book offers a behind-the-scenes look at intelligence operations, the challenges of race and power within institutions, and his journey to enact change from within.

Donaghy, K. & Rose, A. (eds.) (2026, in press). ***Modeling Transportation Logistics Systems in Post-Conflict Zones: Promoting Economic Viability, Resilience, and Sustainability in Iraq***. Springer.

This book emanated from one of the last Department of Defense Minerva Grants (the major social science grant program in DOD), with CREATE Director and Senior Research Fellow Adam Rose serving as PI, and co-PIs at Cornell, Wisconsin, Penn State, and George Mason. It involved researchers with expertise in transportation logistics, economic modeling, economic consequence analysis, and decision analysis. Other contributors included CREATE Fellows Richard John and Eli Berman, faculty and students at USC and other universities, and former military officers.

Refereed Journal Articles

Abdeljawad, Y., Chu, L., & Noy, I. (2025). Individuals' Emigration from Christchurch City After the 2010-11 Earthquakes. *Regional Studies, Regional Science*, 12(1), 703-720.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21681376.2025.2541652>

Abdeljawad, Y. & Noy, I. (2025). The impact of 2010-11 Christchurch earthquakes on the individuals' income by sector and income level. *The Annals of Regional Science*, 74, 60.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00168-025-01392-4>

Al Dahouk, S., & Montibeller, G. (2026). A framework for the recursive risk-ranking of foodborne zoonotic threats along food supply chains. *One Health*, 101415.

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Baker, K., Ruth, A., Corona Rodriguez, G., Zhang, A., Bruine de Bruin, W., & de la Haye, K. (2026). Barriers and enablers to reduced meat intake and perceptions of sustainable diets, among Los Angeles County adults with low incomes: A qualitative interview study. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 14, 1741901.

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Byrd, K., Kapadia, K., Rose, A. & John, R. (2025). Balancing Security and Inconvenience: Perceptions of Countermeasures in U.S. Commercial Facilities. *Risk Sciences*, 1, 100020.

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Chatterjee, S., Ganguly, A., Thomas, D., and Wind, L. (2026) Risk-resilience feedback to assure critical societal functions. *Risk Analysis*, 46(3), 1-5. <https://doi.org/10.1111/risa.70197>

Chen, Z., Rose, A., Roberts, F. & Tucci, A. (2025). Regional and National Supply-Chain Impacts of Mississippi River Fertilizer Shipments Disrupted by Climate Change. *Risk Analysis*, 30(90), 3090-109.

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- Grover, A., & Kahn, M. E. (2026). Enhancing firm resilience to climate change: a review of impact, adaptation strategies and policy options. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 40(2), 675-693. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/joes.70035>
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- Hoang, T., Noy, I., & Le Van, T. (2025). Heterogenous mental health impacts of a forced relocation: The Red Zone in Christchurch (New Zealand). *Health Economics*, 34(10), 1782-1803. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40543058/>
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- Smiley, K., Noy, I., Wehner, M., Sampson, C., Wing, O., & Larrison, K. (2025). Climate change and federal aid disbursements after Hurricane Harvey: An extreme event attribution analysis. *Environmental Research Letters*, 20, 094048. https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/307365/1/cesifo1_wp11435.pdf
- Thomas, D., Chatterjee, S., & Ganguly, A. (2026). Resilience patterns in dynamic aircraft-to-aircraft communication networks. *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems*, 27(4), 4154-4165. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TITS.2026.3660579>

Wilson, T., Noy, I., & Msowoya, C. (2026). Shock responses: exploring household selection into poverty-reinforcing actions in Malawi. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 138, 106119. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212420926001317>

Yu, H., Zhang, S., Suen, S., Dessouky, M., & Ordonez, F. (2025). Understanding the traffic pattern impacts of COVID-19 lockdown orders. *Computers & Industrial Engineering*, 111628. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360835225007740>

Book and Proceedings Chapters

Berman, E. (2026). Twenty-First Century Terrorism, in A. Basuchoudhary and G. Schulze (eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook on the Economics of Terrorism*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 755-762. https://assets.cambridge.org/97811088/34025/frontmatter/9781108834025_frontmatter.pdf

Kapadia, K., Franczak, A., Yongsatianchot, N., Marsella, S., & John, R. S. (2026). Pumped up kicks: The impact of social contagion and informational cues on evacuation behavior and exposure to threat in a simulated school crisis. In *Proceedings of the 59th Annual Hawaiian International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS-2026)*, Maui, Hawaii. <https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/bitstreams/5f067019-3b4a-4737-87a8-582613fa4e73/download>

Kapadia, K., Unson, I., Zhuang, J., & John, R.S. (2026). Structural complexities and dependencies in layered security: Baking in deterrence through target shifting. In *Proceedings of the 59th Annual Hawaiian International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS-2026)*, Maui, Hawaii, Jan. <https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/bitstreams/93c30ba0-6e9a-44d1-a7dd-157d7cd69bee/download>

Mukherjee, S., Chatterjee, S., Purvine, E., Fujimoto, T., & Emerson, T. (2026). Large language model-based reward design for deep reinforcement learning-driven autonomous cyber defense. In *Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)-26 Workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Cyber Security*, Singapore. <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2511.16483>

Rose, A., Mermelstein, A., & Miller, N. (2025). Economic Resilience to Cyber Threats, in I. Linkov and A. Kott (eds.), *Cyber Resilience: Applied Perspectives*, Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature, 309-30. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-90109-6_14

Wang, Y., Lucas, G., Becerik-Gerber, B., & Ustun, V. (2025). Implicit Behavioral Alignment of Language Agents in High-Stakes Crowd Simulations. *Proceedings of the 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2025)*, 30681–30698. <https://aclanthology.org/2025.emnlp-main.1562/>

Conference Presentations and Events

CREATE Fellows presented their work at the following Conferences, among others, during the past year:

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Meeting

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Annual Meeting

Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) Annual Meeting

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Specialty Meeting

International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE) Annual Meeting
North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) Annual Meeting
Security and Human Behavior (SHB) Annual Meeting
Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) Annual Meeting
Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting
Western Regional Science Association (WRSA) Annual Meeting
USC Wrigley Institute for Environment and Sustainability Research Symposium

Media and Other

An interview with Wandu Bruine de Bruin is featured on the Society for Risk Analysis website. <https://societyriskanalysis.libsyn.com/words-that-work-talking-climate-change-with-the-public>

Wandu Bruine de Bruin was quoted in a Newsbreak story on the 2006 Palisades Wildfire. <https://www.newsbreak.com/los-angeles-times-521565/4085486984827-i-covered-the-l-a-fires-in-the-palisades-so-i-had-my-blood-tested-for-lead>

Noah Dormady was quoted in *Inc. Magazine* in a story on “How Extreme Weather Puts Small Businesses on the Brink.” <https://www.inc.com/liz-brody/how-extreme-weather-puts-small-businesses-on-the-brink/91269560>

Sam Chatterjee’s research was cited in Testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs (June 2025). <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/Ligon-Testimony.pdf>

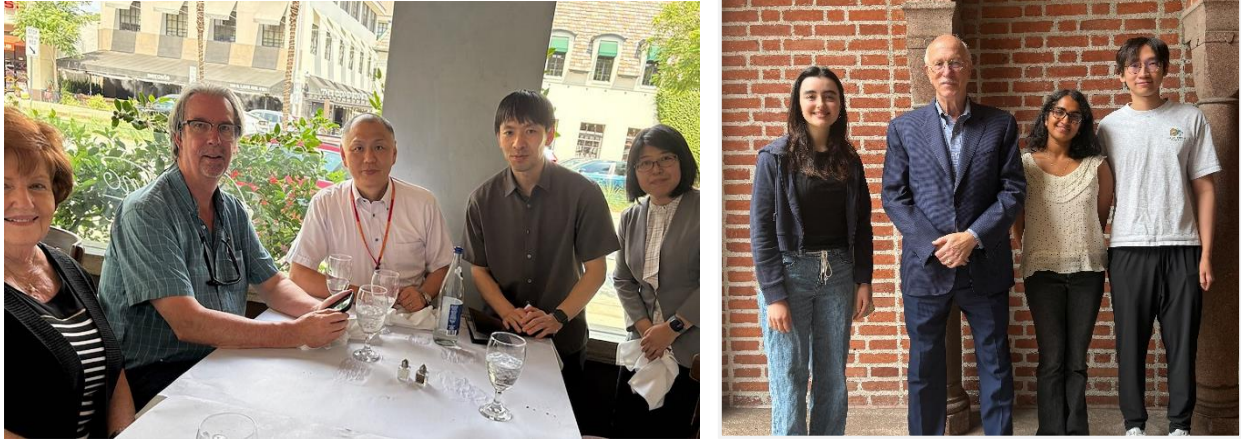
Honors, Milestones

Randy Hall was appointed to the J.A. Tiberti Chair in Ethics and Decision Making in the Viterbi School of Engineering.

Isaac Maya received an award from DHS Science and Technology for furthering CREATE’s technology transfer, licensing, and commercialization.

Sam Chatterjee was a PNNL Director’s Pathway to Excellence Honoree (September 2025). Sam also served as Chair of the Resilience Analysis Specialty Group of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) (2025).

Visitors



CREATE was visited in July 2025 by Professor Shingo Nagamatsu of Kansai University and two members of his team to discuss research on wildfires. He was a visiting scholar at CREATE in 2016, working with Adam Rose on a Japan Foundation grant on population return following the Fukushima nuclear reactor accident. Professor Nagamatsu also met with Craig Davis, former Water Resilience Officer at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) and Margaret Vinci of Caltech, as well as local government officials in the Pasadena area (see the CREATE website story at <https://create.usc.edu/wildfireresearch/>).

Professor Ian Sue Wing visited in April 2026 and met with several Fellows at CREATE, as well as with researchers in the Price School of Public Policy, Viterbi School of Engineering, and Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. He has had a long-standing working relationship with CREATE researchers, primarily in conjunction with US Geological Survey Golden Guardian studies on extreme risks facing California, such as major atmospheric river storms, tsunamis, and earthquakes. His current research emphasis is on the economics of long-term power outages, and damages and mitigation of extreme events (see the CREATE website story about Ian joining us as a CREATE External Senior Fellow at https://create.usc.edu/create_teams/ian-sue-wing/).

Students

Ruying Liu successfully defended her PhD dissertation in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2025, titled, *“Improving Emergency Response and Occupant Safety through Virtual Reality and Simulation-based Building Design Assessment,”* with CREATE Senior Fellow Burçin Becerik serving as her advisor. Moreover, she recently completed a postdoc under Professor Becerik.

Former CREATE research assistant Ann Song successfully defended her PhD dissertation in the Price School of Public Policy at USC in Spring 2026, titled, *“The Fragility of Wildfire Resilience:*

Civic Engagement, Coproduction, and Capacity Constraints Among Fire Safe Councils in California.” CREATE Director Adam Rose served on her committee.

Ilan Noy’s student, Yousef Abdeljawad, defended his PhD dissertation in Economics at the University of Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand, in 2026, titled, *“The Long-Term Impacts of the 2010–11 Christchurch Earthquakes on Productivity, Income, Migration, and Offending.”* It is noteworthy that Ilan is an Israeli and that Yousef is a Palestinian from the West Bank.

Sasha Gilbertson, a member of Adam Rose’s research team, received her Master of Public Policy degree.

New Grants and Contracts

CREATE continues to attract a large amount of external funding for its research. Since its establishment in 2004, CREATE has received \$96 million in funding. The vast majority has come directly from the US Department of Homeland Security, but the total also includes flow-through funding from other DHS Centers of Excellence in Research and Education (COEs); other federal agencies, most notably the Department of Defense in recent years; other federal sources, most notably the National Science Foundation; Private Industry; and State & Local Government Agencies.