

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: ANNIE SEARLE



Annie Searle is Principal of Annie Searle & Associates LLC—also known as ASA Risk Consultants—an independent consulting and research firm formed in 2009 with two divisions: one to advise businesses and organizations that are part of the nation’s critical infrastructure; and the other to provide thought leadership through publications from the ASA Institute for Risk and Innovation. The institute helps drive policy change in areas ranging from critical infrastructure sector partnerships to best practices in regulation, cybersecurity, digital privacy, and crisis management. More information can be found at www.anniesearle.com.

Searle is an Associate Teaching Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington Information School, where she taught risk and cybersecurity courses as well as information ethics, policy, and law until she retired in June of 2023. Searle was the Information School’s faculty liaison to the Jackson School of International Studies, where she worked on its Global Cybersecurity Policy Initiative. She is a former University of Washington Faculty Senator and Elected Faculty Council representative. She was the recipient of the 2019 Information School TEACH award; co-creator of the school’s iTeach initiative (2021-2023); and chair of the iSchool’s Women’s Caucus (2022-2023).

She is a lifetime member of the Institute of American Entrepreneurs and a 2011 inductee into The Hall of Fame for Women in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Since 2007, she has been an invited participant at New York University’s Global Roundtable on Public-Private Preparedness.

Prior to founding ASA in 2009, Searle spent ten years at Washington Mutual Bank (WaMu). For most of those years she was responsible on a company-wide level for business continuity, disaster recovery, technology risk and compliance, technology change management, and (for several years) vendor and application information security. As Senior Vice President for Enterprise Risk Services, Annie and her teams redesigned and rebuilt those programs to world-class status, utilizing a federated model in partnership with the bank’s lines of business. Over those years, she and her teams reduced regulatory and audit risk by over 30%, reduced operating budgets year over year by 10-15%, and reduced downtime from natural disasters or technology outages by over 50% in five years. Searle also chaired WaMu’s Crisis Management Team and was the executive sponsor of the bank’s technology innovation program.

Nationally, Searle represented WaMu for eight years on the BITS Advisory Board for the Financial Services Roundtable (FSR), based in Washington, D.C. She was a 2006 delegate to the FSR Blue Ribbon Commission on Mega-Catastrophes, which produced a set of recommendations focused on earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, pandemics, and terrorism. That same year, she worked with the Department of Treasury to organize WashingtonFIRST, a regional coalition focused on resiliency issues for the financial services sector.

Prior to joining Washington Mutual in 1999, Searle served for 15 years as president and CEO of Delphi Computers & Peripherals. For her work at Delphi, Searle won the 1992 *Northwest Entrepreneur of the Year* award from *Inc.* magazine and Ernst & Young, and the *Matrix Table Woman of Achievement* award in 1994.

Searle’s first book focused on identifying and handling personal risk at home, at work, online, and on the

road, titled *Advice From A Risk Detective* (Tautegory Press, October 2011). A third expanded edition of the book was published in 2019 with updated advice on risk in the workplace, smart technology, social media, and privacy. Searle is also executive editor of six volumes of research notes in the *Reflections on Risk* series. A collection of her columns from *The Risk Universe* magazine and her own monthly newsletter was published in October of 2018 and is titled *Risk Reconsidered* (Seattle: Tautegory Press, 2018). Searle is also the author of “How Does Conduct Risk Manifest and What Are the Root Causes?” (Chapter 2) and “Closing Comments on the Future of Conduct Risk” (Chapter 19) in *Conduct Risk: A Practitioner’s Guide* (London: Risk Books, 2016).

Searle holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in literature from the University of Iowa. She is a member of the emeritus board of the Seattle Public Library Foundation and a former board member of the Seattle Public Library Foundation, The Millionair Club Charity, NPower Seattle, Washington Works, and the Washington Commission for the Humanities. Her professional affiliations include membership in ISACA, Business Executives for National Security, InfraGard, and the Global Association of Risk Partners (GARP).

Conferences & Podcasts:

- Panelist, “Meet Your Cyber Defenders,” University of Washington ISACA student chapter presentation (May 2023)
- Speaker, “Three Different Ways to Consider Cyber Risk,” SecureWorld West Coast regional conference (December 2021)
- Panelist, “Maintaining Operational Risk Momentum in Times of Economic Stress,” Shared Assessments Steering Committee (October 2021)
- Podcast Interview: “In House Warrior: The Risk Detective Annie Searle speaks with Richard Levick of LEVICK about the vaccination efforts now underway,” (February 2021)
- Podcast Interview: “Creating the Next Generation of Leaders in a World of Uncertainty,” part of Ron Worman’s The Great Conversations series. (February 2021)
- Encore presentation of “The Two Faces of Artificial Intelligence,” University of Washington International Privacy Day (January 2020)
- “The Two Faces of Artificial Intelligence,” SecureWorld Seattle (November 2019)
- “Women in Security” panel, SecureWorld Seattle (November 2019)
- “Building a Risk-Resilient Dream Team,” Continuity Insights Management Conference (April 2019)
- “Risk Framework and Risk Appetite,” 12th Annual Shared Assessments Summit (April 2019)
- “Leveraging Multiple Perspectives on Multiple Threat Vectors,” Urgent Threats Forum, New York University (November 2018)
- Speaker, “Monkey See, Monkey Do: Security, Privacy, and Conduct Risk,” SecureWorld Seattle (November 2018)
- “Addressing Cyber Security on a Global Scale,” Predictera Executive Cyber Summit (October 2018)
- “Information Ethics: Leadership and Responsibility in the Information Age with Ivette Bayo Urban & Annie Searle,” UW Information School Diversity Power Hour (January 2018)
- Keynote speaker, “Assessing Risk in Challenging Times,” UW Student Access Group (January 2018)

- “Cybersecurity Policy That Crosses Borders,” SecureWorld Seattle (November 2017)
- “Malicious Insider Threats and Conduct Risk,” Puget Sound ISACA chapter meeting (September 2017)
- “Linking ERM and ESRM to Organizational Value” and “ERSM: Current and Future State,” The Great Conversation (March 2017)
- “How Did I Get Here Stories,” Balancing Risk and Opportunity: Transforming Cybersecurity, Risk & Privacy Beyond the Enterprise conference, Executive Women’s Forum 14th Annual Conference (October 2016)
- “Urgent Threats Forum,” Global Risk Network, New York University (June 2016)
- “Root Causes of Conduct Risk” and “Cautionary Tales,” two pre-conference workshops, Operational Risk North America conference (March 2016)
- “Ethical Misconduct: Our Largest Operational Risk?” 18th Annual OpRisk North America conference (March 2016)
- “The Role of Due Care on Boards of Directors,” SecureWorld Seattle (November 2015)
- “Making the Case to Executives and Boards,” SecureWorld Portland (June 2015)
- “If You Can’t Manage Your Data, How Can You Manage Your Company?” Data Management Association Puget Sound DAMA Day (May 2015)
- “Assessing Third-Party Relationships Under the New Regulatory Regime,” 2nd Annual Governance, Risk Management, and Compliance Forum, New York (March 2015)
- “Too Big to Fail, Too Big to Regulate,” OpRisk World 2015, Amsterdam (February 2015)
- “Advice from a Risk Detective,” Starbucks Global Safety and Security Forum (November 2014)
- “Weaving Together the Right Plan to Prepare for Reputational and Operational Risks,” Kibble and Prentice Forum (October 2014)
- “The BIA as the Foundation of Operational Risk Management,” 2014 Continuity Insights Conference (April 2014)
- “Living Wills and Business Resiliency” and “Too Big to Fail, Too Big to Regulate—a panel discussion on the future” at OpExWorld, Amsterdam (February 2014)
- “Walking the Security Tightrope,” 2013 Pacific NW Construction Industry Conference (November 2013)
- “Corporate Risk Management Since 9/11,” Starbucks (September 2013)
- “Making a Crisis Count: Transitioning from Reaction to Proactive Enterprise Risk Assessment,” Institute of Internal Auditors Governance Risk and Control Conference (August 2013)
- “Extending Our Reach,” DHS-FEMA Public-Private Partnerships Conference (July 2013)
- “Managing the Risk of Cyber Fraud,” Washington Society for Certified Public Accountants 2013 Business and Management Conference (June 2013)
- “Cyber Security/Cyber Terrorism,” Financial Services Roundtable Shared Assessments Forum (March 2013)
- “Ethical Misconduct: Is It Your Biggest Risk?” Pacific Northwest Enterprise Risk Forum (November 2012)
- “Business Continuity Planning: Lessons from the Joplin Tornado,” Fall EPCOR conference (October 2012)
- “What Does an Internal Auditor Really Need to Know About Crisis Management?” Governance

Risk and Control Conference, Institute of Internal Auditors (August 2012)

- “Thinking Big About Small Business,” FEMA-USNORTHCOM Building Resilience through Public-Private Preparedness Conference (July 2012)
- “What Keeps You Up at Night,” Executive Women’s Forum Northwest (July 2012)
- “Business Continuity Planning: Lessons from the Joplin Tornado,” Spring EPCOR conference (May 2012)
- “Tweet Me Up: Using Social Media Tools for Crisis Management,” Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference (April 2011)
- “Integrating Cloud and Making It Work,” BITS/Financial Services Roundtable Shared Assessments Summit (March 2011)
- “Conquering Tough Challenges Through Public-Private Partnerships,” Fall DRI Conference (October 2010)
- “Community Security and Resiliency/Recovery in a Catastrophic Biological Incident,” Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration Capstone Summit (September 2010)
- “Building Public/Private Partnerships,” DRI World Conference (September 2010)
- Invited participate (one of 50 thought leaders), International Public-Private Preparedness Summit, New York University (June 2010)
- “Security Interoperability and Cloud Computing,” Financial Services Roundtable Shared Assessments Summit (May 2010)
- “A Seat at the Table for Operational Risk,” 7th Annual International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (May 2010)
- “Making the Business Case for Continuity in a Tight Economy,” Partners in Emergency Preparedness Annual Conference (April 2010)

Articles

Searle is the author of a number of articles, including: “Operational Risks Associated with Global Geopolitical Issues,” (*The Risk Universe Newsletter*, February 2023); “2022 and America” (*The Risk Universe Newsletter*, December 2022); “Ensuring An Ethical Lens on the Board Selection Process” (*Board Risk Committee Report*, April 2022); “The Best Way Out Is Always Through” (*The Connector*, January 2022); “It Seems Like We Are Always Thinking of COVID,” (*Xanthus News Portal*, December 2021); “Is Facebook Ready?” (*Xanthus News Portal*, October 2021); “Look for the Light, Part II” (*Xanthus News Portal*, September 2021); “A Divided Country” (*The Connector*, July 2021) “Education is Critical Infrastructure” (*Xanthus News Portal*, April 2021); “Look for the Light” (*Xanthus News Portal*, March 2021); “A More Perfect Union” (*The Connector*, January 2021); “And Hope and History Rhyme” (*The Connector*, November 2020); “America’s Residual Risk Tops the Charts” (*The Risk Universe Newsletter*, November 2020); “Fighting for the Soul of Our Democracy A Remembrance of Congressman John R. Lewis” (*The Connector*, October 2020); “Of Thee I Sing” (*Xanthus News Portal*, October 2020); “There’s So Much We Still Don’t Know About COVID-19” (*The Risk Universe Newsletter*, May 2020); “Executives and Risk: What Your Teams Won’t Tell You” (*The Risk Universe*, June 2017), “Why Didn’t We See This One Coming?” (*The Risk Universe*, March 2017), “History Is Always Being Made” (*The Risk Universe*, December 2016), “When Does ‘Taking Full Responsibility’ Have Consequences?” (*The Risk Universe*, October 2016), “Can The Center Hold?” (*The Risk Universe*, August 2016), “The Encryption Dustup” (*The Risk Universe*, April 2016), “A Chance for Bankers to Step Forward” (*The Risk Universe*, January 2016), “People Should Be Your Greatest Asset” (*The Risk Universe*, October 2015), “Will We Always Have to Talk About Ethics?” (*The Risk Universe*, June 2015), “ISIS is an Operational Risk” (*The Risk*

Universe, March 2015), “Managing Privacy Risk” (*The Connector*, March 2015), “Dear Member of the Board” (*The Risk Universe*, January 2015), “Ebola Risk—From Epidemic to Pandemic?” (*The Risk Universe*, September 2014), “Insider Threats Escalate Operational Risk” (*The Risk Universe*, June 2014), “Are Living Wills the Answer?” (*The Risk Universe*, February 2014), “Vendor Risk and Intellectual Property” (*The Risk Universe*, November 2013), “Remembering 9/11” (*The Risk Universe*, September 2013), “Every Wall Is A Door” (*The Risk Universe*, June 2013), “Perfect Pitch: Writing for Executives” (*The Risk Universe*, March 2013), “Ethical Misconduct: Is It Your Biggest Risk?” (*The Risk Universe*, November 2012), “Reflections on The Lost Bank” (*The Risk Universe*, July 2012), “Operational Risk Is on the Line” (*Continuity Insights*, 2012), “The Crisis Management Playbook” (*Continuity Insights*, 2012), “How Worried Are You?” (*Seattle Business*, 2011), “Data Protection: Five Simple Mitigation Strategies to Minimize Personal Information Loss” (*Nymity PrivaWorks*, 2010), “A Seat at the Table for Operational Risk” (*ISCRAM 2010 Proceedings*), “Diplomacy and the Law” (*ASA*, 2010), “Simpler Internal Controls” (*ASA*, 2009), “Pandemic is a Predictable Surprise” (*ASA*, 2009); as well as “U.S. Financial Sector Prepares for Pandemic Flu” (2007) and “Pandemic Readiness in the U.S. Financial Services Sector: When Failure is Not an Option” (2008), both published by the British *Journal of Business Continuity & Emergency Planning*.