

Newsletter August 2023



Message from the Director

Welcome to the CIFAL York Monthly Newsletter. This is our first newsletter since we started our operations in 2021. We have reached to a point where we believe we should consolidate our conducted activities and upcoming activities in one package for the CIFAL York community of speakers, panelists, instructors, participants, learners, and followers. We aim to provide you with an informative monthly newsletter to show you what we have done during the month with some links to the recordings of key activities and what will come in the following month with registration links. We very much hope that you find the newsletter informative and useful. Please feel free to share the link to those organizations and individuals who might be interested and benefit from the diverse range of CIFAL York learning and non learning activities. We also very much welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have regarding potential future learning events and the way we offer them. Thank you very much. Sincerely yours. Ali Asgary, Cifal York Director.



Dr. Ali Asgary

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What We Have Been Up To?

August 2nd , 2023

Emergency Management In Hospitals & Healthcare Speaker Series

Topic: "Red Lake Hospital Evacuation"



Click Video To Play

About The Speaker

Amanda Kaczmarek is the Director of Quality and Risk at the Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital. During her time in this role she has been involved with multiple emergencies including flooding, windstorms, airport closures, forest fires and a pandemic.

Prior to joining the hospital Amanda worked for 8 years as part of the Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Services Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. During this period Amanda held various positions in the IMS structure during both national and international incidents.

August 9th, 2023

ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) in Practice Virtual Speaker Series

Topic: "How To Devise A Corporate ESG Strategy"



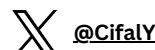
Click Video To Play

About The Speaker

Vibhor Rohatgi is an Associate at ESG Global Advisors, a consulting firm that provides ESG advisory services to corporations and investors. Vibhor has over 3 years of work experience in ESG, sustainability and climate change and has supported organizations to identify and prioritize ESG-related risks and opportunities and develop strategies that align with their strategic objectives in order to drive value.

Prior to his work at ESG Global Advisors, Vibhor was a Responsible Investment Intern at PSP Investments (PSP) where he conducted ESG due diligence on investment deals and identified material ESG risks, opportunities, and investment considerations for emerging industries. Vibhor holds a Master of Science in Sustainability Management and an Honours Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Toronto.

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What We Have Been Up To?

August 15th , 2023

"Master of Disaster Camp" worked together with City of Markham (age 9-13 years)



Being a master of disaster means knowing how to recognize and prepare for different types of emergencies that can affect your community and your family. During the event, the little campers learned from experts in the field about different emergencies and ways they can be prepared including:-

- Storm-spotting
- How to be safe during tornadoes, summer and winter storms, the basics of wilderness first aid as well as how Ontario municipalities respond to emergencies.
- Building an emergency preparedness kit using simple household items while developing leadership skills.

CIFAL York taught the little campers about extreme weather events related to tornadoes and severe thunderstorms. The campers were taught how to make their own barometers and learned more about storms, clouds, and safety through interactive VR activities. On the last day, the little campers were seen applying their newly gained knowledge and skills in a team-building race to escape an imaginary zombie apocalypse.

August 25th, 2023

VR/XR Based Training & Education Speaker Series: Knowledge and Experience Sharing

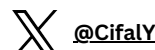
Topic: "Making Virtual Reality A Reality In The Chemistry And Biochemistry Classrooms"

Click Video To Play

The purpose of this monthly seminar series is to provide a platform for academia, education and industry in the field of Virtual Reality (VR) and Extended reality (XR) to share their knowledge and experience in using Virtual Reality based training and education. The seminar will focus on the latest trends and developments in VR technology and its applications in training and education in various fields such as healthcare, education, and more.

This session, York professors Dr. Derek Jackson and Dr. Kyle Belozarov presented on how VR can be used as a tool for teaching chemistry and biochemistry. They discussed how VR activities were incorporated into their course curriculum and the lessons learned through this innovative project.

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What We Have Been Up To?

August 24th - 25th, 2023

Symposium - "Climate Change, Extreme Events, Public Health & Relocation in Malawi"



Climate Change is impacting all countries, however more vulnerable countries are impacted disproportionately by the climate change and its resulting more frequent and intense extreme weather events. Malawi is among the highest impacted countries by the climate change. These events such as cyclones, create significant social, health, economic, and environmental impacts in Malawi.

Certain settlements are so frequently impacted by the extreme events and their economic and health consequences that governments and humanitarian agencies have been developing resettlement policies and programs to relocate and resettle some of the settlements to safer locations where possible. Resettlement or relocation is very challenging for people and governments from many different aspects. It is often considered as a last resort development policy that requires careful assessments and planning, social and political acceptance, and engagement, as well as financial supports.

This symposium brings together academics, professionals, and policy makers to share ideas, research findings, technology tools, scientific methodologies, and perspectives on climate change induced extreme events, disaster risks, resettlement and public health issues in Malawi. Joined by the Indabax Malawi and the Center for Artificial Intelligence and STEM (CAIST) this symposium will focus on leveraging Data science, Artificial intelligence, machine learning and deep learning in solving problems related to climate change, extreme events, public health and disaster risk reduction.

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Upcoming Events

September 6th, 2023

Emergency Management In Hospitals & Healthcare Speaker Series

Topic: "Wildfire Impacts: Adapting Healthcare Delivery In South West Nova Scotia"

Time: 12pm - 1pm EDT | Delivery Method: ZOOM

[MORE INFORMATION](#) | [REGISTER NOW](#)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN HOSPITALS & HEALTHCARE SPEAKER SERIES

Wildfire Impacts: Adapting Healthcare Delivery in South West Nova Scotia

Speaker: Mike Dickie
Acting WZ Manager of Emergency Preparedness – Corporate Services, Nova Scotia Health

Moderator: Mesha Richard
Emergency Preparedness Lead, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

VIRTUAL SESSION 3 WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2023, 12PM-1PM EST

Registration and more information: www.yorku.ca/cifal/emhospitals

YORK UNIVERSITY
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unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

About the Speaker

Mike Dickie is an experienced Emergency Management professional who has been working for Nova Scotia Health since 2019. He graduates from the Nova Scotia Community College with an Advanced Diploma in Emergency Management (honours) and class leadership award, in 2019, completing the Business Continuity Education program through DRII with an Associate Business Continuity Practitioner designation in 2021. Currently he is continuing his education through the Justice Institute of British Columbia in the Bachelor of Security and Emergency Management.

Mike Dickie is an active member of the International Association of Emergency Managers Canada and is working toward the AEM designation. He started with NS Health in 2019 as an advisor supporting the Western Zone and in 2021 he was promoted to the position of Manager of Emergency Preparedness (acting) and continue in this position today.

He has extensive experience responding to a multitude of incidents and most recently had a leading role in the response to the Shelburne/Barrington fires impacting the local communities and requiring a total evacuation of the local hospital while maintaining healthcare options locally.

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Upcoming Events

September 13th, 2023

ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) in Practice Virtual Speaker Series

Topic: "ESG And Value Creation"

Time: 12pm - 1pm EDT | Delivery Method: ZOOM

About The Session

In this session, Prathmesh Raichura, Partner in KPMG Canada's Risk Consulting and ESG practice, will be discussing how ESG can create value for organizations.

[MORE INFORMATION](#) | [REGISTER NOW](#)



About The Speaker

Prathmesh is a Partner in KPMG Canada's Risk Consulting and ESG practice where he specializes in helping clients to address ESG risks and opportunities. Prior to joining KPMG in Canada, he was the Sustainability Leader for KPMG in India where he worked directly with other global KPMG practices including UAE, Turkey and Malaysia.

With more than 20 years of experience as a sustainability professional, he has a wide array of focus areas including: ESG Enterprise Risk Management, Internal Audit, ESG Compliance and Data Governance & Training services, Sustainable Finance, ESG Strategy, Supply Chain, Reporting, Due Diligence and Assurance.

September 22nd, 2023

VR/XR Based Training & Education Speaker Series: Knowledge and Experience Sharing

Topic: "Driving In The Futuristic Traffic Environments: Exploring Digital Twins And Virtual Reality For Analyzing Road Users' Behaviour"

Time: 12pm - 1pm EDT | Delivery Method: ZOOM

About The Session

In this session, Muhammad will be discussing how digital twins and virtual reality are being used to analyze the real-world behaviours of road users and how these insights can be applied to traffic environments and for travel behavioural models.

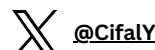
[MORE INFORMATION](#) | [RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!](#)



About The Speaker

Muhammad Sajjad Ansar is a Ph.D. candidate in Transportation Engineering at the Laboratory of Innovations in Transportation (LiTrans), Centre for Urban Innovation, Toronto Metropolitan University. He is in the final stage of finalizing his doctoral dissertation and holds a Master of Science degree in Transportation Engineering from Southeast University, China. His research focuses on travel behavioral modelling in mixed traffic environments, intending to contribute to advancements in transportation systems for more efficient and sustainable future traffic environments.

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Upcoming Events

September 21st, 2023

Emerging and Systemic Risks Lecture Series


Topic: "Pandemic Urbanism".




Time: 12pm - 1pm EDT | Delivery Method: ZOOM

[MORE INFORMATION](#) | [REGISTER NOW](#)

EMERGING & SYSTEMIC RISKS MONTHLY LECTURES

PANDEMIC URBANISM


Dr. Syed Harris Ali
Professor, Department of Sociology,
York University

VIRTUAL SESSION 10 | SEPT 21, 2023 (THURSDAY) 12PM-1PM
REGISTRATION: www.yorku.ca/research/yemerge/lectures

About The Speaker

Harris Ali is a sociologist at York University who teaches courses in environmental studies, disasters, social theory, and environmental health. His studies focus on the social, political, and environmental dimensions of disease outbreaks and environmental disasters. He has conducted various studies on different types of infectious disease outbreaks in various parts of the world, including E. coli in Walkerton, Ontario, tuberculosis amongst the homeless in Toronto, community-based responses to Ebola in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Alongside his long-time research colleague and Dahdaleh Institute Faculty Fellow Roger Keil, Prof. Ali completed a comprehensive study of the 2003 outbreak of SARS in Singapore, Toronto, and Hong Kong. This culminated in an edited volume on SARS (Networked Disease: Emerging Infections in the Global City), which was recognized by The Globe and Mail as one of the "top ten books that offer lessons from past pandemics." He is currently a co-principal investigator with Fuyuki Kurasawa on a Canadian Institutes of Health Research grant that involves big data analyses and AI to understand the role of social media in flaming and countering anti-Asian racism during the present COVID response.

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Upcoming Events

September 25th, 2023

Climate Change Emergencies and Cultural Heritage Speaker Series

Topic: "Global Assessment of World & National Heritage Sites to Climate Change & Extreme Events"

Time: 12pm - 1pm EDT Delivery Method: ZOOM

[MORE INFORMATION](#) | [REGISTER NOW](#)

The poster is titled "Climate Change Emergencies & Cultural Heritage Speaker Series" and "Global Assessment of World & National Heritage Sites to Climate Change & Extreme Events". It features two speakers: Dr. Koorosh Attarian, Associate Professor of Architecture at Jundishapur University and Postdoctoral Fellow at York University, and Dr. Ali Asgary, Professor of Disaster and Emergency Management at York University and Director of CIFAL York. The poster includes a central graphic with a target icon and the text "PROTECT THE WORLD'S CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE". It also provides registration information: "MORE INFO & REGISTRATION www.yorku.ca/cifal/heritage" and "VIRTUAL SESSION 1 MONDAY SEP. 25, 2023 @ 12PM-1:00PM". Logos for York University, CIFAL York, UNITER, and the Heritage City of Vancouver are displayed at the bottom.

About The Speakers

Dr. Koorosh Attarian is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the Jundi Shapur University of Technology and a Postdoctoral Fellow at York University. In 2018, Dr. Attarian became the Vice-Chancellor of the Jundi-Shapur Research Institute at the Jundi-Shapur University of Technology. Dr. Attarian's research focuses on Cultural History and Architectural Engineering. His research has been published in numerous leading journals on architecture, cultural heritage, and sustainability and has been published in several books. Dr. Attarian is also a reviewer for several journals including the Journal of Building Engineering, the Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering, and the Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development, among others.

Dr. Ali Asgary is an expert in disaster, emergency and business continuity management. He has been actively involved in research, teaching and professional activities in these fields since 1993. His research has been published in leading disaster and emergency management journals. He was among the founding faculty members who started the first university program in Disaster & Emergency Management in Canada at Brandon University in 2003 and later on among the founding faculty members who started Disaster & Emergency Management at York University. Dr. Asgary served as the IAEM Canada president between 2007-2009 and as the board member of IAEM during the same period. Since 2015 Dr. asgary has been the executive director of York University's Advanced Disaster, Emergency and Rapid-response Simulation (ADERSIM). His research interests include post disaster recovery and reconstruction, business continuity and risk assessment, disaster and emergency simulations and modeling, applications of AI, VR, AR and MR, and geomatics in disaster and emergency management, and cost-benefit analysis and decision making under uncertainty. Dr. Asgary is also the Director of CIFAL York, Canada's first CIFAL centre within UNITAR's CIFAL Global Network.

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Upcoming Events

September 28th - 29th, 2023

Symposium

Topic: "Inside Public Health Emergency Operations Centers During Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges, Lesson and Next Generation Pandemic Exercise"

Time: 9am - 4pm EDT | Location: AMDERSIM EOC, Schulich Building, York University

[MORE INFORMATION](#) | [REGISTER NOW](#)

**Inside the Public Health
Emergency Operations Centre
(PH-EOC) During Covid-19
Pandemic**

**Symposium
&
Next Generation Pandemic
Exercise**

Keynote Speakers:

Heather Jeffrey
President, Public Health Agency of Canada

Cindy Evans
Vice-President, Emergency Management Branch, Public Health Agency of Canada

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario

Thursday-Friday | September 28-29 | 2023
09:00AM – 04:00PM EST

York University & Online

Register at: <https://www.yorku.ca/cifal/pheoc/>

Logos: YORK U, cifal, Unitar, Y-EMERGE, FIELDS INSTITUTE

About The Event

CIFAL York, Y-EMERGE, and Fields Institute are very pleased to host the "Inside Public Health Emergency Operations Centers During Covid-19 Pandemic : Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities Symposium & Next Generation Pandemic Exercise to be held on September 28 and 29, 2023.

Our 2 day symposium and pandemic exercise will discuss lessons learned and challenges of operating Public Health Emergency Operations Centers during the COVID-19 pandemic on Day 1 followed by a pandemic emergency tabletop exercises on Day 2 to incorporate key challenges and lessons learned.

This symposium is a knowledge sharing, capacity building, and networking event that brings together and welcomes the attendance of public health decision makers during the pandemic, directors and members of the public health emergency operations centers at different levels, industry experts supporting PHEOCs, local, provincial and national level emergency managers, faculty, trainees, and public health professionals.

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Upcoming CIFAL York Courses

Course: "Driving Sustainable Prosperity: Unleashing the Power of UN SDGs for Economic Developers"

Date: October 3rd, 2023 | Delivery Method: ZOOM

[MORE INFORMATION](#) | [REGISTER NOW](#)

An Online Course from
CIFAL York

**Driving Sustainable Prosperity:
Unleashing the Power of UN SDGs
for Economic Developers**

Alia Abbas
Economic Development
Professional

Online via Zoom,
Starting October 3rd,
2023

For More Information & Registration:
<https://www.yorku.ca/cifal/sdg-ed>

YORK UNIVERSITY **cifal York** **unitar**
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

About The Course

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a comprehensive framework for addressing global challenges and achieving sustainable development. This course is designed to provide economic developers with a deep understanding of the SDGs and their direct relevance to their work. Participants will explore how the SDGs can be integrated into their day-to-day activities, enabling them to contribute effectively to sustainable development initiatives to create positive economic, social, and environmental impacts in their communities.

Course: "Internet Of Medical Things"

Date: October 4th, 2023 | Delivery Method: ZOOM

[MORE INFORMATION](#) | [REGISTER NOW](#)

An Online Course from
CIFAL York

Internet of Medical Things

Dr. Ali Ahmadi **Dr. Behzad Moshiri** **Hooman Razavi**

Online (Zoom), Starting
October 4, 2023

information and registration
www.yorku.ca/cifal/iomt

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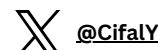
About The Course

Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) is a connected environment made up of software applications, medical devices, and a set of health systems. It is made up of large volumes of sensor-based tools, which include standalone devices and wearables that can be used for remote monitoring of patients. Such an ecosystem of IoMT connected devices and sensors help streamlining clinical workflow and improving patient care.

The advancement in IoMT has enabled both patients and healthcare providers to access real time data at any time. The goal of Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) and digital healthcare systems is to provide people with the ease of receiving quality healthcare at the comfort of their homes or desired locations.

With increasing technological advancement and production, health care providers need to better understand the IoMT ecosystem, components, deployment, and management. The main goal of this course is to provide participants with the basic and critical knowledge of IoMT.

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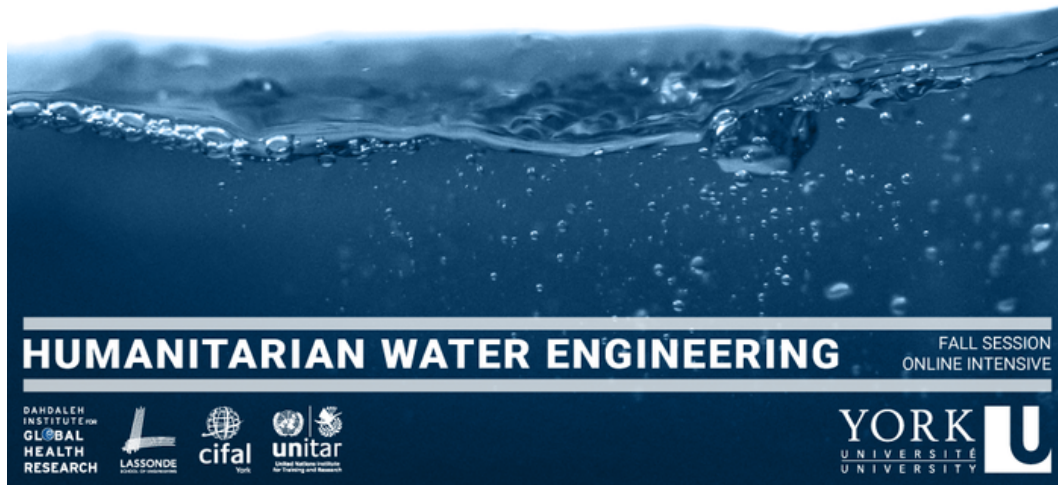


Upcoming CIFAL York Courses

Course: "Humanitarian Water Engineering"

Date: Fall 2023 | Delivery Method: ZOOM

[MORE INFORMATION](#) | [REGISTER NOW](#)



About The Course

The Humanitarian Water Engineering Intensive Course offers participants an opportunity to gain essential knowledge and skills on safe water supply in humanitarian emergencies. The course covers the theoretical fundamentals of, and practical considerations for, the design and operation of water supply systems in humanitarian response including source water selection, water quality, water treatment, distribution and the safe water chain, and outbreak preparedness and response.

Over the course of twelve weeks, participants will engage in a rich, multifaceted online learning experience consisting of curated readings, knowledge-testing quizzes, lectures from experienced engineering practitioners and faculty, and small group problem-based learning (PBL) activities guided by talented facilitators.

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Upcoming UNITAR Courses

Short Course: "Patient-Centred Care"

Date: Fall , 2023 | Delivery Method: Online

[MORE INFORMATION & FREE REGISTRATION](#)



About The Course

This short course on patient-centred care will introduce you to the concept of patient-centred care and help you think about how this may be rationally included in your day-to-day clinical practice.

Anaesthesia Tutorial Of The Week: "Blood Sparing Techniques in Paediatric Anaesthesia"

Date: Fall , 2023 | Delivery Method: Online

[MORE INFORMATION & FREE REGISTRATION](#)



About The Course

This course will teach you about all the strategies and techniques aimed to reduce blood loss.

Short Course: "The Magic Drop: Supporting mothers along the journey"

Date: Mar 30th, 2023 - Dec 31st, 2024 | Delivery Method: Online

[MORE INFORMATION & FREE REGISTRATION](#)



About The Course

Our free e-learning course aims to empower parents to be in control of their own breastfeeding journey and make well-informed choices, while simultaneously ensuring that their families, healthcare providers, employers, and communities have the resources they need to effectively support them. The first Module, focused on the essentials of breastfeeding, will be available in 14 languages.

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Upcoming UNITAR Courses

Degree Program: BSc (Hons) Sustainable Maritime Operations

Awarding Body: University of Plymouth

Intake: January, May or September (Next start date is 4th September 2023)

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



About The Course

This qualification is aimed at those who wish to gain a full Bachelor's degree, possibly upgrading from another previous achievement, e.g. Foundation degree. It will particularly suit those with a professional experience in the maritime world or an academic interest in the subject. Delivered via distance learning, the BSc (Hons) programme will provide opportunities to enhance your career within the marine or maritime industry.

Studying the BSc (Hons), you will learn about the theories, principle and models relevant to the modern maritime industry in the 21st Century, equipping you with a broad understanding of the challenges and current affairs. You will develop skills in gathering, analysing, evaluating, and interpreting data in Sustainable Maritime Operations.

Degree Program: MSc Global Sustainable Development

Awarding Body: University of Plymouth

Intake: January, May or September (Next start date is 4th September 2023)

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



About The Course

If you have a background in sustainability already, or already hold a degree, the MSc in Global Sustainable Development is the ideal course to take advantage of that experience and higher-level learning.

The course aims to:

- Provide a sound, and critical, understanding of sustainable development, particularly with reference to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Show how sustainability is conceived and practiced differently across the globe.
- Show how sustainability is conceived and practiced differently across different sectors, and to critically evaluate how the UN SDGs interact with these sectors.
- Enable students to evaluate the role of individuals, communities, and institutions in delivering sustainable development.
- Foster debate and enable students to express reasoned, evidence-based arguments.

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