

Newsletter September 2023



Message from the Director

Partnership for Good

CIFAL York values partnership and collaborations with academic, public, and private institutions in developing training and learning events that are in line with the CIFAL York 5 core focus areas. Every month we establish new partnerships, new training programs and new friends of CIFAL York. For example, during September and October CIFAL York has been working closely with the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health to develop a new speaker series on Nurses' Voices. This virtual series began on October 24th, on UN Day. It brings together members of the nursing profession from around the globe to share their experiences and transfer knowledge to the new generations. These great learning events cannot happen without the support from many speakers, instructors, moderators, participants, student interns, CIFAL York staff and our partner agencies. We would like to thank everyone for their engagement and support. If you have training capacity, training needs, or training ideas that you would like to partner with us, please reach out to CIFAL York.



Dr. Ali Asgary

Ali Asgary
Director, CIFAL York

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What We Have Been Up To?

September 6th, 2023

Emergency Management In Hospitals & Healthcare Speaker Series

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



Click Video To Play

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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What We Have Been Up To?

September 13th , 2023

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

Topic: "ESG And Value Creation"



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

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 21st, 2023

Emerging and Systemic Risks Lecture Series

Topic: "Pandemic Urbanism".



Click Video To Play

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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What We Have Been Up To?

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".

VR Based Training & Education:
Knowledge and Experience Sharing

Driving in the Futuristic Traffic Environments: Exploring Digital Twins and Virtual Reality for Analyzing Road Users' Behaviour

Speaker
Muhammad Sajjad Ansar
Ph.D. Candidate,
Transportation Engineering,
Laboratory of Innovations in
Transportation (LiTrans),
Centre for Urban
Innovation, Toronto
Metropolitan University

Moderator
Dr. Ahmad Mohammadi
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Civil Engineering,
Lassonde School of Engineering, York University

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION:
www.yorku.ca/cifa/yr

SESSION 7 - ZOOM
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023
12PM-1PM EST

DEXR LAB
YORK UNIVERSITY

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In this session, Muhammad discussed 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.

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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What We Have Been Up To?

September 25th, 2023

Climate Change Emergencies and Cultural Heritage Speaker Series

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



Click Video To Play

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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What We Have Been Up To?

September 28th- 29th, 2023

SYMPOSIUM

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



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 Events

October 11th, 2023

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

Topic: "ESG Landscape and Trends: Understanding Challenges and Implications"

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

REGISTRATION CLOSED



About the Speaker

Emrul Hasan is a highly experienced and sought-after transformational leader experienced in executive leadership and management, focusing on strategic planning, development, and execution of international humanitarian and development, ESG, CSR and DE+I initiatives. He is a certified sustainability professional with extensive knowledge of ESG reporting standards and frameworks. Emrul has worked with a variety of organizations across different sectors, including finance, retail, and extractive industries globally, helping them with sustainability, ESG, and DE+I strategy, reputational and regulatory risk management, social impact measurement, and net-zero pathway strategy. He has also worked with various governments and development organizations in 27 countries, designing, implementing and evaluating high-impact social and economic development programs.

Currently, Emrul is the Vice President of Global Programs at CARE Canada. Before this, he held various senior leadership positions, including Vice President of Citizenship + Sustainability at Hill+Knowlton's Corporate Advisory arm and Vice President of Program Effectiveness and Quality at Plan Canada. Emrul has also worked at Plan International Bangladesh, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and UNDP-UNCDF. He was a member and Co-chair of the CSO Partnership Advisory Group (CPAG), which advised Global Affairs Canada on implementing CSO's partnership policy. Emrul also served as the Executive Lead for the DE+I effort at Plan Canada and was a member of the Anti-racism and Equity Council of Plan International. He is also an Advisory Board Member of the JennAir Disrupting Design Initiative of Whirlpool Canada.

Emrul is recognized as a thought leader in International Development, ESG, CSR, and DE+I, and his expertise is frequently sought by media, governments, and international agencies. He has been invited to speak at over 25 high-profile conferences, including the United Nations General Assembly, Intersessional UN Expert meetings and the Senate of Canada at the Standing Senate Committee hearing on Human Rights.

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Upcoming Events

October 24th, 2023

Nurses' Voices Speaker Series

Topic: "Nurses' Voices Grassroots to Global"

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

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

Online Zoom Nurses' Voices Speaker Series

Nurses' Voices Grassroots to Global SPEAKERS

Dr. Pamela F. Cipriano
President, International Council of Nurses, Professor, School of Nursing and Behavior School of Leadership & Public Policy, University of Virginia

Kathleen McCourt, CEE
President, Commonwealth Nurses & Midwives Federation (CNMF)

Dr. Gloria Chan
Vice President, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), 8th UNICAF Young Representative, NQSA, United Nation, New York

PANELISTS

Dr. Ross Macle-Buch
International Co-Director, Nightingale Initiative for Global Health, based in Edinburgh

Lyrene Chan
Nightingale Initiative for Global Health, based in Australia

Dr. Barbara Doney
International Co-Director, Nightingale Initiative for Global Health

MODERATORS

More info and registration at: www.yorku.ca/cifal/nigh

About The Event

The world's nurses have been enduring ceaseless challenges from the overwhelmed health care system—resulting in burn-out. This was further exacerbated by the most recent COVID-19 pandemic that strained the front-line nurses worldwide. Even as nurses have been appreciated and widely trusted for this service—their public voices are still rarely heard. The absence of nursing's voice contributes to the fact that nurses continue to be undervalued.

This 'Nurses' Voices Speakers' Series' will continue our innovative global multi-media outreach to prepare and engage nurses, including students and retirees, to become empowered leading public storytellers and to share their stories of advocating for healing, resilience, and collaboration for a healthy world—as thought-leaders across the global public space and to the listening ears of everyone!

October 27th, 2023

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

Topic: "Augmented & Virtual Reality Sandboxes as Digital Twins of Learning Spaces".

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

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

VR Based Training & Education: Knowledge and Experience Sharing

Augmented & Virtual Reality Sandboxes as Digital Twins of Learning Spaces

Speaker
Dr. Mojgan Jadidi
Associate Professor, Civil Engineering Department, Lassonde School of Engineering, York University

Moderator
Dr. Ahmad Pidiainmoch
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Civil Engineering, Lassonde School of Engineering, York University

SESSION 8 - ZOOM
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023
12PM-1PM EDT

FOR INFO & REGISTRATION:
www.yorku.ca/cifal/vr

DEXR LAB YORK UNIVERSITY

About The Speaker

Dr Mojgan Jadidi is an Associate Professor of Geomatics Engineering at Lassonde School of Engineering, York University. She is funder of Geospatial Visual Analytics (GeoVA) lab. Her research interests include geospatial visual analytics, building information modeling (BIM) and 3D GIS data integration, and virtual and augmented reality application developments for better and informed decision-making in the context of smart buildings, infrastructures, and cities. She is currently the associate Director of ESRI Center of Excellence at York University. She is serving as secretary of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Commission IV Working Group 9 (ISPRS CIV/WG9) Spatially Enabled Urban and Regional Digital Twins. She is also IEEE member Women in Engineering and Geoscience group since 2014.

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Upcoming CIFAL York Courses

Course: "AMR Policymaking Course"

Date: October One week during late May or early June 2024

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



About The Course

AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance) kills and debilitates millions of people annually, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). It also turns back years of progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in global health, food safety and security, economic growth, poverty alleviation, and the environment. Economically, the World Bank estimates AMR will cost economies \$100 trillion USD from 2017 - 2050. More must be done urgently and collectively to mitigate AMR, while we still can. Ensuring that life-saving antimicrobials remain available as effective treatment options will require a massive, coordinated global effort.

The AMR Policy Accelerator at York University's Global Strategy Lab is a policy think-tank that bridges AMR science and policy and provides policymakers at the national and international levels, with rigorous policy research needed to inform AMR policymaking and National AMR Action Plans.

This course is designed to help technical professionals (Eg. Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary, Epidemiology) make the leap from research and practice to policy, and to equip them with the tools to make effective policy decisions in the AMR policy space, from a One Health perspective. Taught by leading AMR and health policy experts, this course will provide participants with:

- A deeper understanding of policy levers and how to use them as AMR leaders in government to make effective decisions.
- An appreciation of the role of policymaking and governance structures at the national and international levels as they pertain to progress on AMR goals.
- A stronger foundation in monitoring, evaluating, and learning principles to strengthen AMR policy programs and assess their effectiveness.
- A robust toolkit and insight into how different types of evidence are developed and used in the policy process, and their relationship(s) to one another

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Upcoming CIFAL York Courses

Course: "AI-Powered Higher Education: Transforming Teaching and Learning"

Date: November 23rd. 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30p.m. (Malaysia Time)

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



About The Course

In today's post COVID-19 world, this seminar responds to the ways technology is re-shaping how we teach and learn. and how it is broadening our horizons for knowledge development.

The seminar is of interest for: (a) Academic staff, faculty members, or educators interested in harnessing AI's potential to innovate teaching methods and curriculum; (b) Higher Education administrators planning to re-shape institutional policies and strategies to incorporate AI-driven advancements into broader educational framework; (c) EdTech professionals, researchers, scholars, enthusiasts and other individuals engaged in AI-related initiatives and eager to explore some higher education AI-driven tools and solutions; and (d) Students who want know more about the applications of AI for their learning.

Sunway University's Centre for Higher Education Research (CHER) and Department and Information Systems, jointly with DRM Learning Consultancy and International Training Centres for Local Authorities and Local Actors, York University (CIFAL York, Canada), invite all to hear views of the distinguished speakers below and join in the discussion following the presentations.

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Upcoming UNITAR Courses

Short Course: "Research Methodology Course (RMC)"

Date: Ongoing | Delivery Method: Online

[**MORE INFORMATION & FREE REGISTRATION**](#)



About The Course

"There are no wrong questions or wrong answers in research, only methods that do not work". This course will teach you how to choose and apply the correct methods.

Short Course: "Common Intraoperative Problems"

Date: Ongoing | Delivery Method: Online

[**MORE INFORMATION & FREE REGISTRATION**](#)



About The Course

Learn about common problems in the operating room and how to manage them.

Short Course: "Acute and Chronic Pain"

Date: Ongoing | Delivery Method: Online

[**MORE INFORMATION & FREE REGISTRATION**](#)



About The Course

In this course, you will be able to define acute and chronic pain and determine treatment strategies for pain management in patients of varied pain etiologies.

Short Course: "Trauma and Disaster Team Response"

Date: Ongoing | Delivery Method: Online

[**MORE INFORMATION & FREE REGISTRATION**](#)



About The Course

The course conveys appropriate management of trauma including disaster response and emphasizes a multi-disciplinary approach in managing trauma patients.

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Upcoming UNITAR Courses

Degree Program: BSc (Hons) Sustainable Maritime Operations

Awarding Body: University of Plymouth

Intake: 8th January 2024

[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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