

FIRST SYMPOSIUM ON CROWD MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY IN MASS GATHERINGS



<https://www.yorku.ca/cifal/crowdmanagement/>

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

9:00 AM-5:00PM EST

York University and Hybrid Webinar

(ADERSIM EOC, Basement Level, Schulich School of Business)

Online Zoom Webinar Link:

<https://yorku.zoom.us/j/95253439028?pwd=h331pZEm9O8jwfm9r6OCMsjePvgiN.1>

Passcode:826403

08:30-09:00 Registration

Opening Session

09:00-09:40

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Welcoming Address

Amir Asif, Vice President Research and Innovation, York University

Ravi de Costa, Associate Dean Research, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University

Organizers' Address

Ali Asgary, Jerry Kponyo, and Jude Kong

Keynote Address

Craig Young, Superintendent, Emergency Management & Public Order, Toronto Police Service

Session 1

9:40-10:30

Crowd Management in Toronto: Some Observations

Jack Rozdilsky, York University

Were We "Ready for it...": Lessons Learned from the Taylor Swift Eras Tour in Toronto

Talia Shortt, York University

Coffee Break

10:40 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Session 2

11:00-11:20

11:00-11:20

Coordinating Major Planned Events: The Role of Toronto Emergency Management in Multi-Agency Coordination and Situational Awareness

Michael Bosnyak and Mark Phair, Toronto Emergency Management, City of Toronto

11:20-11:40

Protecting Major Events and Mass Gatherings: The Drone and Counter-Drone Landscape

Sheraz Arshad, Air Support Unit and Strategic Initiatives Office, Emergency Management and Public Order, Toronto Police Service

11:40-12:00

Impacts of Mobile Phone Use on Movement Behaviours during Stadium Events

John Gales and Hannah Carton, York University

12:00-12:20

Heat-Related Crowd Behavior Detection at Mass Gatherings: Case of Toronto World Cup 2026

Ali Asgary, Solmaz Arzhang, Efi Birago, Juliet Arthur, Eunhyeong Jeong, and Alexander Zhang, ADERSIM, York University

Session 3

13:30- 17 PM

Lunch Break
12:20 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.

13:30-14:00

Drone-based Crowd Monitoring Technologies

Pedram Nowroozi, **InfinitDrones Corp**

14:00-14:30

An Agentic AI Human-in-the-Loop Framework for Public Health Surveillance at Mass Gatherings: A FIFA World Cup Case Study

Jude Kong and Zahra Movahedi Nia, University of Toronto

14:30-15:00

From Cameras to Crowd Intelligence: Using Behavioral AI to Enhance Safety and Operational Awareness at Large-Scale Events

Mateo Chiyangi, Lauretta AI

Coffee Break
15:00-15:20

15:20-15:50

Nudging Crowd Dynamics: Leveraging Leader Credibility for Effective Emergency Evacuation

Navid Khademi, University of Tehran

15:50-16:20

Crowds in Motion: Simulating Behavior, Built Environments, and Emerging Interactions

Muhammad Usman, Ontario Tech University

16:20-16:50

Modeling Sport Stadium Crowd Disasters in Africa

Ali Asgary (York University), Jerry Kponyo, and Musah Ibrahim Ali (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology)

16:50-17:00 Closing Session

Organizers and Speakers



Dr. Ali Asgary

Professor of Disaster
& Emergency
Management and
Director of CIFAL
York, York University,
Toronto, Canada



Amir Asif

Vice President,
Research and
Innovation at York
University, Professor,
Electrical Engineering
and Computer Science



Dr. Jerry Kponyo

Professor of
Telecommunication
Engineering
Director, Office of Grants
and Research, Kwame
Nkrumah University of
Science and Technology,
Kumasi, Ghana.



Dr. Jude Kong

Assistant Professor
(School of Public
Health), Director
AIMLab, Dalla Lana
School of Public
Health, University of
Toronto, Canada



Craig Young

Superintendent,
Emergency
Management & Public
Order, Toronto Police
Service, Toronto,
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Dr. Jack Rozdilsky

Associate Professor,
Disaster and Emergency
Management, School of
Administrative Studies, York
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Mark Phair

Toronto Emergency
Management, City
of Toronto, Toronto,
Ontario, Canada



Sheraz Arshad

Emergency
Management & Public
Order Unit, Toronto
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Toronto, Ontario,
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Michael Bosnyak

Emergency
Management
Coordinator, City of
Toronto, Toronto,
Canada



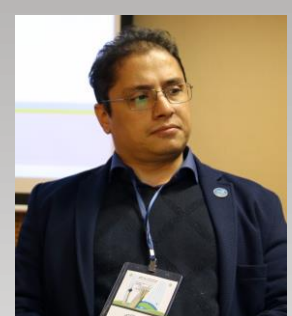
Dr. John Gales

Associate Professor,
Civil Engineering,
Lassonde School of
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University, Toronto,
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Pedram Nowroozi

Founder & CEO,
Nested
Technologies,
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Dr. Navid Khademi

Department of
Highway and
Transportation
Engineering, School of
Civil Engineering,
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**Dr. Zahra
Movahedi Nia**

Africa-Canada
Artificial Intelligence
and Data Innovation
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(ACADIC), York
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**Dr. Muhammad
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Assistant Professor
of Computer Science,
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Talia Shortt

Disaster & Emergency
Management, School of
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Mateo Chiyangi

Business
Development
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Hannah Carton

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**Dr. Solmaz
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**Frederica Efi
Birago Owusu**

Responsible AI Lab,
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Juliet Arthur

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