

# Y-EMERGE Spotlight # 4

## In This Issue



<https://www.yorku.ca/research/yemerge/>

### Welcome to the 4th Edition of the Y-EMERGE Spotlight

Y-EMERGE Spotlight is a monthly newsletter sharing the achievements of the York Emergency Mitigation, Engagement, Response, and Governance Institute (Y-EMERGE).

## Y-EMERGE In The Media

### Looting during wildfire evacuations: the facts and fiction

On **June 21**, 2024, **Professor Jack Rozdilsky** was quoted in *Canadian Affairs*, discussing "Looting during wildfire evacuations: the facts and fiction." [Read More](#)

### How the Context of the 21st Century Shifts Moral Positioning.

On **June 20-22**, 2024, **Professor David Etkin** lectured at the International Congress on Disaster Ethics at the University of Oviedo, Spain, on "How the Context of the 21st Century Shifts Moral Positioning,". [Read More](#)

### The Mike Farwell Show: Segment – The one-year anniversary of the Titan submersible implosion

On **June 18**, 2024, **Professor Jack Rozdilsky** was interviewed on CityNews Kitchener's "The Mike Farwell Show" to discuss the one-year anniversary of the Titan submersible implosion. [Read More](#)

### York University scientists and engineers receive more than \$3.3M from NSERC.

On **June 14**, 2024, fifty-four researchers from York University, including Professors **Jianhong Wu**, **Ali Sadeghi-Naini**, and **Jane Heffernan**, collectively received over \$3.3 million in funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). [Read More](#)

## **Two small communities are competing to receive Canada's inventory of nuclear waste. They can't be sure what they'll get.**

On **June 10**, 2024, Professor **Mark Winfield** was quoted in the *Globe and Mail* regarding the competition between two small communities trying to receive Canada's inventory of nuclear waste. [Read More](#)

## **Y-EMERGE partnership to combat climate change by advancing mathematical modelling**

On **June 12**, 2024, the York Emergency Mitigation, Engagement, Response & Governance Institute (**Y-EMERGE**) established a partnership with the Research & Innovation Centre at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS-RIC) in Rwanda that will bring AIMS PhD students to York University to pursue their research in mathematical modelling as a tool for addressing climate change. [Read More](#)

## **Creating Investor-Friendly Renewable Energy Policies: Lessons from Malawi's Solar Farm**

On **June 12**, 2024, Professor **Hassan Qudrat-Ullah's** study focusing on making renewable energy more attractive for investors using a policy called Feed-In Tariff (FIT) received coverage on *Devdiscourse*, the International Development News website. [Read More](#)

## **York University honoured three esteemed faculty members during the 2024 Spring Convocation**

On **June 11**, 2024, three faculty members, including Professor **Roger Keil**, a Y-EMERGE member, received honorific professorships. [Read More](#)

## **'Absolutely brutal': Ontario to halt COVID-19 wastewater surveillance program**

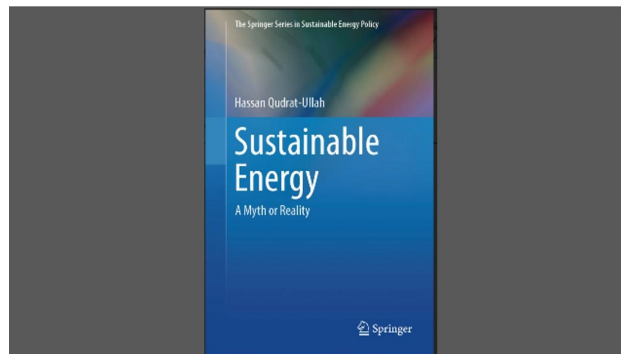
On **June 5**, 2024, Professor **Eric Kennedy**, co-director of Y-EMERGE, was cited in a *CityNews Toronto* article titled "'Absolutely brutal': Ontario to halt COVID-19 wastewater surveillance program. [Read More](#)

## **How a deal to produce hydrogen could help revive oceanic dead zones**

On **June 4**, 2024, *Tyee* referenced York University Professor **Mark Winfield** in an article, discussing how a hydrogen production deal could potentially aid in revitalizing oceanic dead zones. [Read More](#)

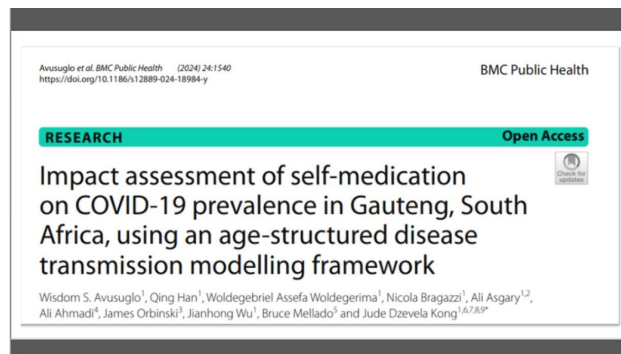
## Y-EMERGE Publications

### Sustainable Energy: A Myth or Reality



On **June 20, 2024**, the book "Sustainable Energy: A Myth or Reality" by Professor **Hassan Qudrat-Ullah** was published. The book is part of the Springer Series on Sustainable Energy Policy and offers insights for students, researchers, policymakers, and general readers interested in sustainable energy solutions. [Read More](#)

### Impact Assessment of Self-Medication on COVID-19 Prevalence in Gauteng, South Africa, Using an Age-Structured Disease Transmission Modelling Framework



On **June 7, 2024**, members of Y-EMERGE, including **Woldegebriel Assefa Woldegerima, Ali Asgary, James Orbinski, Jianhong Wu, and Jude Dzevela Kong**, published a paper titled "Impact Assessment of Self-Medication on COVID-19 Prevalence in Gauteng, South Africa, Using an Age-Structured Disease Transmission Modelling Framework" in BMC Public Health. [Read More](#)

## Distinguished Lecture in Emerging & Systemic Risks

### The Role of Tourism and Social/Cultural Capital in Building Resilience to Disasters



On **June 20**, the 16th session in the Distinguished Lecture Series on Emerging and Systemic Risks was held, focusing on "The Role of Tourism and Social/Cultural Capital in Building Resilience to Disasters." The session featured distinguished speakers, including Professor Sanjay Nepal, Professor Brent Doberstein, and Dr. Erin O'Connell, all from the Geography and Environmental Management Department at the University of Waterloo. The discussion was moderated by Professor Jennifer Spinney from York University's Disaster and Emergency Management Program.

#### **Professor Brent Doberstein:**

Professor Doberstein introduced the conceptual foundation of the research, emphasizing the critical role of social capital in post-disaster recovery. He explained how social networks and connections, categorized into bonding, bridging, and linking social capital, help individuals and communities navigate the aftermath of disasters. He highlighted that these networks facilitate communication, coordinate recovery efforts, and provide a buffer against the impacts of disasters. Dr. Doberstein also discussed the additional cultural capital and tourism layers, noting their potential to support recovery through economic revitalization and rebuilding motivation.

**Dr. Erin O'Connell:** Dr. O'Connell elaborated on the framework used to define social and cultural capital in the research. She outlined how different types of social capital (bonding, bridging, and linking) play distinct roles in recovery, from immediate support to longer-term reconstruction efforts. She also detailed the types of cultural capital (embodied, objectified, and institutionalized) and their importance in maintaining cultural practices, rebuilding heritage sites, and guiding institutional priorities post-disaster. Dr. O'Connell noted the unique

contributions of tourism to recovery, such as providing livelihoods and mobilizing resources through social capital tourists and voluntourism.

**Case Studies:** The speakers presented several case studies to illustrate their findings:

- **Langtang Village, Nepal:** Professor Doberstein discussed how the 2015 earthquake led to the creation of new social networks and institutions, such as the Langtang Management and Reconstruction Committee, which played a crucial role in the village's recovery.
- **Kathmandu Valley, Nepal:** Dr. O'Connell highlighted the importance of cultural capital in the recovery from the 2015 earthquake. She noted the challenges and successes in rebuilding cultural sites and maintaining cultural practices during recovery.
- **Tacloban City, Philippines:** The lecture highlighted how the influx of aid workers and volunteers post-Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 spurred the development of a new tourism sector, providing economic support and helping formalize tourism activities.
- **Mount Merapi, Indonesia:** The 2010 volcanic eruption led to a boom in tourism as an alternative livelihood for displaced agricultural workers, showing how tourism can supplement aid and foster community recovery.
- **Bukit Lawang, Indonesia:** After a 2003 flash flood, the local tourism industry played a key role in recovery, with international tourists and local networks helping rebuild and establish long-term support systems like women's groups.

**Key Takeaways:**

- Social capital, categorized into bonding, bridging, and linking, is vital for disaster recovery.
- Cultural capital, including embodied, objectified, and institutionalized forms, supports cultural continuity and guides reconstruction efforts.
- Tourism can provide significant economic support and mobilize resources for recovery.
- Effective disaster recovery requires integrating social, cultural, and tourism capitals to build long-term resilience and community cohesion.

The research presented underscores the need for comprehensive strategies that leverage social and cultural networks alongside tourism to enhance disaster resilience and support sustainable recovery efforts.

Recording of this session is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66kwNeN165c>

## Governance, Science & Technology of Mass Evacuation Speaker Series Panel

### Mass Evacuation and First Nations

**MASS EVACUATION SPEAKER SERIES**

# MASS EVACUATION & FIRST NATIONS

**Dr. Tara K. McGee**  
Professor  
University of Alberta  
Co-lead, First Nations  
Wildfire Evacuation  
Partnership

**Jennifer Jesty**  
Emergency  
Resiliency Manager,  
Union of Nova Scotia  
Mi'kmaq

**Michelle Gervais**  
Stronger Together:  
Evacuation  
Partnerships

**Maia Foster-Sanchez**  
Stronger Together:  
Evacuation  
Partnerships

**Moderator**

**Dr. Eric Kennedy**  
Associate Professor  
York University

**JUNE 18, 2024**  
3PM ADT | 2PM EDT | 1PM CDT  
12PM MTD | 11AM PDT

**INFO & REGISTRATION**  
[www.yorku.ca/cifal/mass-evacuation/](http://www.yorku.ca/cifal/mass-evacuation/)

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**Queen's UNIVERSITY**  
**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**

On **June 18**, the second session of the Mass Evacuation Speaker Series Panel was held, focusing on "Mass Evacuation and First Nations." This panel featured distinguished speakers, including Dr. Tara K. McGee from the University of Alberta, Jennifer Jesty from the Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, Maia Foster-Sanchez and Michelle Gervais from the Stronger Together: Evacuation Partnerships. Dr. Eric Kennedy moderated the session, which centred around the unique challenges and solutions related to evacuations in First Nations communities.

**Tara K. McGee:**

Dr. McGee highlighted the lack of media coverage for First Nations evacuations, often overshadowed by nearby hamlets or towns. She discussed the evacuation of Whitefish Lake First Nation during the Slave Lake fire and the inadequate information and accommodation challenges faced by evacuees, including overcrowding and inappropriate facilities. She emphasized the importance of providing culturally appropriate food and activities for evacuees and the ongoing trauma communities face post-evacuation. Dr. McGee mentioned a book titled ***"First Nations Wildfire Evacuation: A Guide for Communities and External Agencies"*** that offers detailed recommendations for improving evacuation experiences.

### **Jennifer Jesty:**

Jennifer Jesty, an emergency resiliency manager, shared her success story of developing an emergency alert system for Indigenous communities in Cape Breton. This system, powered by the Everbridge platform, has proven its effectiveness in sending alerts, including to landlines, and allowing chiefs to record messages in their language, ensuring clear communication. The system has been instrumental in reuniting families and ensuring community safety during emergencies, including active shooter incidents. Jennifer stressed the importance of communication and timely information dissemination during evacuations, reassuring the audience about the technological solutions available.

### **Maia Foster-Sanchez and Michelle Gervais:**

Maia and Michelle presented the complexities of First Nations evacuations in Ontario, the need for proper planning, and the importance of cultural sensitivity and relationship building with First Nations communities. They highlighted the "Stronger Together" framework, which focuses on economic development partnerships and incident management systems. This framework emphasizes the importance of engaging with First Nations and ensuring they lead the evacuation processes.

### **Key Takeaways:**

- Media coverage often neglects First Nations evacuations.
- Evacuees face significant challenges, including inadequate information and inappropriate accommodations.
- Culturally appropriate food and activities are crucial for evacuees.

- Effective communication systems, like the Everbridge platform, are essential.
- Relationship building and cultural sensitivity are key to successful evacuation planning and execution.

**Recording of this session is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Grk4odFcUTg>**