

Y-EMERGE Spotlight #6

In This Issue



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

Welcome to the 6th 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 Fall Kick-Off Meeting Scheduled for October 23, 2024



We are excited to announce that the Y-EMERGE Fall Kick-Off Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, October 23, 2024**, from **2:30 PM to 4:30 PM**. This meeting will be held in a hybrid format, allowing participants to join either in person at **Kinsman Building, Room 277**, or virtually via **Zoom**.

This event is designed to strengthen community engagement and foster collaboration among our members. We have planned a variety of activities, including:

- **Re-energizing Our Community:** Begin the year with renewed energy and focus.
- **Recapping Successes:** Reflect on our achievements from the past year.

- **Highlighting New Resources:** Discover new resources such as CJEM, Collaboratory, and ECN.
- **Emphasizing Goals:** Discuss our objectives for increasing grant capacity, supporting students, and expanding activities.
- **Member Introductions and Priorities:** Share insights into each member's research priorities.
- **Discussing Actionable Goals:** Engage in a group activity to explore how Y-EMERGE can better support its members.
- **Making Action Commitments:** Identify and commit to one actionable goal for the upcoming semester.
- **Closing Remarks:** Summarize the meeting and outline the next steps.

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://yorku.zoom.us/j/97118345581?pwd=yoP6kyYctGCXDs94kcE5RyaJhBjBJQ.1>

The Y-EMERGE team looks forward to seeing everyone there and appreciates your valuable contributions to this important kickoff event.

Y-EMERGE In The Media

Concerns Raised Over Proposed Bike Lane Legislation and Its Impact on Climate Goals

On **September 27**, 2024, Professor **Mark Winfield** criticized Premier Doug Ford's plan to legislate limits on new bike lanes, which could remove existing lanes for vehicles. The discussion highlights the ongoing debate about sustainable transportation and urban planning in the face of climate change. [Read More](#)

Innovative VR Experience for Engineering Students

On **September 19**, 2024, Professor **Mojgan Jadidi** introduced a virtual reality (VR) program to teach drone piloting in engineering. The program is expected to be incorporated into lab courses after testing. [Read more](#)

Professor Hassan Qudrat-Ullah Releases New Book on Sustainability Education in Business Schools

On **September 18**, 2024, Professor **Hassan Qudrat-Ullah** released his latest book, *Systems Thinking for Sustainability Education in Business Schools*. The book offers practical recommendations and a visionary roadmap for enhancing business school curricula focusing on sustainability. [Read more](#)

Op-Ed Highlights Political Violence and Its Implications

On **September 16**, 2024, Professor **Jack L. Rozdilsky** published an op-ed in *The Conversation* titled "The Second Assassination Attempt on Donald Trump in 64 Days is a Troubling Turn of Events." He examines the impact of political violence on public safety and community stability. [Read more](#)

Professor Jack Rozdilsky Advocates for Nuclear Safety Preparedness Amid Rising Global Tensions

On **September 13**, 2024, Professor **Jack Rozdilsky**, a Disaster & Emergency Management program faculty member, highlighted the importance of preparing for nuclear hazards. He advocates for renewed investment in public nuclear shelters and improved notification systems to protect citizens in case of a nuclear blast. [Read more](#)

Critique of Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric in The Conversation

On **September 12**, 2024, Professor **Yvonne Su** published an op-ed in *The Conversation* titled "Beyond the Harris-Trump Debate." The piece examines how politicians leverage anti-immigrant rhetoric to divert attention from systemic failures, highlighting the negative impact on social cohesion and efforts to address inequality. [Read more](#)

Professor Huaiping Zhu Wins 2024 CAIMS-Fields Industrial Prize for Infectious Disease Modelling

On **September 6**, 2024, Professor **Huaiping Zhu**, Y-EMERGE member, was awarded the prestigious 2024 CAIMS-Fields Industrial Prize. A leader in infectious disease modelling, Dr. Zhu has significantly advanced the understanding of pandemic dynamics through his work at the Centre for Disease Modelling and the pan-Canadian research network OMNI. [Read More](#)

The St. Anne's Church fire in Toronto serves as a cautionary tale to preserve our cultural heritage.

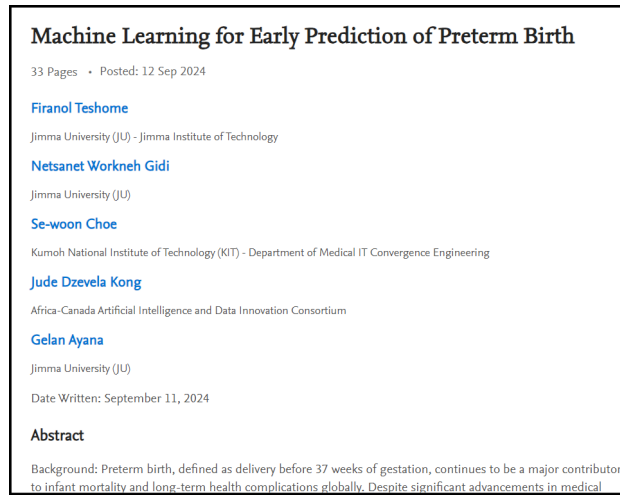
On **August 28**, 2024, Professor **Jack L. Rozdilsky** published an article in *Canadian Architect*, using the St. Anne's Church fire in Toronto as a cautionary tale. [Read More](#)

'Twisters' alludes to real-life dangers of chasing storms.

On **August 1, 2024**, Professor **Jack Rozdilsky** published an article in *The Conversation Canada*. The article examines the film *Twisters*, highlighting the popularity of disaster movies, the real-life risks of storm chasing, and the impact of extreme weather events. [Read More](#)

Y-EMERGE Publications

Machine Learning for Early Prediction of Preterm Birth



On **September 11, 2024**, Professor **Jude Dzevela Kong** and co-authors released a research paper titled *Machine Learning for Early Prediction of Preterm Birth* on SSRN. This review examines the performance of machine learning algorithms, such as random forests and neural networks, in accurately predicting preterm births. [Read more](#)

New Study on Dengue Virus Dynamics in Cambodia



On **September 3, 2024**, Professor **Carly Rozins**, Y-EMERGE Member, co-authored a study in *PNAS* titled "*Climate, Demography, Immunology, and Virology Combine to Drive Two Decades of Dengue Virus Dynamics in Cambodia*." The research explores the factors influencing dengue virus outbreaks in Cambodia, offering new insights into public health strategies. [Read More](#)

New Research on User-Driven Functionality Deletion in Mobile Apps



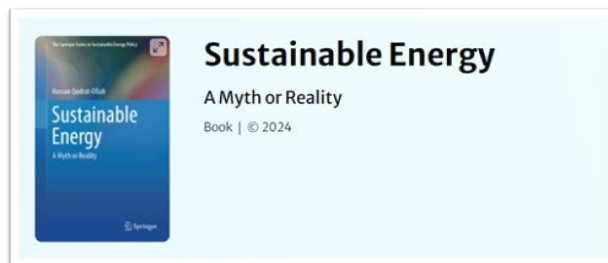
On **August 30, 2024**, Professor **Maleknaz Nayebi** and her collaborators published the paper *Recommending and Release Planning of User-Driven Functionality Deletion for Mobile Apps in Requirements Engineering*. The study highlights the importance of user feedback in the continuous development of mobile apps. [Read More](#)

Epidemiological Trends and Clinical Features of Polio in Ethiopia: A Preliminary Pooled Data Analysis and Literature Review



On **August 19, 2024**, Professor **Jude Kong** co-authored a study published on the *Social Science Research Network (SSRN)* titled *"Epidemiological Trends and Clinical Features of Polio in Ethiopia: A Preliminary Pooled Data Analysis and Literature Review."* The research offers an in-depth analysis of polio's epidemiology and clinical patterns in Ethiopia. [Read more](#)

Sustainable Energy: A Myth or Reality Examines Global Challenges



On **Aug 21, 2024**, Professor **Hassan Qudrat-Ullah** published his new book *Sustainable Energy: A Myth or Reality* (Springer, 2024), which explores the critical role of sustainable energy in

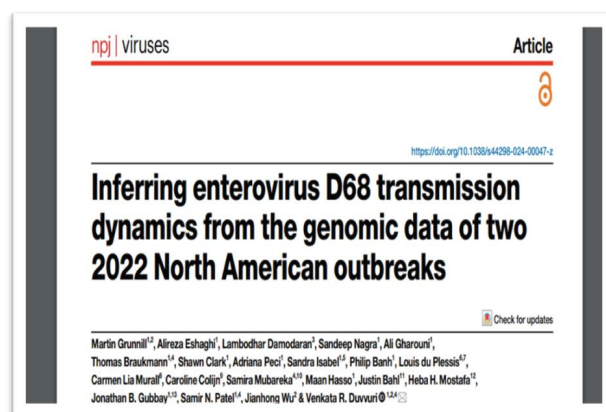
addressing global challenges such as climate change, energy security, and environmental degradation. [Read More](#)

Exploring the Role of Social Work Practitioners in Disaster Recovery



On **August 9**, 2024, Professor **Evalyna Bogdan** co-published an article on the role of social work practitioners and human service professionals in disaster recovery in [International Social Work](#). [Read More](#)

Inferring Enterovirus D68 Transmission Dynamics from Genomic Data of 2022 North American Outbreaks



On **August 2**, 2024, A review article titled "Inferring enterovirus D68 transmission dynamics from the genomic data of two 2022 North American outbreaks" was published by researchers, including Professor **Jianhong Wu**, in the *Nature Portfolio Journal of Viruses*. [Read More](#)

Special News

York University Launches Canada's First PhD Program in Disaster and Emergency Management



1 - From left to right, the names are as follows:

Dr. Ali Asgary, Dr. Eric Kennedy, Dr. Jennifer Spinney (Area Coordinator), Dr. Evalyna Bogdan, Dr. Aaida Mamuji (Graduate Program Director), Dr. Jack Rozdilsky, Dr. Nirupama Agrawal, and Prof. Dave Etkins

On **August 23, 2024**, York University announced the **launch of Canada's first PhD program in Disaster and Emergency Management (DEM)**, starting in September 2025. This initiative addresses the rising need for effective disaster management and solidifies York's leadership in the field, offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees in DEM.

"The PhD program will bridge academic study with professional practice, focusing on developing theories and innovative research," said Aaida Mamuji, Director of the Graduate Program in DEM.

Prospective students are invited to attend weekly drop-in sessions and three virtual information sessions on September 23, November 4, and December 2, from 11 AM to 12 PM. Applications for the inaugural cohort will be accepted from October 2024 to January 2025. For more information, contact Mamuji at amamuji@yorku.ca

2024 York University Research Awards Celebration





On **September 23**, 2024, several Y-EMERGE members were recognized for their outstanding achievements at York University's 2024 Research Awards Celebration. [Read More](#)

Professor Jianhong Wu

Professor Jianhong Wu, Y-EMERGE Director, was recognized for securing a major NSERC Alliance-Mitacs Partners grant for his research in advanced mathematical technologies in respiratory illnesses.

Professor Edward Furman

On September 23, 2024, Professor Edward Furman, a Y-EMERGE member, was honored for securing a large NSERC Alliance Grant to advance research on systemic risk management.

Professor Jimmy Huang

Professor Jimmy Huang, a Y-EMERGE member, was recognized for receiving the title of Tier 1 York Research Chair in Big Data Analytics for his leadership in this field.

Professor Woldegebriel "Assefa" Woldegerima

Professor Woldegebriel "Assefa" Woldegerima, a Y-EMERGE member, was recognized. He received a major Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant for his work on modelling, predicting, and assessing risks related to zoonotic diseases like mpox, contributing to public health decision-making and actions.

Professor Roger Keil

Professor Roger Keil, a Y-EMERGE member, was celebrated as a Fellow of the CIFAR Future Flourishing Program for his contributions to environmental and urban research.

Professor Cary Wu

Professor Cary Wu, a Y-EMERGE member, was honoured with the Early Investigator Award from the Canadian Sociological Association for his research in Canadian sociology.