

# Y-EMERGE Spotlight #11



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

## Welcome to the 11th Edition of the Y-EMERGE Spotlight: April 2025

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

*If you'd like to share a recent publication, upcoming event, or any other news in our monthly newsletter, please submit your information through [this Form](#). Past newsletters can be found [here](#).*

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## Featured Highlights:

### [Introducing Our Newest Program: PhD in Disaster and Emergency Management \(DEM\)](#) [PhD in Disaster and Emergency Management \(DEM\)](#)



We are excited to introduce our latest academic offering: the PhD program in Disaster and Emergency Management (DEM).

The PhD in Disaster and Emergency Management is a unique program that combines rigorous academic training with practical experience. Our program is led by esteemed faculty members who bring knowledge and real-world expertise to the classroom. Students will engage in cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and fieldwork, preparing them to become leaders in emergency management.



For more details on the program, admission requirements, and how to apply, visit our [PhD program in DEM page](#).

### [Introducing the Canadian Journal of Emergency Management \(CJEM\)](#)



We are excited to share that the **Canadian Journal of Emergency Management (CJEM)** is a key resource for both researchers and practitioners in the field of emergency management. Hosted by **York University**, this **open-access, peer-reviewed** journal is dedicated to advancing the theory and practice of emergency management, with a focus on promoting collaboration between academia and industry.

## Why Publish in CJEM?

- **Open Access:** Free to read and publish—no article publication charges or access fees.
- **Global Submissions:** While primarily focused on Canadian emergency management issues, CJEM welcomes high-quality submissions from researchers around the world.
- **Translational Research:** Focus on research that connects theory with practical application in emergency management.
- **Impact:** Shape policy, influence practice, and contribute to the ongoing development of emergency management.
-  **How to Submit:** Researchers and practitioners are encouraged to submit their work, whether it's **empirical research**, **case studies**, or **policy-driven analysis**. CJEM provides a valuable platform for addressing challenges in **disaster risk reduction**, **preparedness**, and **response**.
-  **Learn More:** <https://cdnjem.ca/>We look forward to seeing your contributions to the emergency management community!

## Y-EMERGE In The Media:

### Political Climate and Public Trust Inspire Return to Canada

On April 30, 2025, Professor Jack L. Rozdilsky was featured in *Toronto Life*, sharing his personal story of leaving the United States and moving to Canada. Professor Rozdilsky reflected on how political tensions and social shifts under the Trump administration influenced his decision. He also discussed the importance of public trust and evidence-based leadership in crisis response—values that continue to shape his work in Canada. [Read More](#)

### Skipping Environmental Steps Could Delay Ontario's Ring of Fire Plans

On April 30, 2025, Professor Mark Winfield was featured in the *Fort Frances Times*, commenting on Ontario's efforts to fast-track mining development in the Ring of Fire. He noted that skipping essential steps like environmental assessments and Indigenous consultations could trigger delays rather than accelerate progress. Dr. Winfield stressed that meaningful engagement and due process are critical for sustainable and legally sound development. [Read More](#)

## **Vancouver SUV Attack Raises Concerns Over Event Safety and Emergency Planning**

On April 29, 2025, Professor Ali Asgary was featured in *The Conversation*, analyzing the recent SUV attack in Vancouver and its implications for managing public safety at political gatherings. Dr. Asgary highlighted gaps in crowd control and emergency preparedness, warning that such oversights can erode trust in both public safety systems and democratic institutions. [Read More](#)

## **York University Expands International Research, Academic Partnerships**

On April 25, 2025, in the *YFile* article, Professor Jianhong Wu was mentioned in the context of York University's expanding international research partnerships. He was highlighted for his role in leading collaborative efforts with global institutions, particularly in the area of infectious disease modelling and pandemic preparedness. Dr. Wu's work exemplifies York's commitment to impactful international research that addresses complex global challenges. [Read More](#)

## **Reckoning and Resistance: The Future of Black Hiring Commitments on Campus**

On April 25, 2025, Professor Muna-Ubdi Ali was featured in *The Conversation*, discussing the future of Black hiring commitments on university campuses. She highlighted that despite initial post-2020 pledges to improve racial equity in academia, many institutions are now facing a period of reckoning and resistance, with progress slowing or even backtracking. [Read More](#)

## **Consistent Climate Policy Sets NDP Apart in Federal Election Platform**

On April 24, 2025, Professor Mark Winfield was featured in *The Hamilton Spectator*, commenting on the New Democratic Party's consistent stance on climate action in its federal election platform. He noted that the NDP continues prioritizing bold climate initiatives, including strong carbon pricing and a commitment to a just energy transition. Professor Winfield emphasized that this consistency sets the party apart amid shifting political narratives. [Read More](#).

## **The NDP Election Platform Stays Consistent on Climate.**

On April 24, 2025, Professor Mark Winfield was featured in the *National Observer*, weighing in on the NDP's 2025 federal election platform. Dr. Winfield noted that the NDP remains steadfast in its climate commitments, emphasizing long-standing support for carbon pricing, renewable energy, and environmental justice. He highlighted that while other parties are shifting or softening positions, the NDP continues to foreground climate as a core electoral issue. [Read More.](#)

## **Block Model Learning in Lasonde: A Blueprint for Success**

On April 24, 2025, Professor Mojgan Jadidi was featured in *YFile*, highlighting the success of block model learning at York University's Lasonde School of Engineering. Professor Jadidi shared how the model, where students focus on one course at a time in shorter, more immersive sessions, has led to improved academic outcomes and greater student confidence. She noted that the approach has been especially impactful in supporting first-year students as they transition into engineering education. [Read More](#)

## **Climate (Still) on the Ballot as Federal Parties Release Costed Platforms**

On April 22, 2025, Professor Mark Winfield was featured in *The Energy Mix*, offering insight into how Canada's federal parties position climate policy in their election platforms. He remarked that climate remains a defining issue this election cycle despite varying approaches. Professor Winfield noted that costed platforms help clarify each party's priorities, with the NDP continuing to stand out for its consistent commitment to climate action. [Read More](#)

## **NDP's Steady Climate Platform Draws Expert Support**

On April 21, 2025, Professor Mark Winfield was featured on *BBC News*, reflecting on the New Democratic Party's enduring approach to climate action. Professor Winfield pointed out that the NDP has maintained one of the most coherent and reliable environmental platforms among Canada's major parties. He emphasized that their focus on renewable energy, emissions reductions, and a just transition for workers continues to position them as a consistent voice on climate policy. [Read More.](#)

## Toronto's Most Recent Car Attack Was a Targeted Crime, not a Mass Attack

On April 17, 2025, Professor Jack L. Rozdilsky was featured in *The Conversation*, analyzing the April 15 vehicular attack at Toronto Metropolitan University. He highlighted how this targeted act, though not a mass casualty incident, underscores the persistent threat of car-based violence in urban settings. [Read More](#).

## Nuclear Energy Means Climate Action Delay.

On April 15, 2025, Professor Mark Winfield was featured in the *NB Media Co-op*, discussing the implications of nuclear energy on climate action. He highlighted that renewed focus on nuclear power may divert resources and political attention from more effective and immediate climate solutions. Professor Winfield emphasized the risks of delaying meaningful climate action by banking on technologies that are costly, slow to deploy, and face significant public and regulatory hurdles. [Read More](#)

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) Is Not a Silver Bullet for Solving the World's Problems

On April 14, 2025, Professor Hassan Qudrat-Ullah was featured in *YFile*, discussing the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and systems thinking in decision-making. He highlighted that while AI excels at identifying patterns, it must be integrated with a systems perspective to address today's complex global challenges effectively. His work, including four books published in 2025, such as *Navigating Complexity: AI and Systems Thinking for Smarter Decisions*, emphasizes using AI not as a standalone solution, but as part of a holistic toolkit. [Read More](#)

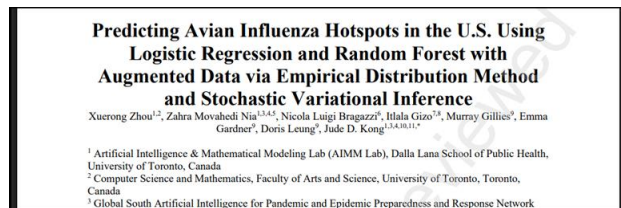
## Research Publications:

### Lessons From the UNGA79 Science Summit



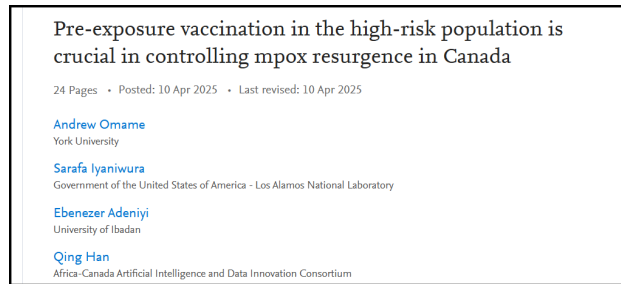
On April 25, 2025, Professor Jude Kong was featured as a coauthor in a new paper published on *SSRN*, titled "Shifting from Margins to Momentum of the Global South Leadership in Responsible Artificial Intelligence Solutions for Health: Lessons from the UNGA79 Science Summit." The study discusses how spatial indicators can provide critical early warnings of approaching regime shifts in complex systems. He highlighted that understanding these signals could play a vital role in mitigating societal and environmental risks. [Read More](#)

### Improving Public Health Response with Hierarchical Spatial Models



On April 10, 2025, Professor Jude Dzevela Kong was featured as a co-author in *SSRN*, contributing to the publication "*Hierarchical Spatial Models for Pandemic Early Warning and Resource Allocation: A Case Study of COVID-19 in South Africa.*" The study presents innovative spatial modeling approaches to strengthen early warning systems and improve resource allocation during public health crises. It highlights the value of incorporating geographic variability into pandemic preparedness strategies. [Read More](#)

## AI Models for Smarter COVID-19 Forecasting



On April 10, 2025, Professors Jude Dzevela Kong and Woldegebriel Assefa Woldegerima, both Y-EMERGE members, were featured as co-authors in *SSRN* for their publication “*Forecasting COVID-19 Indicators Using Spatial and Temporal Deep Learning Models.*” The study explores the use of advanced deep-learning techniques to enhance the accuracy of COVID-19 trend forecasting across different regions. It underscores the potential of AI-driven models in supporting data-informed decision-making during public health emergencies. [Read More](#)

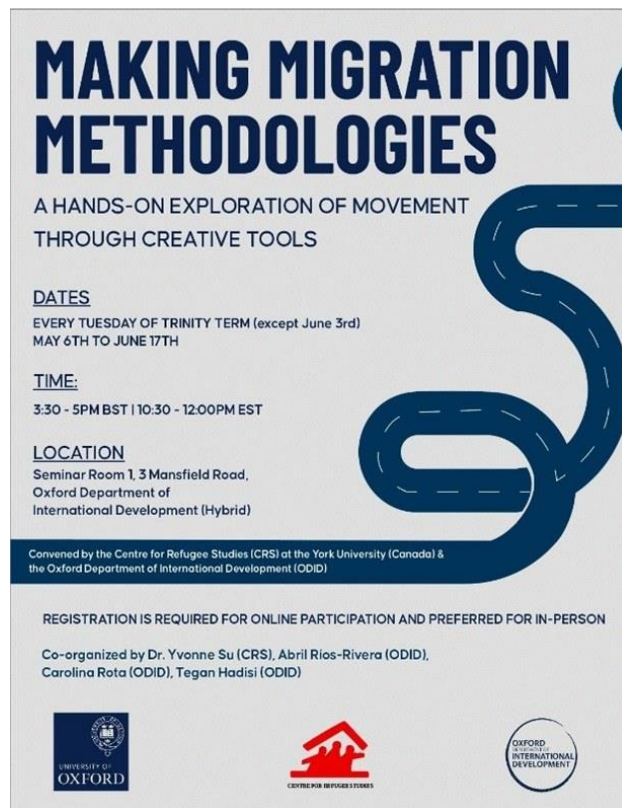
## Scoping Review Highlights Equity Challenges in Medical AI



On April 4, 2025, *BMC Medical Ethics* published a new study co-authored by Professor Aijun An, examining how bias can emerge in artificial intelligence (AI) models used in healthcare. The comprehensive scoping review explores the ethical implications of these biases and emphasizes the need for greater transparency and accountability in AI-driven health systems. The work adds to the growing body of research focused on ensuring equity and responsibility in the development and deployment of medical AI technologies. [Read More](#)

## Upcoming Events:

### Ongoing Workshop Series Explores Creative Tools for Migration Research



**MAKING MIGRATION  
METHODOLOGIES**

A HANDS-ON EXPLORATION OF MOVEMENT  
THROUGH CREATIVE TOOLS

**DATES**  
EVERY TUESDAY OF TRINITY TERM (except June 3rd)  
MAY 6TH TO JUNE 17TH




**TIME:**  
3:30 - 5PM BST | 10:30 - 12:00PM EST

**LOCATION**  
Seminar Room 1, 3 Mansfield Road,  
Oxford Department of  
International Development (Hybrid)

Convened by the Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) at the York University (Canada) &  
the Oxford Department of International Development (ODID)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ONLINE PARTICIPATION AND PREFERRED FOR IN-PERSON

Co-organized by Dr. Yvonne Su (CRS), Abril Rios-Rivera (ODID),  
Carolina Rota (ODID), Tegan Hadisi (ODID)

York University's Centre for Refugee Studies and the Oxford Department for International Development have launched an international workshop series exploring hands-on, arts-based methods for studying migration.

Led by Dr. Yvonne Su and a team of researchers, artists, and activists, *Making Migration Methodologies* introduces tools like photovoice, body mapping, participatory video, poetry, music, and digital ethnography. The series challenges traditional research approaches and centers migrant voices through storytelling and creativity.

The workshops began on May 6 and continue weekly until June 17 (except June 3), with sessions still open to new participants. The events are held in a hybrid format—both online and in person at the University of Oxford. 🖱️ [Register or learn more](#)

## 2025 CRS Summer Course on Refugee Issues: Climate Migration Futures



On June 2-6, 2025, York University's Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) will host the **2025 CRS Summer Course on Refugee Issues** under the theme *Climate Migration Futures: Shaping the Research Agenda for 2050*. This interdisciplinary course will bring together global experts, policymakers, and practitioners to explore the intersection of climate change and human mobility.

The course aims to challenge conventional approaches to climate migration and equip participants with innovative research tools and policy frameworks. Topics will include **planned relocation, statelessness, large-scale internal displacement, and governance solutions** to address climate-induced migration.

### What to Expect:

- ✓ **Expert-Led Discussions:** Insights from scholars at Harvard, Stanford, Oxford, and York University on climate migration governance and policy.
- ✓ **Hands-on Workshops:** Training on digital storytelling, rights-based relocation consultation, and participatory research methods.
- ✓ **Case Studies:** First-hand accounts of climate migration and policy responses from around the world.
- ✓ **Collaborative Learning:** Interactive sessions to develop future research priorities.
- ✓ **Publication Opportunity:** Participants can contribute to the *Climate Migration Futures* magazine.

### Special Early Bird Offer (Until April 15, 2025)

To support institutions and individuals facing financial challenges, a **50% discount** is available for virtual participation. The final cost will range from **CAD\$300 - \$462** (approx. USD\$ 200 - \$320), plus HST.

In-person attendees may apply for tuition subsidies ranging from **CAD\$100 - \$400**.

The **early bird registration deadline is April 15, 2025**. For more details and to apply, visit [Summer Course - Centre for Refugee Studies](#).

## Event Recap

### Y-Emerge Poster Presentation Workshop



The flyer is titled "Poster Design Workshop" and is framed with a blue border. It features the Y-EMERGE logo on the top left and the YORK UNIVERSITY logo on the top right. The text is centered and includes the following information:

**Poster Design Workshop**

*Dates: Fridays, April 4th, 11th, and 25th, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST*

*Venue: Zoom*

Are you preparing a poster for a conference or academic event?  
Don't miss the chance to enhance your poster design and presentation skills!

*This workshop offers:*

- Tips for creating visually appealing and effective posters.*
- Best practices for presenting your work at conferences.*

*In Session 3 (Optional): Present your poster virtually & receive feedback from peers and facilitators.*

Please register by March 31, 2025, by completing the  
**REGISTRATION FORM**

For questions, contact: [dadoust@yorku.ca](mailto:dadoust@yorku.ca)

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the **Y-EMERGE Poster Design Workshop** in April!

We held two main sessions on April 4 and 11, during which participants learned how to create clear, engaging, and visually strong academic posters. With support from Dr. Evalyna Bogdan and Dr. Eric Kennedy, the group explored layout tips, design tools, and how to present research in an easy-to-understand way.

Participants also gave feedback to each other and had a chance to work on and improve their own posters.

We loved seeing all the creativity and effort you put in. Big thanks to everyone who took part!

## Grants & Funding Opportunities:

### Upcoming Summer 2025 Research Grant Opportunities

As summer approaches, it's the perfect time to plan ahead for your next research funding application. Below are some key grant opportunities with deadlines in Summer 2025, as well as several rolling programs that remain open year-round but benefit from early planning and coordination.

### External Grant Opportunities:

- [SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants](#)

- **Deadline:** June 15, September 15, December 15, 2025
- **ORS Deadline:** Contact the Faculty Research Office
- [SSHRC Connection Grants](#)
  - **Deadline:** August 1, 2025
  - **ORS Deadline:** Contact the Faculty Research Office
- [NSERC Discovery Grants](#)
  - **NOI Deadline:** August 1, 2025
  - **Full Application Deadline:** November 3, 2025
  - **ORS Deadline:** Contact the Faculty Research Office
- [NSERC Discovery SAP Grants](#)
  - **NOI Deadline:** August 1, 2025
  - **Full Application Deadline:** October 1 or November 3, 2025
  - **ORS Deadline:** Contact the Faculty Research Office
- [NFRF Exploration](#)
  - **NOI Deadline:** August 19, 2025
  - **Full Application Deadline:** October 21, 2025
  - **ORS Deadline:** TBC
- [NSERC Alliance Society / Advantage](#)
  - **Deadline:** Rolling (No fixed deadline)
  - **Notes:** Ideal for summer preparation – coordinate with ORS

#### [Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies \(LA&PS\)](#)

- **Contract Faculty Conference Travel Fund (CUPE)**
  - **Deadline:** June 1, 2025
- **Scholarly Event & Outreach Fund (VPRI)**
  - **Deadline:** July 1, 2025
- **SSHRC Exchange – Conference Grant Program (ORS)**

- **Deadline:** August 1, 2025
- **LA&PS Travel Grant for Dissemination**
  - **Deadline:** August 1, 2025

**Student Scholarship: [IAEM 2025](#)**


[IAEM Scholarship Program](#)

Application Period: March 31 – May 30, 2025 (11:59 p.m. EDT)

Award:

- General IAEM Scholarships (~\$2,000+) for Full-time/Part-time Graduate and Undergraduate Students
- **Dr. E.L. Quarantelli Scholarship** (\$10,000) – for PhD students doing research in emergency management

To apply:

- Complete the Graduate Student application.
- Submit an additional project essay for Quarantelli award consideration  [IAEM Scholarship Website](#) Contact: Dawn Shiley – [dshiley@asmii.net](mailto:dshiley@asmii.net)

**Important Notes:**

All external grants must be submitted to ORS for institutional review and approval, typically 2–10 business days prior to the agency deadline. Please contact your Faculty Research Office for internal deadline details.

If you are planning to submit under Y-EMERGE as your hosting ORU, please let us know!

## Call for Papers

### Innovative Systems Approaches to Healthcare Systems

#### Innovative Systems Approaches to Healthcare Systems

- Print Special Issue Flyer
- Special Issue Editors
- Special Issue Information
- Keywords
- Benefits of Publishing in a Special Issue
- Published Papers

A special issue of *Systems* (ISSN 2079-8954). This special issue belongs to the section "Systems Practice in Social Science".

Deadline for manuscript submissions: **22 August 2025** | Viewed by 1078

**Share This Special Issue**



**Special Issue Editor**

 **Dr. Peter Tsasis** E-Mail Website  
Guest Editor  
School of Health Policy and Management, York University, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada  
Interests: implementation science, healthcare management, patient care, complexity science, complex adaptive systems

A special issue of the journal *Systems* is now accepting submissions focused on **innovative systems thinking in healthcare**. This issue invites contributions exploring systems interactions, interdependence, and change across healthcare and related sectors such as climate, policy, and emergency management.

Researchers and trainees are encouraged to submit work ranging from early-stage conceptual frameworks to fully developed, data-driven studies. **Publication fees may be waived** for selected high-quality papers following peer review.

 [Learn more and submit](#)

## Open Research Positions and Opportunities

We are excited to announce three new Research Assistant (RA) positions available at

Collaboration for Emergency Management, Policy, and Preparedness Research ([CEMPPR](#)) Lab to both undergraduate and graduate students. These opportunities may be of interest to ECNs and other Y-EMERGE members.

The positions include:

1. **Environmental Scans for a Wildfire Science Needs Hub**
  - a. **Hours:** Initially 50 hours, with potential for renewal.
  - b. **Pay:** \$24 to \$39/hr, based on level of study.

- c. **Role:** Conduct an environmental scan of organizations addressing research needs in wildfire science.
  - d. **Application:** Send a cover letter and resume to [ebk@yorku.ca](mailto:ebk@yorku.ca) with the subject “Application for Environmental Scans for a Wildfire Science Needs Hub RA.”
2. **Mapping Local Government Jurisdictions in Wildfire**
- a. **Hours:** Initially 50 hours, with potential for renewal.
  - b. **Pay:** \$24 to \$39/hr, based on level of study.
  - c. **Role:** Develop an overview of government structures involved in wildfire mitigation across Canada.
  - d. **Application:** Send a cover letter and resume to [ebk@yorku.ca](mailto:ebk@yorku.ca) with the subject “Mapping Local Government Jurisdictions in Wildfire RA.”
3. **Barriers to Local Government Natural Hazards Mitigation**
- a. **Hours:** Initially 50 hours, with potential for renewal.
  - b. **Pay:** \$24 to \$39/hr, based on level of study.
  - c. **Role:** Conduct a literature review on barriers and enablers of local government involvement in natural hazards mitigation.
  - d. **Application:** Send a cover letter and resume to [ebk@yorku.ca](mailto:ebk@yorku.ca) with the subject “Barriers to Local Government Natural Hazard Mitigation RA.”

For more details on the positions, visit: [CEMPPR Opportunities](#).

If you are interested, please apply soon as positions will be filled on a rolling basis.

## Stay Connected

For questions or contributions, email us at [dadoust@yorku.ca](mailto:dadoust@yorku.ca).

*If you'd like to share a recent publication, upcoming event, or any other news in our monthly newsletter, please submit your information through [this Form](#). Past newsletters can be found [here](#).*

*We value your input! Please take a moment to share your feedback on this edition of the Y-EMERGE Newsletter. [Click here to submit your feedback](#).*

*Thank you for being part of the Y-EMERGE community!*