

# TRANSFORMATIVE DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE

Monthly Newsletter



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## DRG highlights

### [The future of cities in the wake of the pandemic: What will change? What should change?](#)

Researchers are trying to decipher the effect of the pandemic on inequity in urban settings. Professor **Roger Keil**, in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, points out that density is relational. “It only means something when people are involved. And people use density in different ways.”



### [Research shows shorter lockdowns could lead to fewer COVID-19 infections](#)

The researchers developed a novel model that reacts to realistic social dynamics, such as non-compliance of social distancing and isolation, or delayed compliance. They found that social fatigue and the cost of isolation, which could include lost wages or a psychological/social cost, can diminish the effectiveness of lockdowns and lead to worse health outcomes. This cost increases with each lockdown. Cases could increase unless shutdowns are optimized. The research is carried out by Faculty of Science Professors **Iain Moyles**, **Jane Heffernan** and **Jude Kong** (from left to right).





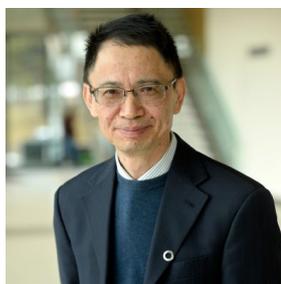
**Digital Global Health researchers take a deep dive into contact tracing apps**

Digital Contact Tracing (D-CT) apps are digital interventions that allow governments and epidemiologists to track and trace the spread of COVID-19. While D-CT apps represent a promising pandemic response tool, they are not without controversy. Little research has been done regarding the relationship between user-engagement and the efficacy and impact of these applications. The research is led by **Jennie Phillips** in collaboration with **Aaida Mamuji** (from left to right) and the DGHH Lab research team.



**Drive-through simulation helps agencies in Canada and U.S. to vaccinate more people**

The vaccination drive-through simulation, which has now helped organizations in both countries to plan how to get as many people vaccinated as possible, was developed by Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Associate Professor **Ali Asgary**, associate director of the Advanced Disaster, Emergency and Rapid Response Simulation (ADERSIM) in collaboration with the Laboratory for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (LIAM), led by Professor **Jianhong Wu** of the Faculty of Science (from left to right). Other members of the team are: Michael Chen, Richard Karsseboom, Mehdi M. Najafabadi and Svetozar Vaaltchef.



An online training session on "Transformative Disaster Risk Governance" was ran by Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Associate professor **Ali Asgary** for the Emergency Management Office of the Hamadan Municipality, organized by the Iranian National Office for Making Cities Resilient.

دیرخانه شهری ناب آوری شهری برگزار می کند:

وینار:  
**دگرگونی در حکمرانی ریسک بحران**  
 تاریخ ۲۹ بهمن ۱۳۹۹  
 همدان / جمهوری اسلامی ایران

Transformative Change  
 In  
 Disaster Risk Governance

The Iranian National Office for Making Cities Resilient runs:  
 17 Feb 2021/ Hamadan/ LR of Iran

دکتر علی عسگری  
 دانشیار گروه مدیریت بحران و سوانح دانشگاه یورک، تورنتو، کانادا

Dr. Ali Asgary  
 Associate Professor  
 Disaster & Emergency Management & Advanced Disaster  
 Emergency & rapid-response Simulation (ADERSIM)  
 York University-Toronto/Canada

به شرکت کنندگان گواهی نامه دارای کد دوره ی آموزشی تعلق می گیرد  
[www.skyroom.online/ch/dabirkhane/hmd](http://www.skyroom.online/ch/dabirkhane/hmd)



# webinar

## [York's Disaster and Emergency Management program is featured by The Hamilton Spectator](#)

The Hamilton Spectator showcasing Disaster and Emergency Management at York as one of 6 programs that “spark interest” and offer areas of opportunity highlighted by the pandemic.

## [Building blocks: Lassonde grad student works to make concrete block walls safer](#)

**Adrien Sparling**, a PhD candidate at the Lassonde School of Engineering at York University, is working to make concrete block masonry walls stiffer, taller and safer by conducting full-scale testing and research in the High Bay Lab at the Bergeron Centre. Sparling’s research is being conducted under the supervision of Professor **Dan Palermo** in the Department of Civil Engineering and explores the stiffness response of masonry walls, including how different methods of reinforcement impact these characteristics.



## Upcoming events

### [Transformative Disaster Risk Governance Webinar Series](#)

The first webinar, titled "Humanitarian Ethics" is organized by Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Professor **David Etkin** to take place on March 31, 2021. This webinar features Prof. **Hugo Slim** as main speaker, on the topic of “Humanitarian ethics: moral purpose and moral hazard”. Following Prof. Slim there will be a panel discussion with Professors **Peter Timmerman** and **Nergis Canefe** from York University, as well as a Q&A session with the audience.

## What is next?

The **DRG Webinar Series** will continue to take place every month for 4-5 months, featuring researchers at different career stages such as faculty, graduate students, post-docs and trainees.

For the updates visit the [DRG website](#).

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