DRG highlights

**Engineering team addresses flood management, urban planning and sustainable development**

This research was led by Professor Usman Khan led this new research in collaboration with Professor Mojgan Jadidi and grad student Sarah Kaykhosravi. The work, which focused on three Canadian cities, determined that Low Impact Development (LID), a technique that reduces storm water runoff to manage urban flooding, was one way to solve this mounting, global threat. This research also investigated the impact of climate change and urbanization on the demand for LID in cities.

**Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change students are all about planning**

As a result of the federal grant, students in two classes taught by Laura E Taylor, an associate professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, are working with the Climate Risk Institute, in partnership with Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) and Risk Sciences International, on climate change adaptation – adapting to extreme weather events – training for professional planners. Undergraduate students from Taylor’s Sustainable Urbanism course are reviewing the course modules for this training and providing feedback about them to the Climate Risk Institute.
Trailblazing report offers policy solutions for long-term care during COVID-19 and beyond

Sociologist Pat Armstrong, an expert on the Canadian healthcare system, has co-authored a ground-breaking report that gives government stakeholders a literal how-to plan on improving long-term residential care. It provides a path forward at a vital point in time. With this publication, Armstrong and her co-authors bring their expertise to build new tools and strategies to address the historic crises we are currently facing.

York University researchers leading national infectious disease modelling efforts

Researchers in York University’s Faculty of Science have been awarded federal government funding to lead national disease modelling efforts that will help better predict, prevent and respond to emerging infectious disease. The Mathematics for Public Health (MfPH) led by University of Toronto mathematics Professor V. Kumar Murty and co-led by York University mathematics Professor Jianhong Wu (from left to right) received $3 million in funding.

Undergrad student takes third place in Global Ethics Day Video Competition

A third-year undergraduate student in York University’s Disaster & Emergency Management program, in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, has won third place in an emergency management video competition. Jonathan Waldman’s video was selected as one of the top three entries for the Global Ethics Day Video Competition, which asked for submissions of videos that explore access and equity in emergency management for the chance to win a $1,000 scholarship.
Transformative Disaster Risk Governance Webinar Series: Humanitarian Ethics

In this webinar, Dr. Hugo Slim talked about the moral purposes and moral hazards of humanitarian actions. He pointed out that the Disaster and Emergency Management (DEM) sector has greatly committed to the moral goals and particularly preventing hazards from becoming disasters. He also emphasized that DEM is going to grow quickly in the coming years and will receive a great attention and funding. The moral hazard is that with such a big scale of ambition and with thinking big all the time it becomes more difficult to keep in touch with the real people. During the panel discussion, Dr. Nergis Canefe drew attention to the issue of accountability and transparency. She discussed that with the creation of the international humanitarian disaster sector, the states and societies may stop being proactive and respond to their own problems. Dr. Peter Timmerman pointed out that in the seven fundamental principles of the red cross, protecting the life and health of humans is mentioned, however it is very important to include guidelines for protecting the life and health of animals and the environment.

Upcoming events

Transformative Disaster Risk Governance Webinar Series

The second webinar, titled "AI for Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development" is organized by Faculty of Science Professor Jude Kong to take place on April 30, 2021. This webinar features Dr. Bruce Mellado and Dr. Mduduzi Mbada as the main speakers. Then there will be a panel discussion with professors Fred Roberts, Alex Ferworn, Usman Khan and Jianhong Wu, as well as a Q&A session with the audience. More information can be found here.