

# TRANSFORMATIVE DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE

Monthly Newsletter



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## DRG highlights

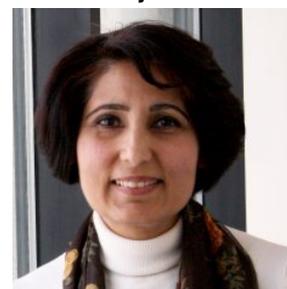
### [Lassonde professor combats microplastic contamination in Lake Ontario](#)

**Shooka Karimpour**, a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the Lassonde School of Engineering at York University, is working to tackle the spread of plastics in aquatic systems where the decomposition of plastics is having a major impact on aquatic health. She has received a Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Alliance Option 2 Grant, totaling \$493,400 over five years to help tackle this growing problem through the project, “Hidden microplastics of the Niagara Basin: distribution, variability, and ecotoxicology in water and sediments.”



### [Research on Syrian refugees and depression tells powerful story of letdowns, could spur change](#)

A Health Professor **Farah Ahmad** is dedicated to serving the most marginalized and vulnerable with a focus on primary care settings and psychosocial health. She recently examined data collected for the Syrian Refugee Integration and Long-term Health Outcomes in Canada study (SyRIA.lth) for the mental health of 1,924 Syrian refugees settled in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. The research team found that the rates of depression among the refugees were much lower than those found in other Syrian refugee populations.





# webinar

## **First Canadian UN leadership training centre opening at York**

As a leader in the effort to build a more socially, economically and environmentally sustainable world, York University and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) are proud to announce the establishment of Canada's first Centre International de Formation des Acteurs Locaux (CIFAL). CIFAL centers provide innovative training throughout the world and serve as hubs for the exchange of knowledge among government officials, the private sector, academia and civil society.

## **Transformative Disaster Risk Governance Webinar Series: AI for Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development**

This Webinar was organized to provide an update on the "Predictive modeling and forecasting of the transmission of COVID-19 in Africa using Artificial Intelligence" project supported by the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC). In this webinar, Mr. Mbada, the Head of the Policy Unit, (Deputy Director-General), in the Gauteng Government, Office of the Premier, South Africa, gave a review of the use of Data Science Tools in the province of Gauteng's pandemic response with an emphasis on their evidence-based decision-making.

Professor Mellado, a member of the Gauteng Premier's COVID-19 Advisory Committee, explained in detail how AI was useful in managing the pandemic through examples such as modeling the hot spots in Gauteng, modeling the three phase vaccine roll-out and the development of an early detection algorithm to predict the third wave. The panel discussion was devoted to discuss the use of Artificial Intelligence as a powerful tool to combat, mitigate and sustainably manage disaster risks in different types of disasters.

## **What is next?**

The third webinar of the Transformative Disaster Risk Governance Webinar Series will take place in June. For more information please visit the DRG [events page](#).

**The DRG webinar series will resume in September.**

## **Newsletter signup**

To subscribe to our newsletter click [here](#). **Please note that the newsletter will be published bimonthly during the summer.**

### **Contact:**

mahnazal@yorku.ca