



# **IDRiM**

# **Lecture**

# **Series**

**5<sup>th</sup>**

**Date:** 12th December 2023

**Time:** 11:00 am (UTC)

**Lecturer:** Prof. Andrew Collins

**Title**

**Empowering Human Vulnerability Reduction through  
People-centred Approaches to Health and Well-being  
in Disaster Risk Management**

# Guest Lecturer



## Andrew Collins

Andrew Collins is Professor of Disaster and Development at Northumbria University, United Kingdom. He has lead initiatives on intersecting disaster and development issues and their various conceptualisations since around the year 2000 after entering academia in 1992 for doctoral research. This followed a practice based technical background that included periods in the UK private sector and in voluntary international skill sharing, the latter of which was aimed at working for peace and justice in marginalised settings of Africa.

Andrew's primary research interest is to improve theoretical, methodological and policy impacts of disaster risk reduction and response, health ecology, adaptive capacity and human security. In this context he led the establishment of an ongoing disaster management and sustainable development postgraduate programme at Northumbria active since 2000 with an accompanying disaster and development research centre that later became a network. He has served as Chair of the Board of Directors of GADRI, Co-Chair of the United Kingdom Alliance for Disaster Research (UKADR), Chair of Enhanced Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance (ELRHA), a Board Member of the International Society for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM) and lead various international committees and consultations operating in the interests of disaster reduction linked to the ongoing agendas of the United Nations.

He is currently working on identifying the types of data that amplify the people-centred approach in disaster risk reduction recognising that action orientated approaches to risk assessment and management are highly valuable in extreme environments, particularly in low-income countries.



# Abstract

## Empowering Human Vulnerability Reduction through People-centred Approaches to Health and Well-being in Disaster Risk Management

**Andrew E. Collins**

Abstract:

Decision-making in disaster risk management continues to gradually evolve from a predominantly centralised, 'command and control' style of management to more 'people-centred' approaches involving local participation. This is a response to demand that has been assisted in part by practice linked research demonstrating the efficacy of embedding vulnerability reduction processes in society, catalysing group engagement, and maximising local knowledge. As such the resilience of diverse groups of people gets enhanced through self-coordinated actions and risk communication, reducing dependence on external support and oft inadequate interpretations of complex drivers of precarity. In realising disaster risk and response as essentially people-centred in this way, health and well-being and education initiatives can play a central role in many of the tenants of short and long-term integrated disaster and development objectives including in contexts of persistent uncertainty.

This presentation elaborates that vulnerability mitigation, which is a necessity for addressing health and well-being, requires risk management capabilities that are co-designed locally through responsive and often innovative methodologies. Key components consistently include community ownership of risk assessment, a more comprehensive application of early warning principles and the removal of authoritarian barriers to sustainable survivability. Opportunities for change through socio-economic and behavioural influences are then complimented by hazard sciences leading to options for real-time addressing of compounded risk unique in space and time. The hope is that individual and group vulnerability reduction through people-centred disaster risk management approaches, aligned with accessible and action orientated disaster risk science, will significantly impact on human induced insecurities that are bound by world systems of power, control and ecosystem degradation.

The discussion aimed at from this presentation will be on how we can move forward to address critical current and future emergencies using local and global people centred actions on vulnerability and risk that, aided by open science, become more impactful on underlying processes of regional and global change.



# Zoom & Time

<https://kyoto-u-edu.zoom.us/j/87600128842?pwd=UaDaDKz5kWHarDA1Oxme391u3fH0aD.1>

Meeting ID: 876 0012 8842  
Passcode: 254326

Timezone	Time
EST	6:00 am
UTC	11:00 am
IST	16:40 pm
JST	20:00 pm