
Outline

A leader in inter-disciplinary research, education and advocacy to improve the resilience of nations and communities

What would it be like to live in a world in which government authorities, businesses, communities and individuals work together to create a society that is able to withstand the effects of unforeseen events and threats? At the Global Disaster Resilience Centre we are working with stakeholders at the global, national, municipal and local level to make this happen. The Global Disaster Resilience Centre is committed to excellence in research, education and advocacy to improve the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. Global Disaster Resilience Centre (GDRC) carries out research, education and advocacy activities to help improve the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. GDRC's work focuses on the role of the built environment: how the design, development and management of buildings, spaces and places can be used to increase resilience.

Much of the Centre's work is multi or interdisciplinary, and the team work closely with UK and international academic partners from across the social and physical sciences, as well as key stakeholders from policy, government and industry. They provide strategic advice and practical guidance based on rigorous research that is informed by industry and community members. With growing population and infrastructures, the world's exposure to hazards is increasing. When disaster strikes, communities may need to be rebuilt physically economically and socially. At the same time, it is vital that any reconstruction activity pro-actively considers how to protect people and their environment, and reduce a community's vulnerability.

Research themes

Research areas include, but are not limited to: Disaster resilience from the perspective of the social/political, economic and physical sciences, and across national boundaries; Critical social, economic, and physical factors that enable a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure; Designing Sustainable Housing Systems for Vulnerable Communities; Disasters, Reconstruction and Design Responsibility; urban resilience, sustainable urban designs for post disaster reconstruction; Disaster relief: humanitarian architecture for post-disaster shelter; New mechanisms to input planning and designing solutions that help create a resilient community; Understanding disaster risk; Development of innovative national and local policies and practices for disaster risk management; Strengthening governance to manage disaster risk; Preparedness for response, recovery and reconstruction – "Build Back Better"; Community engagement and participation in reconstruction; Social impact of reconstruction; Empowerment of women and other vulnerable groups; Community maturity for improved disaster resilience.

International activities

The Centre contributes to national and international committees to advise and guide on strategic and technical issues pertaining to disaster management. The Centre also provides leadership in actively helping to determine the research direction of the field, with a major International journal, periodic conferences and events, and frequent publication of cutting edge research in refereed journals, which are acclaimed nationally and internationally.

More details:

<http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/othenationalandinternationalengagements/>

Recent projects

The Centre's members are very experienced in obtaining European research councils funding. They lead and contribute to major collaborative international research projects that involve partners across the globe. Some examples include:

- ANDROID (Academic Network for Disaster Resilience to Optimise educational Development) – a partnership with 67 international partners
- CASCADE (Collaborative Action towards Societal Challenges through Awareness, Development and Education) – an international partnership with 17 partners

The Centre is keen to develop future projects that address societal challenges and international cooperation, inclusive, innovative and secure societies, support for bilateral, multilateral and bi-regional policy dialogue, and networking and twinning activities to facilitate partnering and competence building. Research project details: <http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/researchprojects/>

PhD programme

The Centre's PhD programme lays the foundations of inquiry that are relevant to disaster management. Researchers benefit from its strong research culture and there are strategies in place to ensure PhD research is of the highest quality and can achieve sustained growth. The Centre has defined principles that are applied throughout its work.

Protocols are designed to ensure researchers have sufficient time, authority and responsibility to conduct and develop their activities. This mechanism is also designed to maximise the opportunity to invest in and nurture researchers under the mentoring of senior researchers.

More details: <http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/researchdegreeopportunities/>

Protecting and rebuilding communities

With populations and infrastructures increasing the world over, our exposure to hazards is increasing. It is vital that we consider how to protect people and their environment, and reduce a community's vulnerability. GDRC's work recognises that development of the built – or physical – environment must not be carried out in a vacuum. Instead, much of the GDRC's work highlights the importance of developing resilience through linking the community's built environment to its broader social, natural, institutional and economic needs. When a disaster does strike, the built environment also plays a vital role in the recovery process as communities need to be rebuilt physically, economically and socially.

Research Achievements and Challenges

- [Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga](#) and [Professor Richard Haigh](#) have been Advisory Panel members of the UNISDR making cities resilient campaign since its inception in 2010. GDRC contributes as a main global partner in the campaign, representing academic, technical and expert institutions, and also contributes toward the campaign's overall goal - empower local governments with stronger national policies to invest in risk reduction at local level, as part of urban and regional development plans by working with them closely. They also have been formally identified as Advocates of the UNISDR Making Cities Resilience Campaign and in this role, they promote urban disaster resilience in their spheres of influence.
- Excel in research within an interdisciplinary environment
- Lead international research that has a global reach and impact (<http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/latestnews/>)
- Edit the International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment Journal (SCOPUS indexed) - <http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/internationaljournalofdisasterresilienceinthebuiltenvironment/>
- Constantly publish our research - internationally outstanding, displaying a very high level of originality, significance and rigour, innovative and potentially agenda setting (<http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/publications/>)
- Are a key partner of the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign and are members of its steering committee
- Act as Advocates of UNISDR
- Are a UNHABITAT University
- Provide leadership to our international conferences on building resilience (<http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/buildingresilienceconferenceseries/>)
- Lead the ANDROID Disaster Resilience Network (<http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/researchprojects/android/>)
- Provide leadership for capacity building activities globally (<http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/capacitybuildingactivities/>)
- Have a friendly and supporting research environment - <http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/researchdegreeopportunities/>
- Make a difference with research in the real world - <http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/creatingimpactthroughresearch/>
- Have a thriving postgraduate researcher community - <http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/researchdegreeopportunities/>

The Global Centre for Disaster Resilience is part of the School of Art, Design and Architecture at the University of Huddersfield in the UK. In November 2013, the University of Huddersfield was awarded the Times Higher Education University of the Year. The University excels in enterprise and innovation and in 2012, was named the Times Higher Education Entrepreneurial University of the Year.

International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment



ISSN: 1759-5908

Editors: Professor Richard Haigh and Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga

Frequency: 4 issues per year

Indexed in Scopus

Website: www.emeraldinsight.com/ijdrbe

The journal aims to further knowledge and understanding of the link between the built environment and disaster mitigation, response and reconstruction.

The journal seeks to:

- Develop the skills and knowledge of the built environment research community and professions working in disaster prone areas, so that they may strengthen their capacity in strategic and practical aspects of disaster prevention, mitigation, response and reconstruction
- Provide a unique forum for novel enquiries into the development and application of new and emerging practices as a source of innovation to challenge current practices
- Promote the exchange of ideas between researchers, educators, practitioners and policy makers
- Influence disaster prevention, mitigation, response and reconstruction policies and practices

The journal covers research and scholarly activity that examines the role of building and construction to anticipate and respond to disasters that damage or destroy the built environment. Although the origins and causes of disasters are varied, the consequences to human society are frequently similar: extensive loss of life, economic losses, hindering development goals, destruction of the built and natural environment, increasing vulnerability and disempowerment of the local community.

Indexed in the [Scopus](#) citation database, the journal develops built environment skills and knowledge and strengthens abilities in disaster prevention, mitigation, response and reconstruction, helping to mitigate the effects of disasters nationally and internationally.

International conferences

The Global Disaster Resilience Centre (GDRC) is leading major international academic conferences in the areas of resilience and the built environment. Its Professors Dilanthi Amaratunga and Richard Haigh established the “International Building Resilience Conference” series in 2006 and since then, have been chairing the conferences held under this banner.

It has led and contributed to the organisation of several conferences. These events demonstrate its role as a leader in the disaster mitigation and reconstruction field, an excellent organiser, and as a conduit for international collaboration and engagement.

These conferences brought together major international networks to address global challenges and advance research agendas. They extend the University’s reputation and its ability to influence policy makers, industrialist and academics alike.

Most recently, the 4th International Conference on Building Resilience was held from 8th - 11th September 2014, at MediaCityUK, Salford, in the United Kingdom (www.buildresilience.org/2014).

Previous conferences:

<http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/buildingresilienceconferenceseries/>

For more information about our research and advocacy, please contact:

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