

**Member Institution Data**

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# Disaster Management Centre

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Research Achievements and Challenges:

### SUMMARY OF BUDMC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Bournemouth University Disaster Management Centre (BUDMC) is a leading national and international centre on crisis and disaster management in the UK, and a fully designated Research, Knowledge and Enterprise (RKE) centre of Bournemouth University. Established since 2001, the Centre has secured an international reputation for its work in research informed (R) knowledge (K), enterprise and professional practice delivery (E), with a particular international renown for excellence for 'in country' knowledge transfer. The Centre's has achieved major success in securing research informed professional practice contracts in Oman, Ghana, Nepal, Turkey, Sierra Leone, Croatia, Sri Lanka and Nigeria, complemented by UK contracts that are regularly delivered to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and also include innovative market operations with the UK Independent School sector. The Centre also works closely with the private sector both in the UK and abroad.

The Centre is also home to research of international excellence under the stewardship

of a full Professor of Crisis and Disaster Management (Lee Miles) and Head of the BUDMC, Richard Gordon MBE. Indicative RKE achievements include, for example:

- Competitive external-funded research of practical relevance including, a UNWTO project on *Integration of Travel and Tourism into Emergency Management* (2013-14), EU RISE project (2016-2018) on *Disaster Robotics and Disaster Management Training in China*, and the GIZ-UNISDR-PATA *Hotel Resilient* project (2016) investigating hotel resilience to disasters in the Philippines.
- Regular involvement as external speakers and conference panels including, ATLAS (Portugal, October 2015); ISA (Atlanta, February 2016); Global Risk Forum (Davos, August 2016) and ISA (Baltimore, February 2017).
- Existence of a vibrant BUDMC research community, including a dedicated post-doctoral Research Fellow (Dr Henry Bang), and 6 PhD researchers in 2016, supported by a taught CPD postgraduate cohort via the MSc in Disaster Management and MSc in Crisis, Disasters and Cyber Security offerings and a new BUDMC dedicated e-learning portal, operational from 2016.
- RKE activities of the Centre resulting in major policy change, for example in the introduction of the national training policy for emergencies in Ghana and in developing emergency contingency planning for the Overseas Territories (OTs) of the UK.
- Successful delivery of tailored innovative simulation exercises and gaming tools – via the CNET virtual simulation platform - that continue to demarcate BUDMC in terms of international excellence and as a UK market leader in RKE in international disaster management.

The BUDMC continue to pursue its mission: ‘To be a centre of international excellence in international disaster management, with world class expertise in international public policy, emergency planning and business and organisational resilience aspects of international crisis and disaster management’.

Future Challenges include the advancement of identified key research themes, including

- *Integration of International Disaster Management*, focusing on Integrated Emergency Planning Systems, Crisis Communication and Risk and Vulnerability across sectors and agencies. This work includes major cross-sector investigations of Cyber Resilience (with Bournemouth University’s Cyber Security Unit) and Disaster Robotics, as well a particular focus on African Disaster Management (with specific reference to Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone).
- *Innovation of International Disaster Management* focusing on the emergence of ‘Entrepreneurial Resilience’ and policy entrepreneurship in crisis and disaster management. This work includes major research on the development of soft skill

sets and knowledge transfer as part of the 'bouncing forward' and/or 'bouncing back better' from disasters.

The Centre is also home to major internationally excellent research publications, including interaction with key authoritative outlets such as *The Guardian Small Business Network* and international press, such as in Oman. Recent indicative publications by BUDMC members include:

- Miles, L. (2016) The Five C's: International Disaster Management and Public Health and a Place for Entrepreneurial Resilience, *Perspectives in Public Health*, 136(6).
- Miles, L. (2016) Entrepreneurial Resilience, *Crisis Response Journal*, Vol. 11, No. 4.
- Guderjan, M. and Miles, L. (2016) The Fusion Approach – Applications for Understanding Local Government and European Integration, *Journal of European Integration*, DOI: 10.1080/07036337.2016.1176028.
- Gordon, R. (2016) Integrating Emergency Planning with Tourism and Travel, Part 1, *Gulf Fire*, 1(3).
- Miles, L. and Petridou, E. (2015) Entrepreneurial Resilience: The Role of Policy Entrepreneurship in the Political Perspective of Crisis Management. In Bhamra, R. (ed.) *Organizational Resilience* (CRC Press: London).
- Narbutaite-Aflaki, I., Petridou, E and Miles, L. (eds.) (2015) *Entrepreneurship in the POLIS: Understanding Political Entrepreneurship* (Ashgate: Aldershot).
- Miles, L. (2015) Responding to Ebola: The Importance of Entrepreneurial Resilience and Policy Entrepreneurs in Crisis and Disaster Management, *Public Sector Executive*, Oct/Nov 2015.
- Bang HN (2015) Disaster Management in Cameroon: The lake Nyos disaster experience: In *New Perspectives in Global Environmental Disasters*, Emerald Group (Ed), Emerald Group Publishing Ltd, London.
- Miles, L. and Wivel, A. (2014) (eds.) *Denmark in the European Union* (Routledge: London).
- Bang HN (2014) General Overview of the Disaster Management Framework in Cameroon, *Disasters*, Vol. 38 No. 3. Doi.10111/disa.1261
- Bang HN (2013) Governance of disaster risk reduction in Cameroon: the need to empower local government, *Jàmbá: Journal of Disaster Risk Studies*, 5(2). <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/jamba.v5i2.77>

### Suggestions for GADRI Future Directions:

2 suggestions:

Suggestion 1: In future, the GFDRR can focus specifically on disaster research in less developed countries especially the most vulnerable/at-risk groups. It is widely acknowledged within the International disaster community, based on empirical evidence, that disasters have the greatest toll in less developed countries, and hit the poor in these countries hardest, mainly because these countries and its people are the most vulnerable. It is also common knowledge that while only a small amount of people (11%) exposed to natural hazards live in less developed countries or countries with a low level of human development, they account for more than halve (53%) of the total number of recorded deaths (UNDP, 2004). In addition, it has been estimated that up to 325 million extremely poor people will be living in the 49 most hazard-prone countries in 2030, the majority in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa (Shepherd et al., 2013).

The Sendai Framework has also acknowledged that exposure of populations and assets has increased faster than vulnerability has decreased with dire consequences for disaster related loses and social, cultural, health and environmental losses especially at the local and community levels in developing countries. Some targets of the Sendai Framework are to:

- Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rates in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015.
- Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015.
- Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030.
- Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030 (UNISDR, 2015).

These targets will only be achieved if there are substantial improvements in DRR in less developed countries. Considering the current limitations and vulnerabilities to DRR in less developed countries highlighted earlier, there will need to be more research in developing countries to identify failures in DRR. This implies, therefore, that there is need for more research to investigate the underlying causes of risk drivers such as poor DRR legislative frameworks, unplanned and rapid urbanisation, poor land management, demographic change, weak institutional arrangements, lack of initiatives

for DRR investments, poverty that inhibits DRR and unsustainable use of natural resources amongst others. The research would develop indicators that can be used to enhance DRR in less developed countries. This would hopefully, increase the chances to achieve the above mentioned targets.

Suggestion 2: Need to Focus Research More Strongly on Innovation dynamics of disaster management as part of the process of understanding international disaster management. The Sendai Framework places an even greater focus on resilience and on training and simulations. Research on the role that soft skills training and human innovation in disaster management is a key future agenda item within this. These aspects need to be developed further especially in the wider context of developing organizational and human resilience in less developed countries as outlined in Suggestion 1.

References:

Miles, L. (2016) The Five C's: International Disaster Management and Public Health and a Place for Entrepreneurial Resilience, *Perspectives in Public Health*, 136(6).

Shepherd, A., Mitchell, T., Lewis, K., Lenhardt, A., Jones, L., Scott, A. and Muir-Wood, R. (2013) *The Geography of Poverty, Disasters and Climate Extremes in 2030*. London: ODI.

UNDP (2004) *Reducing disaster risk – a challenge for development*, United Nations Development Programme, New York

UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) (2015) Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction 2015–2030. [http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads/Sendai\\_Framework\\_for\\_Disaster\\_Risk\\_Reduction\\_2015-2030.pdf](http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads/Sendai_Framework_for_Disaster_Risk_Reduction_2015-2030.pdf).