



NORDRESS



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK



The Nordic  
Welfare Watch

PhD Summer Course: *Disaster social work: Resilience  
and crisis management in the context of welfare states*

May 24-27 2017  
in Skálholt and Reykjavík, Iceland

**Supervising teacher:**

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Faculty of Social Work, University of Iceland*

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## Aim, assessment and outcomes

**Aim:** The aim is to provide an opportunity for PhD students to learn about the main trends and theoretical development in disaster and global social work. Disaster social work applies a global perspective to address global injustice and threats to the environment (environmental/global social work). The course addresses disaster social work with communities and individuals. The summer school aims at bringing together students that are working with social issues in disaster research and giving them an opportunity to present and discuss their projects with fellow students and lecturers.

**Assessment:** 4 ECTS credits are awarded for a short paper presentation (2-4 pages) and 6 ECTS credits for a short paper presentation and a longer paper that must be related to the theme of the course (about 15 pages). Each day will include a mixture of keynote presentations, discussions with keynote speakers and workshops where students present and discuss their work under the guidance of experienced researchers and professors.

**Outcomes:** Following participation in the course, participants will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of main trends and theories and of disaster and global social work
- give and receive feedback; analyze, discuss and evaluate the research findings of other participants
- demonstrate the ability to identify potential areas of improvement within their own research

## Course Program

Wednesday May 24	
18:00	Registration and light dinner at the University of Iceland  Oddi coffee room 2 floor, Sturlugata 1, 101 Reykjavik (please see map)
19:00	Departure to Skálholt from Oddi
20:30	Arrival to Skálholt ( <a href="http://skalholt.is/3905-2/?lang=en">http://skalholt.is/3905-2/?lang=en</a> )
21:00	Short walk: Historical introduction to the saga and surroundings of Skálholt
Thursday May 25	
7:30-8:30	Breakfast
8:30-10:00	<p><b>Kathleen Tierney: <i>The New Sociology of Disasters</i></b></p> <p>Academic fields often develop and take new directions because of new scientific discoveries but also as a result of external shocks that call for re-thinking existing paradigms and theoretical approaches. In disaster research and related fields such as environmental sociology and risk analysis, new approaches have emerged in response to crises and disaster events. For example, Chernobyl and the Challenger and Columbia space shuttle accidents are examples of events that sparked new lines of social science inquiry. Hurricane Katrina was another event that had an impact on both the discipline of sociology more generally and the sub-field of disaster research. Much of the research that has been conducted since the Katrina catastrophe represents new ways of conceptualizing and studying disasters. The "new sociology of disasters" has been shaped by broader trends in the field of sociology and by the entry of new cohorts of scholars into the disaster research community. Importantly, it has also become more multidisciplinary, drawing from other fields such as political economy, critical geography, and science and technology studies. In this presentation, I discuss these trends and their implications.</p>
10:00-10:30	Coffee
10:30-12:00	<p><b>PAPER SESSION I:</b></p> <p>Chair: Professor Guðný Björk Eydal</p>
10:30-11:00	<p>Sóley Kaldal: <i>Design science with focus on applying risk and capability assessment methods in disaster management in the Arctic</i></p> <p>Discussants: Rasmus Dahlberg and Crystal A. Felima:</p>

11:00-11:30	Steven Forrest: <i>Flood resilience at the local level in the UK and the Netherlands</i> Discussants: Kathleen Tierney and Merja Rapelli
11:30-12:00	Lisa Kurtz: <i>Community resilience to disaster</i> Discussants: Carin Cuadra and Steven Forrest
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	<b>Rasmus Dahlberg:</b> <i>The turn towards resilience in Danish emergency management</i>  In recent years Danish authorities have initiated a turn towards resilience in emergency and disaster preparedness and management thinking. This development, which to some extent is inspired by and mirrors what has happened in the US, UK and other countries in the last decade, marks a novel approach to citizen involvement, holistic preparedness planning and sectorial integration. This talk discusses the contents and implications of a resilience - approach in contemporary Danish emergency management.
14:00-15:30	<b>PAPER SESSION II:</b> Chair: Lis Montes de Oca
14:00-14:30	Ingibjörg Lilja Ómarsdóttir: <i>How do municipalities in the Nordic countries tackle social consequences of natural disasters?</i> Discussants: Kathleen Tierney and Szymon Parzniewski
14:30-15:00	Magnus Weber: <i>Governing terror: Risk, policing and security in social work</i> Discussants: Michael Zakour and Sara J. English
15:30-16:00	Kate Crinion: <i>Disaster recovery and reconstruction</i> Discussant: Rasmus Dahlberg and Herdís Sigurjónsdóttir
16:00-16:30	Coffee
16:30-17:30	<b>PAPER SESSION III:</b> Chair: Guðný Björk Eydal
16:30-17:00	Cong Duan: <i>China and media disaster reporting</i> Discussants: Kathleen Tierney and Anne Back Nielsen
17:30-18:00	Heikki Laurikainen: <i>Preparedness, resilience and regional differences in welfare state</i> Discussants: Carin Cuadra and Anke Wellman
19:00 -20:00	Dinner
20:00-20:45	Evening session- special guest lecture: <b>Dr. Sólveig Þorvaldssdóttir:</b> <i>Risks and responses in the South of Iceland</i>

Friday May 26	
7:30-8:30	Breakfast
8:30-10:00	<p><b>Michael Zakour: <i>Vulnerability-Plus (V+) Theory: A Framework Integrating Vulnerability and Resilience</i></b></p> <p>This presentation defines disaster vulnerability and resilience concepts, and presents a theoretical model integrating theories of vulnerability and resilience. The Pressure and Release (PAR) model of Wisner et al. (<i>At Risk</i>, 2004) is used to depict the pre-disaster progression to community vulnerability. In the PAR model societal causes both create structural constraints and interact with them to result in unsafe community conditions. When a hazard affects a vulnerable community, then a disaster occurs. Resilience capacities act as moderating variables to promote a resilient disaster recovery. The availability of resilience resources is initially determined by the pre-disaster safety of conditions and level of vulnerability. Four types of resilience resources are economic development, social capital, communication &amp; information, and collective action. These resources must be of high quality and effectively networked for a community to recover in a resilient manner, and return to a high level of functioning and wellness for its constituent populations. Evidence supporting V+ theory is provided by a case study of Hurricane Katrina.</p>
10:00-10:30	Coffee
10:30-12:00	<p><b>PAPER SESSION IV:</b> Chair: Lis Montes de Oca</p>
10:30-11:00	<p>Crystal A. Felima: <i>Flooding, risk and resiliency in Northern Haiti</i> Discussants: Lena Dominelli and Sóley Kaldal</p>
11:00-11:30	<p>Merja Rapelli: <i>The role of social work in disaster management in Finland</i> Discussants: Michael Zakour and Lisa Kurtz</p>
11:30-12:00	<p>Anke Wellman: <i>Risk perception and behaviour in crisis situations</i> Discussants: Lena Dominelli and Heikki Laurikainen</p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	<p><b>Carin Cuadra: <i>Strengthening the role of social services in Swedish local risk- and vulnerability analysis: The development of a participatory model</i></b></p> <p>Swedish municipalities are under the law obliged to perform risk- and vulnerability analysis, R&amp;V, at a regular basis that involves all its functional areas. Such analysis shall form a base for emergency preparedness understood within the framework of disaster risk reduction. However, the social services has been found not to be involved to such an extent that could be expected given its central role in providing societal services. The role of social work is</p>

	generally to contribute to societal resilience through engagement with what is referred to as vulnerable individuals and groups. In this presentation I will present a recently delivered project aiming at developing a model that strengthens the role of social service in R&V.
14:00-15:30	<b>PAPER SESSION V</b> Chair: Guðný Björk Eydal
14:00-14:30	Sara J. English: <i>Safety in place: Building community capacity for emergency preparedness among seniors in rural areas</i> Discussants: Michael Zakour and Ingibjörg Lilja Ómarsdóttir
14:30-15:00	Szymon Parzniewski: <i>The role of migrants in building city resilience for emergency response and disaster risk reduction</i> Discussants: Lena Dominelli and Magnus Weber
15:00-15:30	Herdís Sigurjónsdóttir: <i>What changes have been made in the policy domain that frames the civil protection and emergency management system at local level?</i> Discussants: Carin Cuadra and Kate Crinion
15:30-16:00	Coffee
16:00-17:30	<b>PAPER SESSION VI</b> Chair: Lis Montes de Oca
16:00-16:30	Anne Back Nielsen: <i>Urban resilience building</i> Discussants: Michael Zakour and Cong Duan
16:30-17:00	Free time
17:30	Dinner
18:30	Departure to Reykjavík
20:00	Arrival to Reykjavík, Hostel Village Flókagötu 1
Saturday May 27: University of Iceland, Oddi and Háskólatorg	
10:00-12:00	Carin Cuadra, Guðný Björk Eydal, Rasmus Dahlberg and Lis Montes de Oca: <i>How to communicate our research to stakeholders + Workshop</i> Oddi room 106
12:00-13:00	Lunch Litla Torg (Háskólatorg)
13:00	30 social workers from the field join the course: Oddi room 101

<p>Saturday May 27: University of Iceland, Oddi room 101</p> <p>Seminar with PhD students and social workers</p> <p>Chair: Kristján Sturluson, lecturer Faculty of Social Work, University of Iceland</p>	
13:00-14:00	<p><b>Lena Dominelli:</b> <i>Greening Social Work Practice and Curriculum</i></p> <p>Environmental crises are becoming an increasing reality for many of the earth's peoples. These are leading to environmental injustice for all living beings, leading some species to extinction, and exacerbating human vulnerabilities. Green social work offers a holistic, value-based, transdisciplinary approach to both (hu)man-made and 'natural' disaster interventions, and challenges social workers to make caring for the environments that impinge on people's lives - the built infrastructures, and the earth's flora, fauna and physical ecosystem, a part of their daily practice routines. In this presentation, I will discuss what the Green Social Work Model of Practice entails, and how environmental injustice has to become environmental justice and integrated within social work's social justice framework. I then consider its implications for the curriculum in both the academy and the field. I conclude that mainstreaming green social work in the social work curriculum is a necessity if we are to respond to both (hu)man-made and 'natural' environmental crises.</p>
14:00-15:00	World café: PhD students present their projects to the social workers in small groups, Oddi Rooms 101, 104, 105 and 106
15:00-15:30	Coffee: Oddi 2 floor – coffee room
15:30-16:00	<p><b>Michael Zakour:</b> <i>Community Interventions in Disaster: Using Vulnerability-Plus (V+) Theory</i></p> <p>This presentation examines leverage points for reducing community disaster vulnerability and fostering community resilience. First we present community interventions for reducing the level of community vulnerability. Next, we discuss interventions for fostering disaster resilience by improving the availability and quality of resilience adaptive capacities.</p>
16:00-16:30	<p><b>Carole Adamson:</b> <i>A social work lens for a disaster-informed curriculum. Advances in Social Work and Welfare Education</i></p> <p>The presentation is a conceptual discussion that relates social work knowledge to disaster studies. The IFSW definition of social work outlines our dual focus, that of support for individuals, families and communities in adversity, and our values- and research-informed mandate to work at systemic and structural levels in order to prevent or mitigate the impact of inequalities, marginalisation or adverse events. Using the knowledge base of social work, the presentation captures and summarises some of the core theoretical and conceptual drivers that shapes a social work response to disasters and, by doing so, underscores the legitimacy of the social work voice at all stages of disaster prevention, response and recovery.'</p>
16:30-16:45	Diplomas and farewell



## Literature

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## Lecturers, teachers and assistants

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### Organizing committee:

On behalf of the Faculty of Social Work, University of Iceland the course was organized by a committee, under the lead of the supervisor, Guðný Björk Eydal, with Rasmus Dahlberg and Carin Cuadra.

## List of participants: PhD students

Name + mail	Topic	University	Department
Kate Crinion <a href="mailto:c.duan@rug.nl">c.duan@rug.nl</a>	Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction	Ulster University, Northern Ireland	Art Design and the Built Environment
Cong Duan <a href="mailto:c.duan@rug.nl">c.duan@rug.nl</a>	China and media disaster reporting	University of Groningen, The Netherlands	Globalistaion Studies and Humanitarian Action / International Relations and Internatnional Organisation
Sara J. English <a href="mailto:sarae@email.sc.edu">sarae@email.sc.edu</a>	Safety in place: Building community capacity for emergency preparedness among seniors in rural areas	University of South Carolina, United States	Social Work
Crystal Andrea Felima <a href="mailto:felima@ufl.edu">felima@ufl.edu</a>	Flooding, risk and resiliency in Northern Haiti	University of Florida, United States	Anthropology
Steven Forrest <a href="mailto:s.a.forrest@rug.nl">s.a.forrest@rug.nl</a>	Flood resilience at the local level in the UK and the Netherlands	University of Groningen, The Netherlands	Planning and Environment, Faculty of Spatial Sciences
Sóley Kaldal <a href="mailto:soleykaldal@gmail.com">soleykaldal@gmail.com</a>	Design Science with focus on applying risk and capability assessment methods in disaster management in the Arctic	University of Iceland, Iceland	Environmental Engineering
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Anne Bach Nielsen <a href="mailto:abn@ifs.ku.dk">abn@ifs.ku.dk</a>	Urban resilience building	University of Copenhagen, Denmark	Political Science
Ingibjörg Lilja Ómarsdóttir <a href="mailto:llo@hi.is">llo@hi.is</a>	How do municipalities in the Nordic countries tackle social consequences of natural disasters?	University of Iceland; Iceland	Social Work
Szymon Parzniewski <a href="mailto:sxp459@student.bham.ac.uk">sxp459@student.bham.ac.uk</a>	The role of migrants in building city resilience for emergency response and disaster risk reduction	University of Birmingham, UK	Political Science and International Studies / Institute for Research into Superdiversity
Merja Rapeli <a href="mailto:merja.rapeli@gmail.com">merja.rapeli@gmail.com</a>	The Role of Social Work in Disaster Management in Finland	University of Jyväskylä, Finland	Faculty of Social Work

Herdís Sigurjónsdóttir <a href="mailto:hes15@hi.is">hes15@hi.is</a>	What changes have been made in the policy domain that frames the civil protection and emergency management system at local level?	University of Iceland, Iceland	Faculty of of Political Science
Magnus Weber <a href="mailto:mange_sundling@hotmail.com">mange_sundling@hotmail.com</a>	Governing terror: Risk, policing and security in social work	Malmö University, Sweden	Social Work
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