Disaster Risk Management
Professional Practice Group

Review of activities
2022
Purpose

- Geography and geospatial technology in disaster risk management (DRM)
- Community of risk-focused professionals and academia
- Cross-sector membership
- Promote best practice and geography as a professional discipline
- Discover common approaches
- Support early career development
DRM-PPG members

- 89 members registered with the RGS-IBG and 262 in the LinkedIn Group – increased to 350 members
- Members include 53 Fellows of the Society, of which 25 are Chartered Geographers
- Broad representation across sectors
Current Committee Members (2022)

**Tina Thomson**  
Co-Chair  
[Tina_Thomson@ajgre.com](mailto:Tina_Thomson@ajgre.com)

**William Forde**  
Co-Chair  
[william@chagoda.com](mailto:william@chagoda.com)

**Matt Foote**  
Co-Honorary Secretary  
[matthew.foote@wtwco.com](mailto:matthew.foote@wtwco.com)

**Chris Ewing**  
Co-Honorary Secretary  
[chris.ewing@aon.com](mailto:chris.ewing@aon.com)

**Richard Teeuw**  
[richard.teeuw@port.ac.uk](mailto:richard.teeuw@port.ac.uk)

**Faith Taylor**  
[faith.taylor@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:faith.taylor@kcl.ac.uk)

**Vanessa Pilley**  
[Vanessa.pilley@defra.gov.uk](mailto:Vanessa.pilley@defra.gov.uk)

**Henry Dawson**  
Early Careers Representative  
[henry.dawson@erm.com](mailto:henry.dawson@erm.com)

**Kelvin Wong**  
Co-opted Member  
[kwong@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk](mailto:kwong@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk)

**James Sawyer**  
Co-opted Member  
[jsawyer@ifaw.org](mailto:jsawyer@ifaw.org)
## Review on Progress

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| Months 18 to 20 <br>(Dec – Feb 2022) | Networking events to increase student and early career participation | • 1x 'Fireside chat' 1-hour webinar providing "An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Disaster Risk Management for Geographers"
| Months 21 to 23 <br>(Mar – May 2022) | Raising awareness of women and gender inequality in disaster risk management | • 6 x Interviews with practitioners in the sector about gender inequality and their work
| Months 24 to 26 <br>(June – Aug 2022) | Continued drive to introduce early career geographers to disaster risk management | • 6 x Interviews with geographers working in disaster risk management (DRM) about the importance of geography and geographical skills to managing disaster risk.
| Months 27 to 29 <br>(Sep – Nov 2022) | Fostering cross-society collaborations beyond RGS <br>Thought leadership on climate change and disaster risk management | • Joint session of the RSPSoc ‘Disaster Management’ Special Interest Group and the ‘Disaster Risk Management’ Professional Practice Group of the RGS at the UK National Earth Observation Conference 2022 <br>• 1x Webinar on ‘Disasters and global change: how do we respond?’
| Months 30 - 36 <br>(Dec - June 2021) | Driving further thought leadership, engagement, and participation in the professional practice group | • Role of academic in disaster risk management <br>• NGOs in disaster risk management <br>• RGS Monday Night Lectures in-person <br>• "I'm a geographer" series refresh <br>• Further collaboration with RSPSoc and the AGI |
Summary of Activities 2022

- Fireside chat – Early Careers – March 2022
- Webinar - Disasters and global change: how do we respond? November 2022

Early careers webinar (An absolute beginners guide to Disaster Risk) with university students across the U.K. organised by the RGS sharing experiences from our DRM-PPG committee members.

- Well attended and available for watch again
- Sessions recorded and written up as blog posts
Summary of Activities 2022

RSPSoc DRM-PPG event

A joint session between RSPSoc and the DRMPPG was held at the UK Earth Observation Conference, 7th September (Jointly convened by Richard Teeuw and Matt Foote)
Session title – Emergency Management and Disaster Risk Reduction

Papers presented focussed on use of EO and geospatial data in mitigating and monitoring climate risks and impact assessment, as well as emergency management image-based applications:

• EO Monitoring of Flood Defences
• Satellite-based estimates of the impact of flooding on agriculture and the built environment in Bihar, India
• Extreme climate events and migration in Somalia; using multi-sensor EO data and deep learning
• Experiments to determine optimal effectiveness of drones for post-disaster search and rescue
Summary of Activities 2022

International Women's Day 2022 – a series of blogs with a focus on gender inequality and the work of women in DRM

Royal Geographical Society - International Women's Day 2022 (rgs.)
Summary of Activities 2022

Why Geography Matters in Disaster Risk Management

- A 6-person interview series demonstrating the importance of Geography and Geography students in the field of Disaster Risk Management
- Covered a range of fields from risk modelling, GIS and academia
- It is important to expose Geography students to the breadth of career pathways that are available within the DRM space

“Geographers have a detailed spatial awareness and the set of skills that come with this offer a unique perspective into disasters.”

“My experience as a geographer helps me see every component of our work as a part of a greater picture.”
Summary of Activities 2022

- LinkedIn Group
- 361 members as of November 2022
- Posts on related events
- Group members using disaster risk management practices across academia, government, NGO and private sectors