**Welcome from the Director, Dr Nichole Georgeou**

I am delighted to introduce our first Humanitarian and Development Research Initiative (HADRI) Newsletter. Established in 2016, HADRI aims to provide evidence-based approaches in humanitarian and development practice. We have a globally unique approach that bridges the academic and practice aspects of humanitarian response, rehabilitation and development. We ensure synergies, innovation and knowledge sharing and translation through collaboration with HADRI’s global and domestic partners, as well as through our engagement with Western Sydney University’s undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Humanitarian and Development Studies (HADS). HADRI has three main thematic research areas: Disaster Preparedness, Response and Management; Migration and Diaspora; and International Development and Security. [find out more about HADRI](#)

As HADRI Director I am working with academics and practitioners to contribute to debates on policy change surrounding humanitarian and development practice. My own journey to this position has involved different roles: as a civil society, activist, then as a student and researcher, as a University lecturer, and now as partnership builder. HADRI is keen to work with practitioners, agencies and civil society organisations in the Indo-Pacific region and across the world on evidence-based publications that lead to better policy formulation and humanitarian and development practice.

HADRI newsletters are produced quarterly and circulated to you by email. They aim to provide you with updates on HADRI research, and on public events held throughout the year.

**KEY EVENTS IN 2018:**

HADRI held eight public events in 2018, below are some of our highlights.

**Australia and the Global Compact Migration: opportunities for a new agenda:** A public seminar that brought together key policy makers involved in migration policy and planning at the highest level to consider how the Australian government and civil society actors supports, monitors and reviews the GCM. See [Outcomes Report](#) for more information.

**Investing for Development: a just transition to environmentally sustainable societies in Asia Pacific:** A public seminar that involved speakers from International Labour Organization (ILO), European Commission and Nepali partners from Kathmandu University (KU) and ILO, Nepal. This seminar was followed by a three-day intensive workshop for students from Western Sydney University and KU to workshop and develop Logistical frameworks for sustainable project designs in Nepal.

**Diaspora Responses in times of Disaster and other Crisis:** The seminar focused on the role of diasporas in providing financial and social assistance through knowledge, norms and values to their country of origin and host countries. This seminar provided a great opportunity to collaborate with diaspora organisations and others who work in the field to share ideas and investigate opportunities for action. See [Outcomes Report](#) for more information.

**UPCOMING EVENTS 2019**

Public lectures with our visiting researchers in April; GCM follow-up event in July; Diversity and Human Rights Film Festival in September

**RESEARCH IN FOCUS**

Dr Garry Stevens’s recent work with aid practitioners focuses on worker self-care and help-seeking attitudes in the context of work-related stress.

Ahmad Khan’s PhD research is on Human trafficking. His research is an examination of the psycho-social impacts of labour trafficking in Bangladesh. Ahmad comes from Bangladesh and brings with him extensive experience of working on Human Trafficking and its health impacts.

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

- Women and WASH in Nepal: Key Issues and Challenges
- Understanding the Relationship between Humanitarian and Development Interventions: A Mixed-Methods Systematic Review Protocol
- Food Security in Solomon Islands: A Survey of Honiara Central Market
- Development in the Urban Era: Six Strategies for Better Managing Urbanisation in Asia and the Pacific

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