

An aerial photograph showing a coastal area with significant damage. Buildings with corrugated metal roofs are partially destroyed or missing. Debris, including wood and metal, is scattered across the ground. A road with a 'STOP' sign and a car is visible on the right. The overall scene suggests the aftermath of a disaster.

Disaster Risk Management Professional Practice Group

Review of activities
2022

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

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

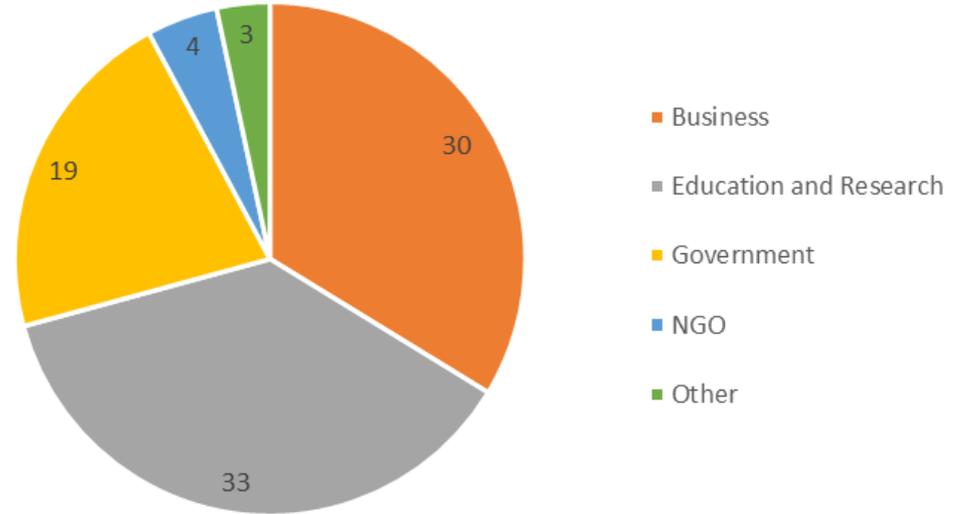
Photo: Toby Meredith, copyright
University of Portsmouth



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

DRM PPG members by sector



Current Committee Members (2022)



Tina Thomson
Co-Chair
Tina_Thomson@ajgre.com



William Forde
Co-Chair
william@chagoda.com



Matt Foote
Co-Honorary Secretary
matthew.foote@wtwco.com



Chris Ewing
Co-Honorary Secretary
chris.ewing@aon.com



Richard Teeuw
richard.teeuw@port.ac.uk



Faith Taylor
faith.taylor@kcl.ac.uk



Vanessa Pilley
Vanessa.pilley@defra.gov.uk



Henry Dawson
Early Careers Representative
henry.dawson@erm.com



Kelvin Wong
Co-opted Member
kwong@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk



James Sawyer
Co-opted Member
jsawyer@ifaw.org

Review on Progress

Period	Plan of Activities	Update
Months 18 to 20 (Dec – Feb 2022)	Networking events to increase student and early career participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x 'Fireside chat' 1-hour webinar providing "An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Disaster Risk Management for Geographers"
Months 21 to 23 (Mar - May 2022)	Raising awareness of women and gender inequality in disaster risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 x Interviews with practitioners in the sector about gender inequality and their work
Months 24 to 26 (June – Aug 2022)	Continued drive to introduce early career geographers to disaster risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (Sep – Nov 2022)	<p>Fostering cross-society collaborations beyond RGS</p> <p>Thought leadership on climate change and disaster risk management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 1x Webinar on 'Disasters and global change: how do we respond?'
Months 30 - 36 (Dec - June 2021)	Driving further thought leadership, engagement, and participation in the professional practice group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of academic in disaster risk management • NGOs in disaster risk management • RGS Monday Night Lectures in-person • "I'm a geographer" series refresh • 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



Disasters and global change: how do we respond?

Join the Disaster Risk Management Professional Practice Group for this lunchtime webinar on climate change, disaster risk management and the role of geography.

3 November 2022

**FREE TO ACCESS,
PROFESSIONAL INTEREST TALKS, 2022,
DRM PPG**

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 \(rgs\).](#)

Perspectives on gender inequality in DRM - Dr Clarissa Rios Rojas



Clarissa Rios Rojas, Centre for the Study of Existential Risk

How did you get to where you are today and what are your responsibilities?

I am a molecular biologist and after my PhD, I decided to jump into the science diplomacy and government science advice world. I now work at the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk at the University of Cambridge where I conduct research on the risks coming from emerging technologies and I also build science-policy interfaces that can provide scientific evidence and advice to different policy stakeholders (academia, public sector, businesses and civil society). I have worked closely with different international organisations building programs for women economic empowerment (UN Women), writing white papers on policy for economic transformation (WEF's Future Councils), collaborating on the production of reports on Foresight (G20, WHO), advising the new scientific agenda for the Sendai Framework (UNDRR/ISCR), leading Science Government Advice workshops (Global Young Academy/INGSA), mentoring scientists in the Global South (UN's Biological Convention Program), among others.

What are your views on gender inequality when it comes to the impacts from disasters or conflict situations?

The academic global catastrophic risks community would benefit greatly from having more experts and thought leaders that are women and that come from the global south. The report *Women as Forces for Change* by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean compiles a great variety of the work that women from Latin America are doing in the field. These women are also role models for younger generations that are interested in the field of disarmament, conflict resolution, global risk and peacebuilding. There is a lot of professional talent in the Global South that can contribute to international ongoing efforts for preventing disasters (natural or human-made). We simply need to be part of the conversation and have doors open to us to demonstrate our ideas and work.

What policies and interventions are needed to address gender inequalities across disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts?

Capacity building for men and women about gender equality, a quota for the participation of women in local/national and international efforts on disaster management, sharing of best practices about women's efforts on peacebuilding and conflict resolution (there are plenty of known cases but they are not shared/taught to other parts of the world) and more financial support for women from low and middle-income countries who are interested in studying careers aligned to this field.

Summary of Activities 2022

Why Geography Matters in Disaster Risk Management

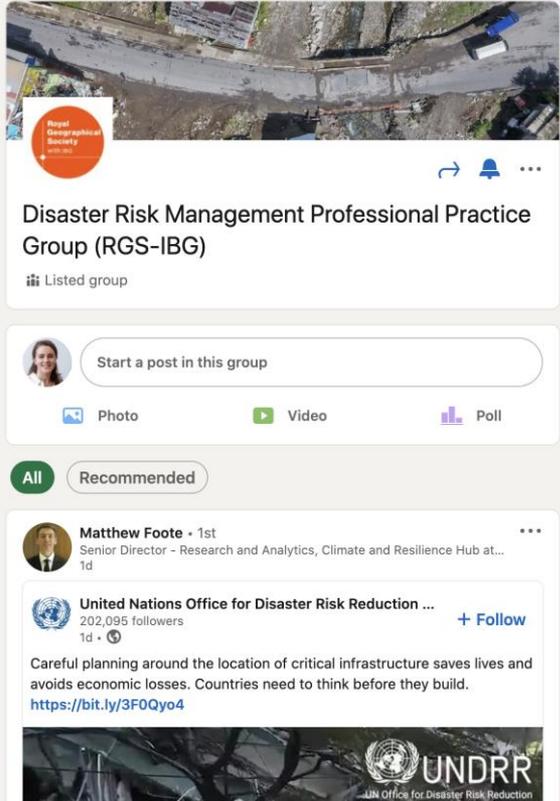
- A 6-person interview series demonstrating the importance of Geography and Geography students in the field of Disaster Risk Management
- Covered a range of fields from risk modelling, GIS and academia
- It is important to expose Geography students to the breadth of career pathways that are available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



Disaster Risk Management Professional Practice Group (RGS-IBG)

Listed group

Start a post in this group

Photo Video Poll

All Recommended

Matthew Foote • 1st
Senior Director - Research and Analytics, Climate and Resilience Hub at...
1d

 **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction ...**
202,095 followers
1d •  [+ Follow](#)

Careful planning around the location of critical infrastructure saves lives and avoids economic losses. Countries need to think before they build.
<https://bit.ly/3F0Qyo4>

 **UNDRR**
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction