



Transforming the Field
Education Landscape



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

SOCIAL WORK AND DISASTER NETWORK LAUNCH

JUNE 22, 2021

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, MDT



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



Join the Social Work and Disaster (SWAD) Network!

For news, upcoming events, and more information join us on Facebook at **Social Work and Disaster Network (SWAD)**, or follow the link at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/300458804953811>

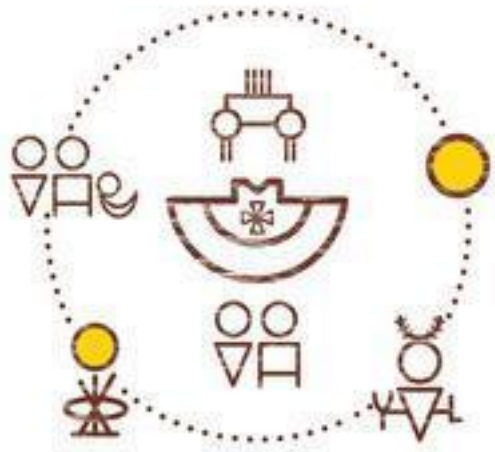
OR

Email us at: swadnetwork@gmail.com

SWAD | 2021

Territorial Acknowledgment

The University of Calgary, Edmonton Campus, respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Metis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.



University of Calgary Acknowledgment

This project is supported in part by the University of Calgary.



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SSHRC Acknowledgment

This project is supported in part by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

SSHRC  CRSH



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University of Calgary Welcome



Dr. Ellen Perrault, Ph.D., MSW, RSW

Dr. Ellen Perrault is Dean in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. She brings over 25 years' experience in educational leadership, research, evaluation, social work practice, coordination, organizational leadership, online education, and post-secondary educational development.

ACSW Welcome

Dr. Siu Ming Kwok, Ph.D., MSW, MPA

Dr. Siu Ming Kwok is the President of Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW) and Professor and Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs) in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. His research interests include not-for-profit organizations and municipal government management models. He has worked in the areas of criminal justice, addiction counselling, and child protection in the Hong Kong Government, Elizabeth Fry Society, and BC Ministry of Children and Family Development.



SWAD Network Introduction



Bonnie Lewin, MSW

**ESS Planner, City of Calgary
Calgary Emergency Management Agency
Alberta, Canada**

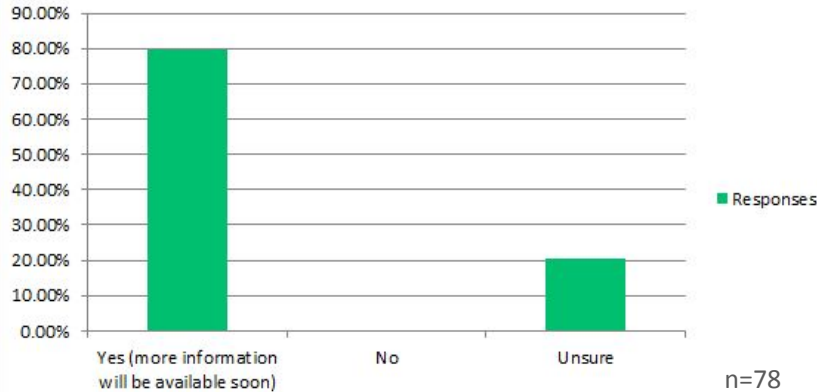


Dr. Julie Drolet

**Professor, Faculty of Social Work
University of Calgary
Alberta, Canada**



Would you join a network of social workers in the context of disasters?



BACKGROUND

- Increase rates and severity of disasters occurring in the world
- Bonnie and Julie have been talking about the need for a social work and disaster network since 2017
- Julie received funding to research 2016 wildfire experiences
- Subsequent research indicated need for support and professional development for social workers in disaster context



GOAL

- To build capacity and awareness of the role of social workers and social service professionals in disasters, and to build a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable society while reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities in Alberta

OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate information exchange, networking, and relationship building.
- To enhance collaboration and partnerships with professionals.
- Build community capacity before, during, and after a disaster.





Why join the network?

The Social Work & Disaster Network will:

1. Promote disaster training
2. Create a supportive network for social workers in disaster context
3. Share social work and disaster training

Psychological First Aid for a Pandemic

Psychological First Aid (PFA) is considered to be the first stage intervention during a disaster or emergency. During a pandemic, how we respond looks different but the principles are the same.

PFA Online Training allows responders to provide support over the phone to individuals that may be quarantined, in self-isolation, or practicing physical distancing in order to prevent the spread of a pandemic.

The 2 hour interactive online training will cover essential tools, key PFA action principles, and self-care for responders.

Research shows that people recover better after a disaster or emergency if they:

- feel safe and connected to other people
- have social, physical, and emotional support
- feel like they can help themselves and their community

Registration Information

Facilitated by:	Social Work and Disaster (SWAD) Network and the City of Calgary, Calgary Emergency Management Agency
When:	Thursday, July 8th, 2021, 10am – 12pm You will receive the invite and other resources the DAY Before
How to Register:	Email swadnetwork@gmail.com State in the Subject Line: July 8th, 2021 PFA
Participant Maximum:	30 Participants We will accept the first 30 people to register
System Requirements:	Microsoft Teams



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CONTACT US



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Email

swadnetwork@gmail.com



Co-chairs

Dr. Julie Drolet → jdrolet@ucalgary.ca

Bonnie Lewin → Bonnie.Lewin@calgary.ca

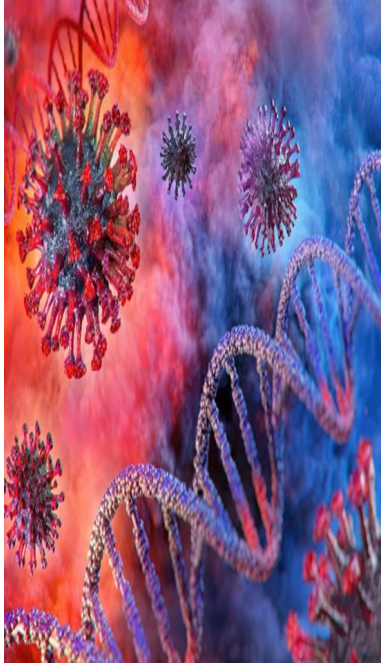
KEYNOTE

Green Social Work: Responding to the Challenges of COVID-19



Dr. Lena Dominelli, Ph.D., AcSS, CQSW

Dr. Lena Dominelli is Chair of Social Work and Programme Director, Disaster Interventions and Humanitarian Aid, at the University of Stirling, Scotland. Lena has specific interests in projects on climate change and extreme weather events including drought, floods, cold snaps; wildfires; earthquakes, volcanic eruptions; disaster interventions; vulnerability and resilience; health pandemics; community engagement; co-production and participatory action research. She has also created Green Social Work as a new paradigm for theory and practice.



Green Social Work for a 21st Century Pandemic: Covid-19

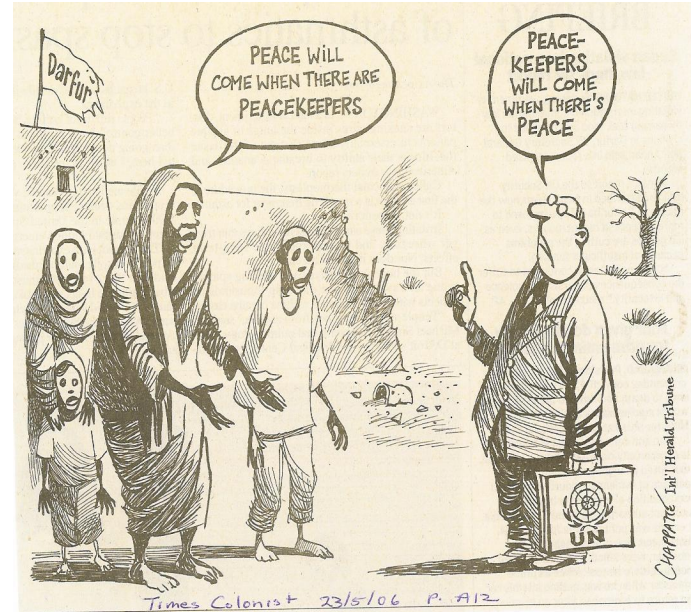
Lena Dominelli

Email: lena.dominelli@stir.ac.uk

21st century challenges in a world in constant flux

21st Century challenges are environmentally related:

- Professional and personal identities, professional voice.
- Curriculum and placement development.
- Labour processes based on bureau-technocratic practice.
- Economic inequalities, especially economic crises and austerity.
- Ineffective international institutions.
- Democratic deficits.
- Technological surveillance and securitization.
- Neo-colonialism.
- Mass migration, including climate change induced migration.
- Indigenous world-views.
- Locality-specific, culturally relevant practice.
- Controversies about values, especially equalities and diversities.
- Service user involvement.
- (Hu)man-made and natural disasters.
- (Manufactured) resource scarcities.
- Violent conflicts and (in)securities (over resources).
- Environmental abuse and degradation.
- Health pandemics (environmental transgression).
- Growing inequalities – 2,153 billionaires globally in 2020, and 50 richest Americans have twice the wealth of the poorest 165 million.

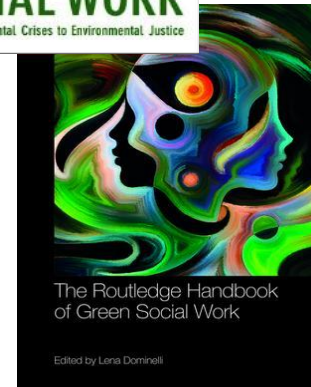
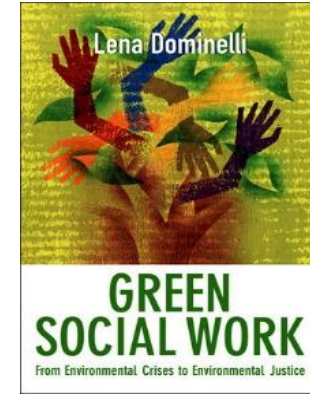


Values of social justice – valuing diversity, equality and inclusion, enable us to struggle against growing inequalities and injustice.

Defining a Green Social Work Perspective

A green social work (GSW) perspective:

- Is holistic and promotes sustainability.
- Cares for the planet (its flora, fauna and physical environment); care for the earth and it will care for people.
- Spiritual links go through an appreciation of nature.
- Integrates environmental issues with human behaviour.
- Connects and assesses socio-economic, political and cultural elements to human action in meeting needs.
- Challenges the exploitation of nature as a means to the end of making profits for the few at the expense of the many and planet earth.
- Envisages the world as interconnected and interdependent.
- Promotes global solidarity and the public good.
- Endorses social and environmental justice, human rights and egalitarian values.
- Promotes universalism in accessing health and education – free to all at the point of need, but paid for by pooling risks.
- Highlights differentiated experiences of disasters including health pandemics among marginalised, ethnicised, gendered groups.



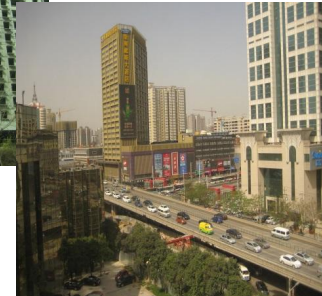
Defining Environmental Justice

- Environmental justice is the right to live in a sustainable, healthy environment that enables all peoples to use the earth's resources to meet current needs without jeopardising future generations' use of these while caring for the planet and all it contains.
- Duty to care for and care about others (and oneself), and planet earth now and into the future (7 generations each).
- This responsibility is holistic and global because it affirms interdependencies between people, their physical, social, political, economic and cultural environments as part of one whole entity: the planet.
- Global solidarity and mutual self-help locally.
- Recognises differentiated experiences of disasters, so no one size fits all.

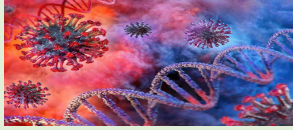


Issues of environmental (in)justice affect everyone

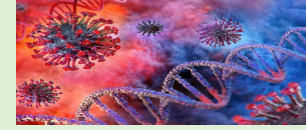
- Environmental justice is linked to social justice for all and integral to social work and community development in the 21st century and needs inclusion in the international definition of social work.
- Achieving this requires paying attention to:
 - How the earth's resources and labour power are used.
 - Developing sustainability as the capacity to meet human needs now and in the future without costing the earth.
 - Critiquing consumerism and environmental degradation.
 - Creating and maintaining global solidarities.
 - Mitigating and responding to disasters.
 - Mitigating the impact of current models of fossil fuel powered urbanisation and industrialisation.
 - Social policy failures in implementing environmental justice, e.g., neoliberal economic development, Kyoto Protocol/climate change.
 - Transgressing the human-animal barriers through industrialisation.
- Green social work issues affect everyone and invites everyone to become involved.







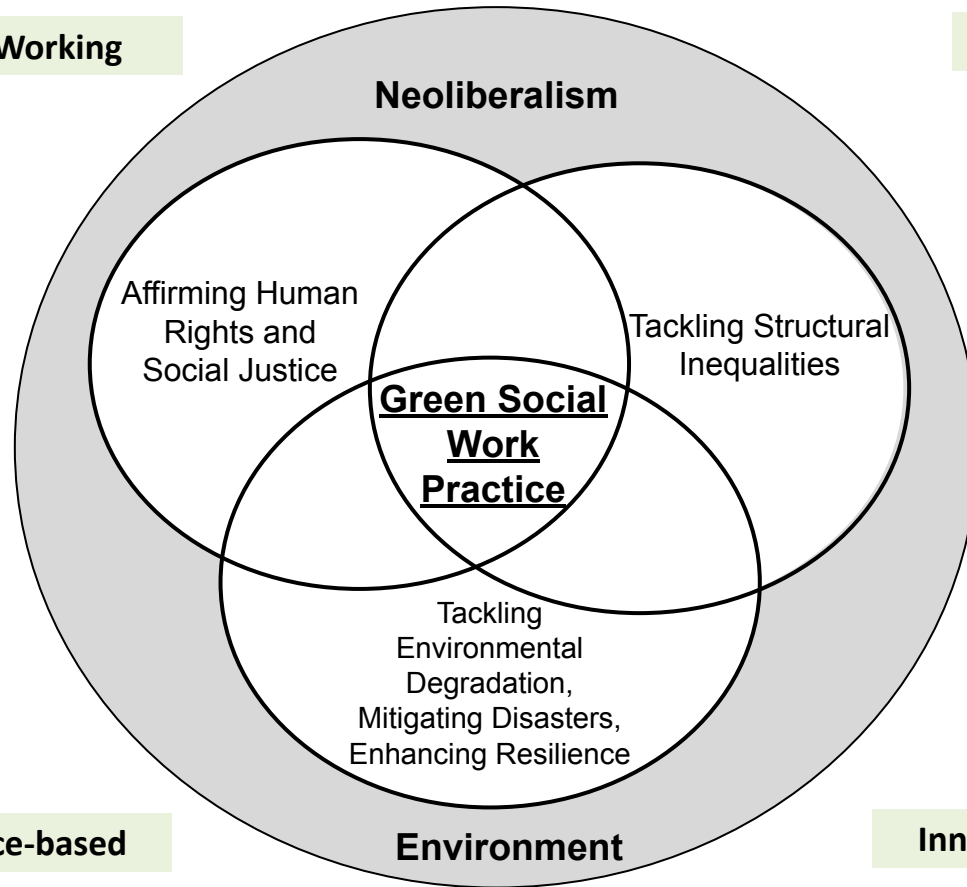
Covid-19, a Zoonotic Disease



- Covid-19 is a novel zoonotic disease caused by a coronavirus that has crossed the animal-human barrier as people increasingly encroach on wild animal habitats.
- The destruction of the environment makes animal-people contact easier and gives zoonotic disease a foothold in society as viruses adapt to survival in a human host and destroys indigenous lifestyles.
- Covid-19 is like SARS-CoV-2, a coronavirus like SARS and MERS which preceded it.
- Crossed the animal-human barrier to emerge in Wuhan, China in December 2019.
- Preventing diseases and ensuring sustainability becomes a duty for every person.
- SARS and MERS did not reach pandemic proportions. Why not?
- Much remains unknown about Covid-19, a new respiratory disease.
- Spreads quickly and easily, many people with a mild form are asymptomatic.
- Older people and those with existing health conditions are more susceptible.
- The World Health Organisation defined it as a pandemic (which is about spread and not infectiousness) on 11 March 2020.

Transdisciplinary Working

Coproduction



Research and Evidence-based

Innovative Dialogical Action

Green social work practice (values and action) tackles the oppression of people and degradation of the environment, and critiques neoliberalism's approach to exploiting people and earth's resources.

Social workers' roles in disasters of all types

In disasters including pandemics, social workers perform the following roles:

- Facilitators
- Coordinators
- Community mobilizers
- Resource mobilizers and coordinators
- Negotiators
- Mediators
- Consultants
- Advocates
- Educators
- Consciousness-raising
- Trainers
- Cultural interpreters
- Psychosocial therapists and counsellors
- Scientific translators conveying scientific knowledge to communities clearly.



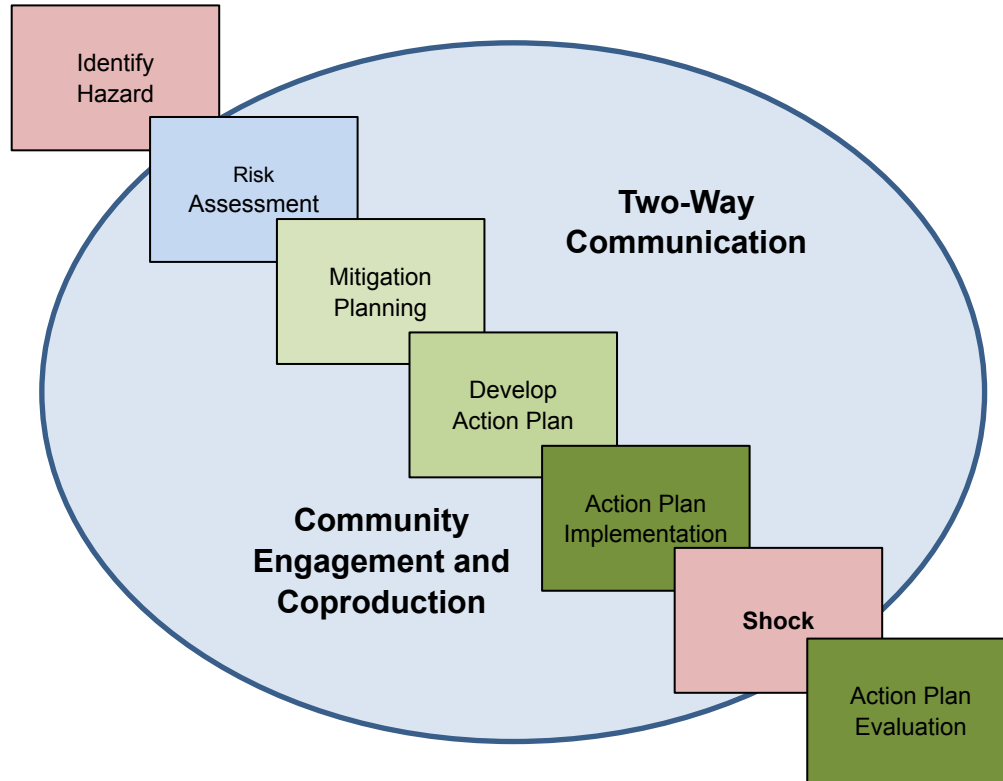
Transdisciplinary green social work tasks

Tasks for green social workers tackling structural inequalities and degraded environments, and responding to disasters, however, caused:

- Assessing needs and resources (of all kinds) available;
- Coordinating and delivering goods and services;
- Assisting families to meet their obligations to each other and their communities;
- Supporting individuals and communities in rebuilding their lives, developing resilience and building capacity to minimise future risks; and
- Advocating, lobbying and mobilising for changes that:
 - prevent the continuation of structural inequalities;
 - develop sustainable alternative models for socio-economic development using renewable energy; and
 - enhance the well-being of people, other living things and planet earth.

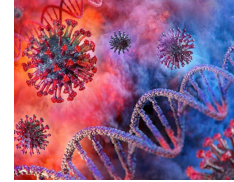


Green Social Work Tasks in Disaster Intervention Cycles



Social Work During the Covid-19

- Social workers have generic skills that enable them to respond to crisis situations, using a range of theoretical perspectives and practice methods ranging from crisis interventions to counselling.
- Social workers undertake their normal duties during a pandemic including safeguarding children and older people, responding to the needs of disabled people and those with mental ill health concerns.
- Social workers undertake new roles during pandemics, depending on the country they work in, e.g., in China, they undertook a lot of community work, disinfected community buildings and streets, tested people's temperatures in the streets.
- In the West, they supported people at a distance, online, and by coordinating resources and information to meet people's daily needs.
- Social workers working from a green perspective will lobby against the exploitation of nature for the purpose of making profits for the few and against the low pay of workers working in agribusiness and non-environmentally friendly, health-destroying businesses.
- Green social workers will also argue for the protection of tropical and temperate rainforests and the reduction/elimination of fossil fuel usage.
- Green social workers will also lobby for climate change initiatives (1.5°C rise max).

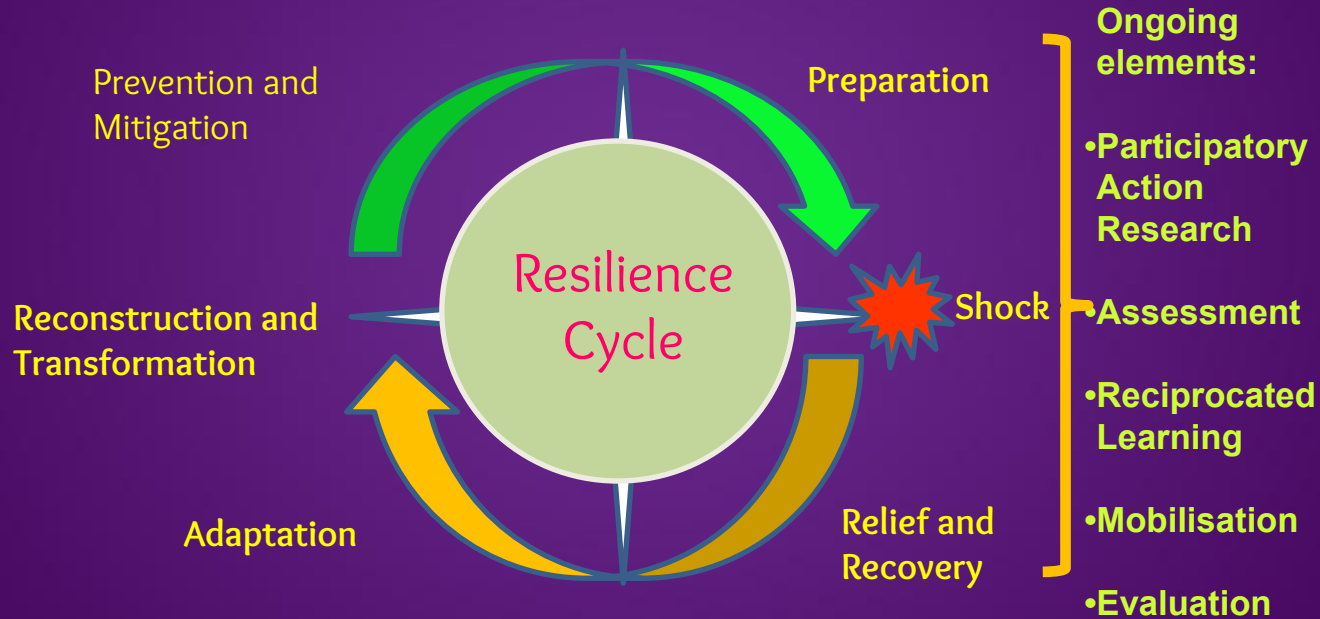


Burnside Gorge Community Centre Creates Rooftop Garden in 2007

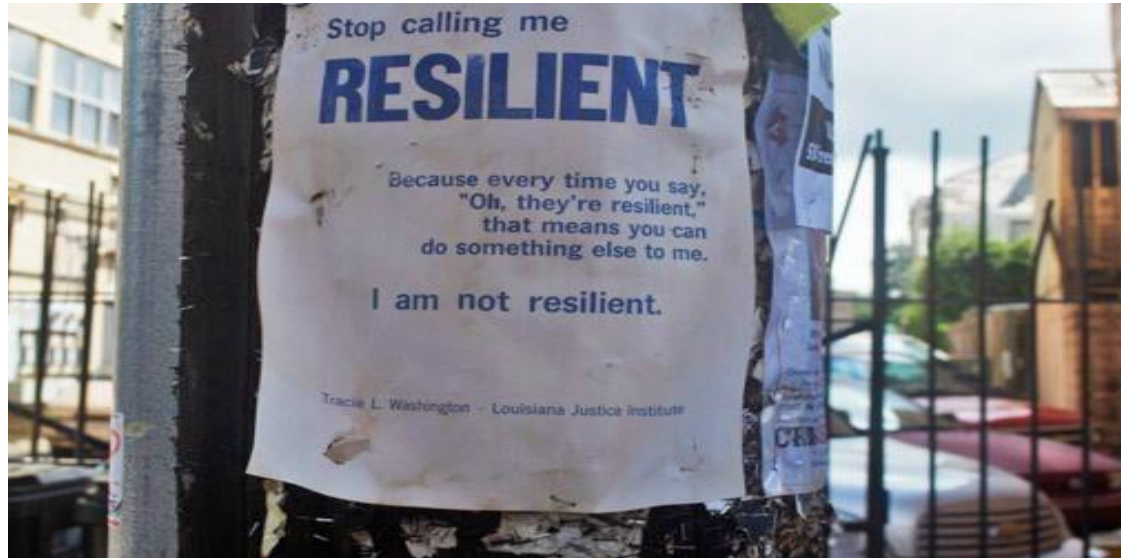


Gets Platinum Green Roof Award in 2009

Disaster Risk Reduction



Listening to community residents



Clashes over resilience:
Woman reacts against being taken for granted.
What lessons for green social work?

Conclusion: A New Vision for a Post-Covid-19 Green World

Covid-19 challenged many myths that kept a globalised world in the thrall of neoliberalism, and calls for the envisaging of an alternative reality that highlights:

- Sustainability – environmentally and in lifestyles.
- The public good over private greed.
- Non-consumerist lifestyles and livelihoods.
- Civic duty and neighbourliness.
- Communal support systems.
- Solidarity.
- Mutuality.
- Interdependence.
- Equality.
- Human rights and decent quality of life for all.
- Climate change initiatives to keep greenhouse gases down (1.5°C).
- Concern for the environment including eliminating the use of fossil fuels.



These features are crucial in constructing a new world after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Green social workers can lobby for these including using green perspective in daily practice.

Let us bring this new world forward! Together we will succeed!

Thank You!

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Discussion and Questions?



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10-MINUTE BREAK





CONTACT US



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Co-chairs

Dr. Julie Drolet → jdrolet@ucalgary.ca

Bonnie Lewin → Bonnie.Lewin@calgary.ca

Rebuilding Lives Post-Disaster

- Social Workers are increasingly engaged in supporting individuals and communities in long-term disaster recovery.
- *Rebuilding lives Post-Disaster* brings together an international team of social work researchers who have investigated the experiences, perspectives, challenges, and complexities in disaster recovery.
- It features country case studies drawing from field research undertaken in disaster-affected communities in Canada, the United States, Australia, India, Pakistan, Taiwan, Sri Lanka and China.
- In so doing, the volume provides a comprehensive perspective on the realities of disaster recovery and explores key concepts such as resilience, community-based disaster risk reduction, and social and gendered construction of vulnerability and capabilities.

Drolet, J. (Ed.). (2019). *Rebuilding Lives Post Disaster*. Oxford University Press.



REBUILDING LIVES POST-DISASTER

Edited by
JULIE L. DROLET

OXFORD

Panel Discussion on Social Work & Disasters



Dr. Robin L. Ersing, Ph.D., MSW

Dr. Robin Ersing is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of South Florida. Dr. Ersing is the co-editor of the book titled *Surviving Disaster: The Role of Social Networks* and conducts research primarily in the area of disasters and social vulnerability. Her work focuses on disaster recovery with marginalized populations including women and the migrant farmworker community.



Dr. Amy E. Fulton, Ph.D., MSW, RSW

Dr. Amy Fulton is a Field Education Coordinator (MSW Program) in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. She is a former post-doctoral scholar in disaster social work. She has conducted research on loss and grief in disaster contexts.

Panel Discussion on Social Work & Disasters



Dr. Golam M. Mathbor, Ph.D., MSW, MSS, RSW

Dr. Golam Mathbor is a Professor in the School of Social Work at Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey, USA. Dr. Mathbor is the founding Chair of the Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Interdisciplinary Studies and served as its Chair for two terms for the period 2007-2010 and 2013-2016. He has conducted disaster social work research in South Asia, specifically in Bangladesh and Pakistan.



Dr. Miriam Samuel, Ph.D., MSW

Dr. Miriam Samuel is the Head of the Department of Social Work, Madras Christian College, Chennai, India. She is engaged in COVID-19 responses in the State of Tamil Nadu and serves as the President of the Centre for International Social Work. She has conducted disaster social work research in South Asia, specifically in post-tsunami affected communities in India.

PANELIST QUESTION

Drawing from your research and book chapter, what do you think is needed to further build capacity in disaster social work?



PANELIST QUESTION

Based on your experience what is a role for social workers in disaster contexts?



PANELIST QUESTION

What can social work contribute to community resiliency in a post COVID-19 world?



In the Aftermath of the 2016 Alberta Wildfires: The Roles of Social Workers and Human Service Practitioners in Long-Term Disaster Recovery



Dr. Julie Drolet

Professor, Faculty of Social Work
University of Calgary
Alberta, Canada



Bonnie Lewin, MSW

ESS Planner, City of Calgary
Calgary Emergency Management Agency
Alberta, Canada

OUTLINE

1. Background
2. Research Goal
3. Research Objectives
4. Research Methods
5. Findings
6. Recommendations
7. SWAD Network

Research Goal

- The goal is to identify the roles and responsibilities of social work practitioners and human service professionals in long-term recovery efforts after the wildfires in Fort McMurray, Alberta
- The study focuses on the lived experiences of social service professionals to enrich our understanding of the capabilities of social work practitioners and human service professionals in disaster context



Photo by Julie Drolet, Fort McMurray, 2017

Research Objectives



2016 Fort McMurray Wildfire, City of Calgary

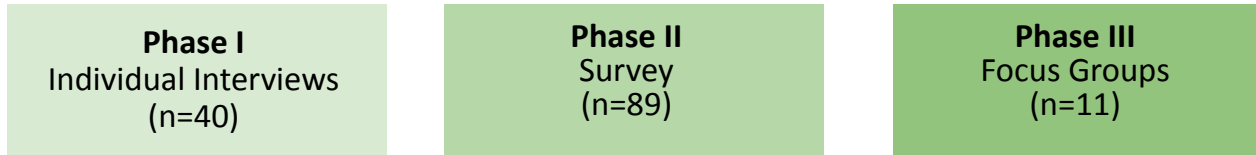
- 1) To better understand the challenges experienced by social work practitioners and human service professionals engaged in long-term disaster recovery in the province of Alberta;
- 2) To identify supportive social service practices and strategies for long-term disaster recovery in communities; and
- 3) To articulate a disaster social work professional practice framework at the local community level.



Research Methods

- Literature review
- A qualitative research design in three phases is used to investigate the study goals and objectives to enhance our understanding of practices and strategies on recovery and community resilience after a disaster.

Three phases of data collection with 140 total participants (N=140)



- COVID-19 impacted the research as interviews and focus groups were completed virtually and an online survey was created.

Research Findings







Downtown Power Outage 2014, City of Calgary

- Role of social work in disasters
- Understanding trauma and resilience
- Intersections that challenge disaster recovery
- Advocacy in social work practice and policy
- Wellness and wellbeing of practitioners
- Building capacity through professional development and training



Role of Social Workers in Disasters



- 
- 
- Assessment
 - Help meet basic needs of food, shelter, safety of clients
 - Offer a continuum of services that meet all levels of recovery
 - Knowledge of services in the community
 - Share knowledge of community services
 - Assist clients to access services
 - Provide care for variety of emotional and mental health needs
 - Counseling
 - Creative & innovative solutions to meet unique/diverse needs
 - Assist clients who have complex needs
 - Provide trauma informed care & services
 - Use crisis intervention skills
 - Focus on mitigating the psychosocial impacts of a disaster
 - Understand the impacts of intersecting trauma and challenges
 - Support individuals who lost and are without natural supports
 - Offer non-judgmental and compassionate services
 - See the whole person and listen to their unique needs
 - Flexibility to meet the client's needs
 - Work empathetically with those who experience oppression/injustice
 - Offer peer support [to fellow social workers]
- Play a key role in response, recovery, mitigation, and preparation
 - Support first responders
 - Play a leadership role in planning and coordination
 - Plan for future disaster response and recovery
 - Understand intersecting factors impacting the community
 - Recognize individuals who experience oppression/injustice
 - Community and first responder education on mental health, PFA (Psychosocial First Aid), and trauma
 - Advocate for changes to policy, client needs, community development strategies
 - Create business continuity plans, disaster policy and plans
 - Create community development mitigation strategies
 - Provide services that are embedded in the community
 - Work with community members
 - Collaborate with organizations, professionals, and different levels of government
 - Relationship building with clients, agencies, government organizations, other social workers, and first responders
 - Being first responders on the disaster response team
 - Research
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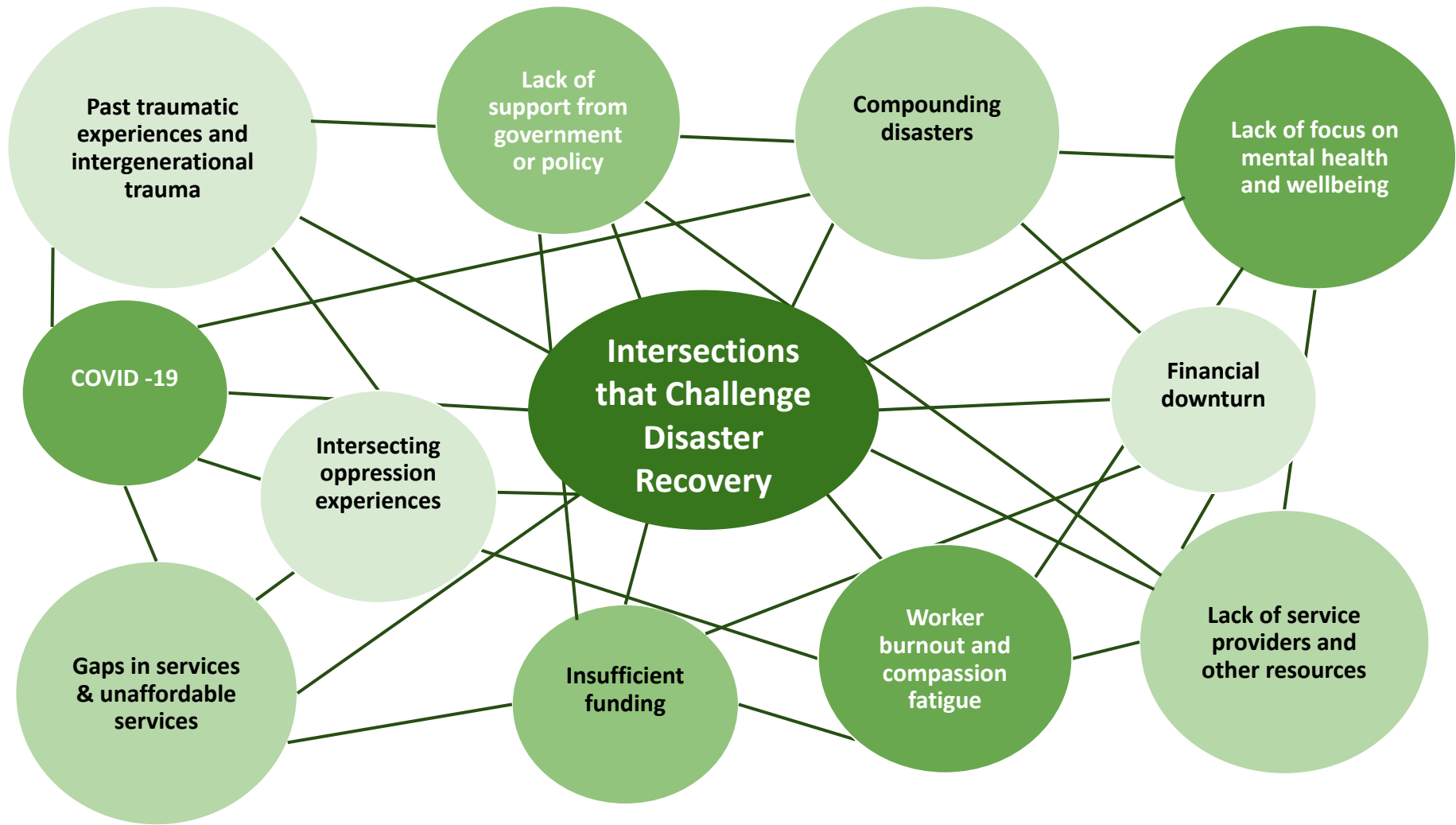
Understanding Trauma & Resilience

“That's the thing, is that there is no cut and dry way of going about this ... [it] has to be something that is adaptive and flexible for each situation, for each person, for each family, for each, even location in town where somebody was experiencing this, whatever disaster ... talking fire or flood. Because you know that context is so different from person to person, place to place.” (Focus Group Participant)

Social Work Approaches used in Disaster Context

- Active listening
- Anti-colonial theory
- Anti-oppressive
- Anti-racism theory
- Building individual & community protective factors
- Collaboration with communities & clients
- Community Development
- Crisis intervention strategies
- Critical incident debriefing
- Critical incident stress management
- Empathy
- Flexibility
- Grief & loss
- Meet people where they are at
- Person centred
- Solution-focused
- Strengths based
- Systems theories approaches
- Trauma informed care





Advocacy in Social Work Practice and Policy

Importance of social work advocacy in a disaster context.

MICRO

- Equitable access to services to meet people's unique and complex needs
- Access to services, insurance claim money, financial resources
- Facilitating information knowledge and referrals to health and social services

MEZZO

- For community programs, including schools that build community resilience
- Interprofessional networks
- Accessible, quality, inclusive and culturally appropriate services
- Need for business continuity planning

MACRO

- Longer disaster recovery funding models
- Changes to government policy
- Placing priority on the psychosocial needs and socio-economic impacts of disasters
- Inclusion of social workers in disaster and emergency management planning

Wellness and Wellbeing of Practitioners

"I was evacuated - and I was pulled back to work without having a home to live in, and so there were a lot of things just like that, where people who had been in the crisis themselves were now being pulled into support people." (Interview Participant)

"Most of my work is now done remotely. I am disconnected from my team members and the community members we work with. We have adapted well to an online environment, but it is not the same as in-person. Meetings are often booked back to back with little time to debrief. I am doing more, moving less." (Survey participant)

"You wax and wane between being like Just so overwhelmed with it, that it's just like. It can feel all-consuming I literally have moments of like how much more can we take, and how much more as a social worker can I give, when you're just coming up against it, seems like our community just can't get a break." (Focus group participant)

"I have built many self-care practices and because you have to keep adding to your toolbox because sometimes your support system is just as knee-deep in the weeds as you are! You need some outside people, I think that is a big one, debriefing & having support." (Interview Participant)

"So, I got to see a positive impact of people taking that, taking that time for themselves, because I came back and was very open and I was not, I'm not ashamed as I said I gave my heart and soul to all this work, I said it was just time for me to take a break and look after me, you know why would I be shamed, ashamed of it, you know." (Focus group participant)

"I would say during disasters and any kind of long term large event, we have got to put self-compassion at the top of our list, not at the bottom of our list, and it has got to be morning, noon and night, and sometimes in between otherwise you will not have the staying power." (Interview participant)





Building capacity through professional development and training



- Many social workers indicated a lack of personal, agency and community preparedness for events like the 2016 wildfires and COVID-19
- Learning from past disasters and other social service professionals was viewed as an asset to help mitigate, prepare for and respond to future disasters
- Recovery impacted by compounding disasters and other intersecting factors creates a unique journey

Essential training indicated by research participants

- Business Continuity Training
 - Community Development
 - Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)
 - Emergency Management
 - Emergency Preparedness (E-Prep)
 - Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR)
 - Grief & Loss training
 - Incident Command System (ICS)
 - Mental Health First-Aid
 - Post-Traumatic Stress training
 - Psychological First-Aid (PFA)
 - Skills for Psychological Recovery
 - Social Worker Wellness (self-care)
 - Trauma informed care training
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Recommendations

- Social workers need to be recognized in all phases of disaster
- Social workers can support all levels of government and non-profit organizations
- Expand and strengthen disaster social work training (e.g., social work education)
- Identifying disaster trained social workers to support future disasters in Alberta
- Peer support for social workers assisting in disasters



Join the Social Work and Disaster (SWAD) Network!

For news, upcoming events, and more information join us on Facebook at **Social Work and Disaster Network (SWAD)**, or follow the link at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/300458804953811>

OR

Email us at: swadnetwork@gmail.com





QUESTIONS & COMMENTS





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