Disaster Coordination and Resilience

7:00am – 8:45am Wednesday 25 May 2022
Speakers' Hall, Queensland Parliament House, Corner of George and Alice Streets, Brisbane

Researcher biographies

Dr Kate Saunders – Lecturer, QUT School of Mathematical Sciences

Kate's primary focus is on modelling climate extremes; and understanding how the probability of extreme events might be influenced by climate change. Other interests include: statistical post-processing of meteorological forecasts, quality control of meteorological data and how to estimate the risk posed by compound weather events. Kate's research improves our understanding of the probability of extreme climate/weather events and helps us to make informed decisions about natural disaster risk.

Professor Vivienne Tippett – A/Head, QUT School of Clinical Sciences

Vivienne has extensive experience as a researcher and consultant in the emergency pre-hospital, disaster and emergency health systems. Her work has been recognised with an OAM for services to paramedic education (2018) and a Distinguished Service medal from Queensland Ambulance Service (2012) for services to paramedic research. Between 2013 and 2021 she was Lead Researcher for the Warnings and Communication Theme of the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC which was recognised with a CRC Association national award for research innovation (2019).

Dr Kate Helmstedt – Senior Lecturer, QUT School of Mathematical Sciences

Kate uses mathematics to help develop understanding of environmental systems and the ways in which people interact with them. She uses these models to guide decision-making for environmental management. Her research focuses on vulnerable and valuable systems like Antarctica and the Great Barrier Reef, as well as on impacts of environmental disturbances. She is also an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award Fellow at QUT, where she leads research groups in applied mathematical ecology and data science.

Professor Brendan Mackey – Director, Griffith University, Climate Action Beacon

The Beacon seeks to develop the knowledge, leadership, capacity and responses to enable effective and just climate action throughout society, recognising the importance of both research and practice in defining and achieving collective and effective climate action. Brendan has a PhD in ecology from The Australian National University and has authored 290 publications in in the related fields of climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development. He was a Coordinating Lead Author for the recently released intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation.

Professor Bela Stantic – Griffith University, School of Information and Communication Technology

Bela is Director of the "The Big Data and Smart Analytics" Lab. He is internationally recognised in the field of data analytics and efficient management of complex data structures, such as found in Big Data. He successfully applied his research interdisciplinary, most prominently applying Big Data analytics to tourism, the environment, as well as to the health domain. He has published more than 170 journals and conference publications, which in turn helped to attract competitive funding from different sources. He was involved in the supervision of 25 PhD students.

Associate Professor Alastair Stark – The University of Queensland, School of Political Science and International Studies

Alastair Stark is an Associate Professor in Public Policy at the University of Queensland and the Director of the School of Political Science's Graduate Centre. Alastair specialises in the study of crisis and disaster management. He is the author of two books – *Risk and Crisis Management in the Public Sector* and *Public Inquiries, Policy Learning and the Threat of Future Crises* and has published over 30 articles on a variety of issues including the role of parliaments during crises, pre-crisis planning, crisis coordination, resilience, community participation and lesson learning. Alastair's current research projects include an Australian Research Council project examining institutional amnesia in the public services of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom and a Queensland specific project exploring blockages to lesson learning in the disaster management space

Associate Professor Nicole George– The University of Queensland, School of Political Science and International Studies

Nicole George is an Associate Professor in the School of Political Science and International Studies at The University of Queensland. As a flood affected resident of Brisbane in 2011 she conducted research into community responses and resilience to environmental disaster, drawing on first hand experience and observation of events around her. She went on to contribute to government reports on this theme and publish peer reviewed research. In 2022, as Brisbane suburbs again went under water, she revisited this research and authored a widely read piece for The Conversation on the do's and don'ts of effective community responses to disaster which can be found here: https://theconversation.com/want-to-help-people-affected-by-floods-heres-what-to-do-and-what-not-to-178149