

2025 IRDR Young Scientists Lumos (3rd)

UTC8:00-9:30, 18 August, Online

Cultural Heritage Meets Resilience: Youth Innovation for DRR

Agenda

1. Registration and Meeting Link

Participants need to register for the webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-UndAZZNT3CuftdfuqWhoQ

Upon registration, participants will receive a confirmation email with details to join the meeting.

2. Agenda

It will be a 90-minute online workshop. Four young professionals from different regions will be invited to share their cases. Senior experts will be invited to give comments and suggestions. There will be 30 minutes of discussion for all participants.

Moderator: Yunheng Zeng, UNESCO

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| Item 1 | Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fang Lian, IRDR |
| Item 2 | Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kazi Warisa Tabassum, <i>Blending Instinct and Intelligence: A Study of Traditional and Digital Weather Forecasting</i>- Youjing Li, <i>Collective Memory of Disasters in Baishi, China: Temporal Displacement, Risk Perception, and Social Resilience</i>- Bikansobera Patrick Amooti, <i>Safeguarding the Cultural Heritage of the Banyabindi People: Traditional Knowledge for Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction in Uganda</i>- Wenqian Gan, <i>Engineering WITH People: Cultural Heritage, and Environmental Awareness and Protection (CHEAP) Video Game</i> |

- Item 3 Comments and Suggestions
- Chris Ballard, Australian National University
 - Maria Soledad Garcia Ferrari, University of Edinburgh
- Item 4 Q&A and Discussions
- Item 5 Closing Remarks
- Duong Bich Hanh, UNESCO (tbc)

3. Profiles of Young Professionals

Kazi Warisa Tabassum



Kazi Warisa Tabassum's academic interests lie in interdisciplinary approaches to technology and sustainability. This research was conducted by undergraduate students Kazi Warisa Tabassum (Main Presenter), Nazmus Sakib Sami, Jannatul Ferdous and MST. Tasmima Zaman from the Department of Computer Science at AIUB, under the supervision of Md. Mortuza Ahmmed (Associate Professor, Dept. of Mathematics, AIUB). The study explores the integration of indigenous weather forecasting methods with modern digital technologies to enhance climate resilience. The research emphasizes culturally informed, inclusive strategies to bridge tradition and innovation in weather prediction.

Youjing Li



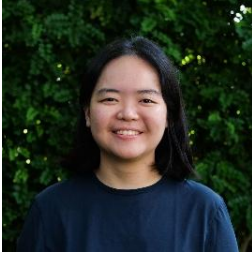
Youjing Li is a PhD candidate in School of Ethnology and Sociology at the Minzu University of China, specializing in ethnic cultures and disaster memory in Southwest China. She co-authored Qiang Architecture and has participated in three national-level research projects, including a major grant from The National Social Science Foundation of China, titled "Disaster Culture" and the Construction of a Resilient Society from the Perspective of Public Health Security. She has presented at academic conferences on topics such as international migration, gender studies, and disaster research. As a survivor of the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, Li brings both lived experience and scholarly rigor to her research, hopes to do something for disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

Bikansobera Patrick Amooti



Patrick Bikansobera Amooti is a public health professional and cultural heritage advocate from Uganda's endangered Banyabindi ethnic minority. With over 20 years of experience in health promotion, epidemic surveillance, and disaster response, Patrick combines his expertise in public health with a deep commitment to preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage of marginalized communities. He currently leads health initiatives in Kasese, while actively championing community-driven approaches to cultural resilience and heritage conservation in the face of climate change and displacement. His work bridges traditional knowledge and modern health practices to strengthen disaster risk reduction and promote sustainable community development in Africa.

Wenqian Gan



Wenqian Gan is a mechanical engineer and education researcher with experience across public policy and community development. Her academic research focuses on the pathways of culturally diverse women in STEM, and she has worked with government stakeholders to embed systems thinking in social service design and delivery. She is part of the team behind the game series 'Engineering WITH People'.

4. Profiles of Senior Experts

Chris Ballard



Chris Ballard is a historian based at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia. He has worked for 40 years with Indigenous communities, mostly in the Pacific Islands (Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu) and eastern Indonesia, on a wide range of issues, including agricultural systems, land rights and human rights, oral traditions and cultural heritage, and disasters and epidemics. He was lead researcher for Vanuatu's first UNESCO World Heritage site, Chief Roi Mata's Domain (inscribed in 2008), and continues to work closely with the local community custodians managing the site. Since 2016, he has been working with UNESCO's Living Heritage Entity on the relationship between intangible cultural heritage and emergencies (including conflict and disaster), and since 2022 on living heritage and climate action.

Maria Soledad Garcia Ferrari



Professionally qualified in Architecture and Urbanism in Uruguay, Maria Soledad Garcia Ferrari has extensive expertise in sustainable urban planning in Latin American cities, with a focus on community-empowerment, participatory and co-creation processes in the production and management of the built environment, towards increasing resilience and adaptation to climate change. She leads action research focused on community-led climate change-related risk management in Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala. She is currently working on the implementation of co-produced strategies for risk management, including mitigation and climate change adaptation actions in Medellin, incorporating nature-based solutions. In addition, Soledad is leading research with academics from Kyiv and Athens focused on post-crisis urban regeneration. Soledad is Programme Director for the MSc Urban Strategies and Design. She is Co-Chair of the World Weather Research Programme - Urban Prediction Project and is UK representative for the Scientific Committee for Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) of the International Science Council (ISC). Soledad is Dean International for the College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Edinburgh and Director of the Centre for Contemporary Latin American Studies at the same university.

