

# Conference 2020

## Programme



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# Humanitarianism in Action



**dsaIreland**

a space for dialogue between development researchers  
policy-makers and practitioners



# Programme Overview

Thursday 29 October 2020

10:00 – 10:45

**Welcome** - *Dr Pádraig Carmody, Chair, DSA Ireland*

**Keynote Talk:**

**'Humanitarian security and the securitisation of humanitarianism: Notes from the no-go world'**

*Professor Ruben Anderson, Department of International Development, University of Oxford*

11:00 – 12:30

**Morning Study Group Parallel Sessions**

- Adaptive Programming
- Business and Development
- Civil Society
- Climate and Development
- COVID-19 Roundtable

12:30 - 14:00

**Lunch (includes Members AGM at 13:15)**

14:00 – 15:30

**Afternoon Study Group Parallel Sessions**

- Education
- Gender
- Humanitarian Action
- ICT4D
- Nutrition and Health

15:30 – 16:15

**Keynote Talk and Close**

**'Humanitarian studies and their subject'**

*Professor Dorothea Hilhorst, Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus Rotterdam University.*

# Conference Theme

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“ The humanitarian system is facing calls to transform...  
....against a backdrop of growing global insecurity ”

Around the world, humanitarian needs are growing, as is the gap between those needs and the resources available to address them. Moreover, humanitarian crises are becoming more protracted, less predictable, and characterised by cyclical and recurring shocks that cumulatively generate need and undermine resilience over time. In response, the humanitarian system is facing calls to transform: to give greater attention to prevention, preparedness and resilience-building; to better integrate humanitarian action, actors and outcomes with development and peace; and to commit to and institutionalise local ownership and leadership, including that of women and young people, in a more accountable humanitarian system.

These calls for change are taking place against a backdrop of growing global insecurity, including increasing, targeted attacks on humanitarian actors; mounting constraints on – and in some contexts, criminalisation of – humanitarian assistance; and diverse challenges to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.



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# Morning Keynote

## 'Humanitarian security and the securitisation of humanitarianism: Notes from the no-go world'

by **Professor Ruben Anderson**

Department of International Development, University of Oxford

In this talk, I will tell a story of two different 'no-go worlds': one being the world of bunkers and security risk confronting humanitarians in many crisis zones today, the other being the world of closed and deadly borders faced by people on the move. The two worlds, I'll try to show, overlap today in sometimes disturbing ways. Starting off in 'aid central' in Bamako, Mali, I will show how humanitarians' gradual withdrawal into sealed-off enclaves built on terms set by the security sector has accompanied the wider militarisation of international interventions in the conflict-hit country and in the wider Sahel – though not without opposition. Next, I will look beyond Mali to the migration control operations staged across the Sahel and the Mediterranean to show how the securitised field of aid has also come to mesh with security objectives around the control of human movement. I will conclude by asking who gains and who loses from these proliferating securitisations – as well as what promises and perils may be in store in our pandemic, 'post-humanitarian' moment.

## Prof. Ruben Anderson



Ruben Andersson is an anthropologist and Associate Professor of Migration and Development at the Department of International Development, University of Oxford. His research has focused on migration, borders and security, with specific reference to the Sahel and southern Europe. He is the author of *Illegality, Inc.: Clandestine migration and the business of bordering Europe* (University of California Press 2014), winner of the BBC/British Sociological Association Ethnography Award 2015. His most recent book, *No Go World: How fear is redrawing our maps and infecting our politics* (University of California Press 2019), offers a comparative perspective on securitisation and the 'mapping of danger' in international crisis interventions, building on his fieldwork in Mali.

Twitter: @ODID\_QEH

# Afternoon Keynote

## 'Humanitarian studies and their subject'

by **Professor Dorothea Hilhorst**

Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus Rotterdam University

Triggered by recent renewed attention to racism and worldwide protests urging change, the lid placed on racism in the humanitarian aid sector has been blown off. Last year's international meeting of ALNAP concluded that inequality and discrimination in the humanitarian aid sector are a reality, and threatens its core foundation, namely the principle of humanity that views all people in equal terms. Since the Black Lives Matter movement, many more voice speak out on inequalities in humanitarian aid provision. Yet how about humanitarian studies? As scholars, we are ready to lay bare the fault lines in the humanitarian sector, but what about our own practices? Let us talk about how humanitarian studies can become more collaborative, inclusive, and participatory.

## Prof. Dorothea Hilhorst



Dorothea Hilhorst is a professor of humanitarian studies at the International Institute for Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University in The Hague. Her focus is on aid-society relations: studying how aid is embedded in the context, impacts on governments and society, and is shaped by the manifold actions of actors in and around programmes for protection, service delivery and capacity development. She has a special interest in the intersections of humanitarianism with development, peacebuilding and gender-relations. Her research programmes have taken place in settings affected by disaster, conflict and fragility, including Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Sri Lanka. Currently, her main research programme concerns cases where 'conflict meets disaster', that studies disaster governance in high-conflict, low-conflict and post-conflict societies. She was awarded an ERC advanced grant and will start a research programme on humanitarian governance in 2021.

**Twitter:** @hilhorst\_thea

# Study Group Parallel Sessions Morning - 11:00-12:30

## Session 1: Adaptive Programming

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### The Breakout Session

Chaired by Ms Fay Ballard, Head of Technical Team, GOAL.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **'Adaptive Programming – it's all about the context!'**  
*Ms Andrea Finnegan, Senior Programmes Officer, Humanitarian & Emergency Affairs, World Vision Ireland*
- **'Innovative solutions to address the humanitarian-development nexus: Review of the 'Blended Approach' pilot project'**  
*Dr Catherine Devine, Goal*
- **'What possibility for a Phronetic M&E?'**  
*Mr David Martyn, Plan/UCD*
- **'Resilience for Socio-economic System (R4S)- a Systems Approach for a more Resilient Future'**  
*Ms Isabelle Bremaud, Global Resilience Advisor, GOAL*



## Session 2: Business and Development

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### The Breakout Session

Chaired by Dr David Nyaluke, UCD Proudly Made in Africa Fellow and DSAI Study Group Convenor.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **'Covid-19 and Labor Market Uncertainties among University Graduates in India: Evidence from an Online Survey'**

*Dr Pradeep Kumar Choudhury, Assistant Professor of Economics, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India*

- **'Risks and Profitability of Microfinance Institutions amidst a Financial Sector Crisis'**

*Mr King Carl Tornam Duho, Graduate Student, Dept. of Accounting, University of Ghana*

- **'Leading without Controlling: Initial Access Points for Development of Entrepreneurial Communities in Frontier Markets'**

*Mr Daniel Dart, DEC Projects*

- **'Dynamics of MSEs in the Garment industry in Vietnam'**

*Ms Mary Rose Byrne, MPhil, Development studies*

- **'Voluntary Participation of Informal Workers In Social Security Schemes. Experience from the Community Health Fund in Tanzania'**

*Ms Adeline Ajuaye, PhD Student, KU Leuven- Belgium.*

- **'Anti-Piracy Rehabilitation and Local Industries Capacity Building: A Sustainable and Human Development Approach to Gulf of Guinea Maritime Security'**

*Mr Atif Choudhury, Independent Research Scholar*

- **'Highway to the "Danger Zone"? Geopolitics and the Distribution of Risk in China's Belt and Road Initiative'**

*Dr Pdraig Carmody, Trinity College Dublin and University of Johannesburg*

## Session 3: Civil Society

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### The Breakout Session

Chaired by Dr Nita Mishra, Researcher at UCC and DSAI Study Group Convenor.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **'From busybodies to philanthro-capitalists: the danger of un-making of humanitarianism'**  
*Dr Galia Chimiak*
- **'An exploration of 'youth' and their understandings of 'democracy' within PRIA's Youth-n-Democracy Fellowship'**  
*Ms Tess Westbrook, TCD*
- **'Impact of Covid-19 on youth in the Lake Chad Region'**  
*Ms Anne-Marie McCarthy, Lake Chad Programme Manager, Plan International and Ms Manre Chirtau, Youth Engagement and Consultation Specialist, Plan International Nigeria*
- **'Community Led Action for COVID-19: Communities protecting themselves'**  
*Ms Marie Hallissey, GOAL Global Health Advisor*
- **'Covid19 and Civil Society Organisations' Shifts and Challenges: Libya, Lebanon and Palestine'**  
*Dr Ibrahim Natil, Lecturer in politics, DCU*
- **'We're listening': GOAL and Accountability to Affected Populations in Syria'**  
*Mr Philip Farrell, Global Accountability Advisor, GOAL*
- **'Facilitating Local 'Humanitarianism in Action'**  
*Ms Deirdre McArdle, Project Coordinator - SCORE*



## Session 4: Climate and Development

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### The Breakout Session

Chaired by Mr Gerard Maguire, Lecturer NUI Maynooth and Study Group Convenor.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **'Characteristic Study of the Exploitation of Mollusks in the Mangrove Ecosystem in Bettanti, Senegal'**  
*Ms Jacquelin Blanche Mullen, TCD*
- **'Outer Space Solutions to the Climate Crisis: Analysing How the Space Law Framework Can Provide for the Responsible Implementation of Lunar Resource Extraction'**  
*Ms Ciara Finnegan, Department of Law, Maynooth University*
- **'Addressing the global emergencies of climate and human rights from below. A view from the pedagogy of development ethics and international social work'**  
*Dr Su-ming Khoo, Lecturer, School of Political Science and Sociology, National University of Ireland, Galway*
- **'Contemporary Slavery and Climate Change: The Role and Limits of the State'**  
*Dr Chris O'Connell, School of Law and Government, DCU*
- **'Water and Sustainability: Exploring Public Participation in Chennai City'**  
*Dr T Kadalarasane, Department of Statistics, Ramanujan School of Mathematical Sciences India*
- **'Sensitivity of Ireland's potential carbon budget pathways with varying social discount rates in an energy system optimization model'**  
*Mr Jason Mc Guire, MaREI Centre, Environmental Research Institute, UCC*

## Session 5: COVID-19 Roundtable

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### The Breakout Session

Chaired by Dr. Caitriona Dowd, Assistant Professor, DCU and DSAI Humanitarian Action Study Group Convenor.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **'The Missionary Approach to Development – Enabling an Effective and Efficient Response to COVID-19'**  
*Ms Niamh Caffrey, Health Project Officer, Mísean Cara*
- **'Aftershocks – the secondary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic'**  
*Mr Maurice Sadlier, Programmes Director, World Vision Ireland*
- **'Make or break – the implications of Covid-19 for crisis financing'**  
*Mr Luca Peciarolo, Senior Humanitarian Policy Advisor, Norwegian Refugee Council*

# Study Group Parallel Sessions Afternoon - 14:00-15:30

## Session 6: Education



### The Breakout Session

Chaired by Dr Gerard McCann, Senior Lecturer in International Studies at St Mary's University College, Queen's University Belfast and study group co-Convenor.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **'The Importance of Education in Emergencies in Humanitarian Response'**  
*Ms Emilia Sorrentino, Education in Emergencies Specialist, Plan International Ireland*
- **'Learner-centred pedagogy in a Lebanese accelerated education programme'**  
*Mr Alexander Whyat, Masters Graduate, Stockholm University*
- **'Accelerated Education Programme; a means of accessing education for out of school children (EiD / EiE)'**  
*Ms Deirdre Murray, Plan International*
- **'Developing Educational Leaders: Towards a systemic approach to improving education in Cambodia'**  
*Dr Aisling Costello, Ms Mel Cashin, SeeBeyondBorders*
- **'Changing Landscape of Professional Higher Education in India: What Do We Know and What Do Recent Data Tells Us?'**  
*Dr Pradeep Kumar Choudhury, Assistant Professor, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India*
- **'Language and inclusion: An exploration of staff's multilingual skills in GOAL'**  
*Dr Wine Tesseur, Postdoctoral researcher, DCU*
- **'Resilience', 'Wellbeing' and the issues of translating development terminology in Vietnam: empirical evidence from the perspective of Translation Studies'**  
*Mr Nguyen Nguyen, PhD student*

## Session 7: Gender

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### The Breakout Session

Chaired by Ms Triona Pender, Action Aid and DSAI Study Group Convenor.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **'GATE Project – examining students' engagement and voices in gender equality and female empowerment initiatives: Case study, DUCE'**  
*Ms Catherine Devine, School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin*
- **'Safe Learning Model; Researching the impacts of holistic, gender transformative Education Programming on learning outcomes and child wellbeing in Sierra Leone'**  
*Ms Amy Folan, Senior Education Advisor, Concern Worldwide*
- **'Bridge the Gap Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Research Project: A study on disability stigma in the South Gondar Zone of Ethiopia'**  
*Ms Esther Breffka, Trinity College Dublin, Global Master of Development Practice*
- **'AT RISK: Girls and Young Women's Rights at Risk under COVID-19 in West and Central Africa'**  
*Ms Deirdre Murray, Desk Officer West and Central Africa, Plan International*
- **'A Gender Analysis of the Impact of the Construction of Freeway No 5 on Sustainable Livelihoods. A Case Study of Rural Pinglin in Taiwan'**  
*Mr Folashade Olasiyan, Masters Student, TCD School of Natural Sciences*
- **'Microfinance – A Gender Equality Tool in the Context of Vietnam'**  
*Dr Long Bui-Thanh, Deputy Head of Accounting Department, Tra Vinh University*
- **'Understanding the Role of Matrilineal and Patrilineal Social Norms with Regards to Traditional Gender Roles and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Malawi'**  
*Mr Rocío Freytes-Martín, Masters Student, TCD School of Natural Sciences*

## Session 8: Humanitarian Action

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### The Breakout Session

Chaired by Dr. Caitriona Dowd, Assistant Professor, DCU and DSAI Study Group Convenor.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **'Humanitarian Inaction: Resilience building in Afghanistan'**  
*Mr Conor O'Loughlin, Country Representative and Mr Joseph Ho, Head of Programs, Catholic Relief Services, Afghanistan*
- **'Toolkit for principled humanitarian action: Managing counterterrorism risks'**  
*Ms Emma O'Leary, Senior Humanitarian Policy Advisor, Norwegian Refugee Council*
- **'Displacement, Risk And Resilience: Rebuilding The Lives Of Internally Displaced Women In Nigeria Playfully'**  
*Mr Adebimpe Fashina, PhD Candidate, Dr. Jayne Mwangi and Dr. Victor Ladan Lutsili*
- **'Including People With Disabilities In NGO-Based Agriculture And Disaster Management Programmes: An Analysis Of Current Approaches & Emerging Best Practice'**  
*Ms Jennifer Byrne, University College Cork*



## Session 9: ICT4D

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### The Breakout Session

Chaired by Dr PJ Wall, Research Fellow and Lecturer, TCD and study group Convenor.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **'Are prepaid meters a solution for operating and maintaining water sources in rural challenging environments? A pilot implemented by GOAL in Uganda'**  
*Ms Mala Ram, Management Information Systems Manager, GOAL Global*
- **'Mobile data collection in complex emergencies: Lessons learnt from GOAL in South Sudan'**  
*Mr Stanford Senzere, Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning Coordinator, GOAL South Sudan*
- **'Tackling misinformation and disinformation: What does the changing online environment mean for humanitarian agencies?'**  
*Ms Sandrine Tiller, Misinformation and Disinformation Project, Medecins Sans Frontieres UK/Ireland*
- **'A New Framework for considering the right to social media access under the ECHR'**  
*Dr Patrick O'Sullivan, EITIC research cluster, UCC*
- **'How Technology can Facilitate Female Recruitment, Retention and Career Progression in the Global South: A Study Using Cyberfeminism Theory'**  
*Ms Charmaine Wellington*
- **'Where ICT4D Meets Data Justice: A Study of COVID-19 Tracking in India'**  
*Dr Silvia Masiero, Associate Professor of Information Systems, University of Oslo*
- **'Subduing India's Social Assistance Program Inertia with ICT4D as a tool'**  
*Ms Harshal Kate, Department of Management Studies (DMS), Indian Institute of Technology*



## Session 10: Nutrition and Health

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### The Breakout Session

Chaired by Ms Jacinta Greene of Children's Health Ireland at Tallaght Hospital and study group Convenor.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **'Keeping patient-data safe: Implementing a secure instant messaging network at a Myanmar healthcare clinic'**  
*Ms Katherine Wyers, Independent Researcher, University of Hertfordshire*
- **'Using the Care Group approach to support health and nutrition in humanitarian settings'**  
*Ms Pieternella Pieterse*
- **'Postgraduate Health Research Capacity, Strengthening Interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa'**  
*Mr Samar Mudawi, Masters Student, TCD School of Natural Sciences*
- **'Digital Gap Analysis Tool for Ebola Vaccine Deployment Preparedness'**  
*Mr Aidan Sinnot, Programmes Officer, World Vision Ireland*

# About the Study Groups

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## **Adaptive Programming Study Group**

*In late 2014 a group of individuals involved in international development began to look at the idea of doing development differently, leading to the publication of a manifesto which received 400 signatories across donors, multilaterals, thinktanks, academic institutions and NGOs, mostly humanitarian. The DSAI Adaptive Programming study group was set up in 2017 to provide a forum in Ireland for dialogue on alternative development models and the adaptive programming approach.*

## **Business and Development Study Group**

*Newly established in 2020, through this group educators, researchers, business (corporate and SMEs), NGOs and governmental actors work together to explore issues and ideas that further increase the understanding and knowledge of the interaction between business and development.*

## **Civil Society Study Group**

*This group is interested in development issues that civil society activists from community-based organisations across the North-South binary are engaged in. The role of international non-government organisations (INGOs) and its continuance (or discontinuance) is another debate of interest to the group. In an interconnected world does the responsibility of development lie locally, or not? Which forms of solidarity and cooperation can change organisational structures that continue existing forms of inequalities?*

## **About the Climate and Development Study Group**

*This newly initiated study group for Climate and Development (C&D) bringd together researchers, professionals and other relevant interested parties to enter dialogue and share ideas relating to this prominent area scholarship and practice. The aim is to collaborate on an inter-varsity and multi-disciplinary level to increase engagement, awareness and output. In an era when the areas that humankind is occupying is both expanding (outer space) and eroding (island states) simultaneously, this study group addresses a number of issues concerning climate and development.*

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# About the Study Groups

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## Education Study Group

*This study group brings together both academic and NGO interests to address education issues in the context of international development. The group encourages collaborative projects between researchers in Ireland as well as on a Global North-South basis as well as developing a dialogue with practitioners.*

## Gender Study Group

*This group aims to provide a forum for researchers, academics and NGOs with an interest in the relationship between gender and development. Gender inequality has been clearly identified as a barrier to achieving healthy, thriving, democratic societies. Building knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of gender at the intersection of various aspects of development work, including governance and security, gender based violence, HIV, economic empowerment, human rights, and more, is essential.*

## Humanitarian Action Study Group

*This group brings together both scholars and practitioners of humanitarian action to share knowledge, expertise and experience in the areas of humanitarian action, humanitarian intervention, human rights / protection, complex emergencies and the inter-section of development and humanitarian programming.*

## ICT4D Study Group

*This group aims to establish an ICT4D community comprised of academics, researchers, development practitioners and anyone else interested in the field. ICT4D (information & communications technology for development) broadly refers to the application of technology toward social, political, cultural, economic, and environmental development in low-income and low-resource settings.*

## Nutrition and Health Study Group

*This group is open to all with interest in nutrition, food security and health issues in development. It brings together academics, researchers, development practitioners, and independent individual's and works with the other networks, including The Irish Global Health Network; Livelihoods, Food & Nutrition Security Working Group of Dochas; Working Group on Nutrition and Agriculture in The Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development (IFIAD) and The Emergency Nutrition Network (EEN).*

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**The Development Studies Association Ireland (DSAI)  
is Ireland's association for researchers, policymakers and  
practitioners working in the field of international development.**

**The DSAI is supported by funding from Irish Aid and of our  
institutional members whose annual contributions make  
our activities possible.**



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