

'WE'RE NOT IN THE FIELD ANY MORE': CHALLENGES IN URBAN DISASTER RESPONSE FOR AID AGENCIES

With global city growth of over one million people per week, cities and towns are increasingly places of heightened vulnerability to natural hazards. Following an urban disaster in a poorer country, aid agencies often respond, yet, many of their tools are derived from rural practice: agencies often refer to working 'in the field'. Yet, the new challenge is to work 'in the neighbourhood'.

Drawing on recent research published by the humanitarian think tank, The Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP), this talk presents the new urban challenge, identifies lessons from practice, and discusses how aid workers need to rethink their approaches.

Friday, November 15, 2013 | Room: MDCL 3022 | noon to 1:30 p.m.



Dr. David Sanderson

BA (Hons), DipArch, MSc, PhD

Director of CENDEP

Dr. David Sanderson trained and worked in architecture before taking a Masters degree in Development Practice at Oxford Brookes University in 1991. Since then he has worked in development and emergencies in over 30 countries. From 1994 to 1998 David worked as Project Manager at the Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies. Between 1998-2006 David worked for the NGO CARE International UK, as Head of the Policy Unit (1998 - 2002), and subsequently for four years as Regional Manager for Southern and West Africa, based in South Africa.

In 2006, David returned to Oxford Brookes University to become Director of the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) where he teaches and undertakes research and consultancy, currently concerning urban disaster and the actions of aid agencies and other responders. David sits on several NGO and funding advisory boards and is a co-Editor of the journal *PLoS: Disasters*. He is a Visiting Professor at

Université Paris-Est Créteil and a regular Visiting Lecturer in Switzerland and Spain. David completed his PhD by published works in 2009, which brought together research and practice undertaken between 1995 – 2008 in urban risk reductions and livelihoods, and was conferred to Professor. David's professional experience lies in urban poverty, disaster risk reduction and livelihoods. He has undertaken work for the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID), Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), European Commission (DiPECHO, EC), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Qatar Foundation, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), Habitat for Humanity, World Bank (EDI Section), United Nations (UNDP/UNDESA), Action by Churches Together (ACT), British Council, Christian Aid, Tear Fund and the Mott Foundation.

He is currently a Visiting Professor at Harvard University where he is teaching a class titled 'Design for Urban Disaster'.

Further Information

<http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/globalhealthoffice/>

905-525-9140 x 22045