

The large number of casualties due to COVID-19 is only one aspect of this pandemic.

What other humanitarian crises has COVID-19 brought to the world?

Humanitarian crises and COVID-19

**A three-part
GSDM symposium**

Oct. • Nov. 2021 • Jan/Feb. 2022

Photo credits: UN

Background

The large number of casualties due to COVID-19 is only one aspect of this pandemic. Underlying structural risks and vulnerabilities have been evidenced and amplified in multiple areas by our response to the present coronavirus outbreak. This is especially true on a humanitarian level.

For example, COVID-19 has placed pressure on local hospitals dealing with general health, causing a health crisis. In parallel, governments worldwide have introduced travel restrictions, stopping individuals such as aid workers and refugees from accessing international travel, thereby causing a human mobility crisis, which has also exacerbated political crises. Moreover, many different inequalities have been highlighted and deepened, from race (e.g. discrimination against Asian individuals), to gender (e.g. domestic violence), to national and regional development levels (e.g. distribution and international recognition status of COVID-19 vaccines).

To understand the humanitarian crises that our current world has been experiencing and to plan our next steps as a resilient global society, we have gathered practitioners who are confronting these challenges. In a three-part online symposium – comprising keynote speeches by practitioners in the field, presentations by invited researchers at the University of Tokyo, and active discussions with participants – we hope to deepen insights into the multiple aspects and effects of this pandemic.

– August 2021, symposium chairs, GSDM Program.



Maximilien Berthet
Ph.D. candidate,
Graduate School of Engineering,
University of Tokyo.



Saeko Kawataki
Ph.D. candidate,
Graduate School of Frontier Sciences,
University of Tokyo.

Definition of “humanitarian”:

“Involved in or connected with improving people's lives and reducing suffering.” (Cambridge English Dictionary)

“Concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare.” (Oxford English Dictionary)

“Denoting an event or situation which causes or involves widespread human suffering, especially one which requires the large-scale provision of aid.” (Oxford English Dictionary)

About GSDM

The Global Leader Program for Social Design and Management (GSDM) is an interdisciplinary doctoral program to train top leaders for today's global society. Harnessing the strengths of 21 departments in nine graduate schools at the University of Tokyo, GSDM aims to develop all-round professionals. Based on the University of Tokyo's "Action Scenario: FOREST 2015", GSDM provides outstanding faculty and programs and represents a breakthrough in the reform of graduate school education. The University of Tokyo runs nine Programs for Leading Graduate Schools, including GSDM. GSDM is regarded as the most important of them because it is an all-round program.

Joining the symposium

Students, researchers, and faculty members from any discipline are warmly welcome to join one or several sessions of this symposium. Being a GSDM member is not required to participate.

Registration is needed to join each session. The registration link can be found on the GSDM2.0 website (<https://gsdm.u-tokyo.ac.jp/gsdm2.0/en/>), which can be accessed using the QR code.

Photo credits: Francesco Cattuto

Session 1 · Confronting humanitarian crises in a global pandemic · Oct. 2021

Speaker

Albert Ko, Ph.D.

Director, Lingnan
Entrepreneurship Initiatives,
Lingnan University (Hong Kong).



Discussant

Roberto Orsi, Ph.D.

Project Associate Professor,
Graduate School of Public Policy,
University of Tokyo.



Session 2 · Understanding what strategies are necessary and have been taken to overcome humanitarian crises in relation to COVID-19 · Nov. 2021

Speaker

Masamine Jimba, Ph.D.

Professor,
Graduate School of Medicine,
University of Tokyo.



Discussant

Kozue Okamura

Ph.D. candidate,
Graduate School of Engineering,
University of Tokyo.



Session 3 · Planning how we can prevent future humanitarian crises by building a new, resilient social system and cooperating across the globe · Feb. 2022

Speaker

Fumiko Okamoto (TBD)

Senior Program Officer,
Asia Peace Initiatives Department,
Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

Discussant

Toshiro Nishizawa

Professor,
Graduate School of Public Policy,
University of Tokyo.



Flow of each online session (1 hour 45 minutes)

5 mins:	Introduction	20 mins:	Q&A
20-30 mins:	Keynote speech	5 mins:	Summarisation
10 mins:	Break (interactive quiz)	5 mins:	Closing
20 mins:	Discussant speech		



↑ Latest updates about
session schedule and content

Outcomes

After joining the symposium, you can expect to gain an understanding of some of: the humanitarian crises caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (session 1), the current solution methods (session 2), and the next steps towards building a more resilient global society (session 3).

Contributing GSDM scholars

The following GSDM scholars are contributing to this event: Maximilien Berthet, Saeko Kawataki, Kozue Okamura, Lisa Hartwig, Paul Nadeau, Vaishnavi Thakur, Kotaro Nakamura, and others.

Photo credits: Francesco Cattuto



This symposium is hosted by the Student Committee of the Global Leader Program for Social Design and Management (GSDM).
GSDM is an interdisciplinary doctoral program to train top leaders for today's global society.

東京大学公共政策大学院社会構想マネジメントを先導するグローバルリーダー養成プログラム(GSDM).

Contact: stu.com.gsdm@gmail.com. GSDM Office: 03-5841-0846 (Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm). Web: <https://gsdm.u-tokyo.ac.jp/gsdm2.0/>