



# Disaster risk reduction: Building adaptive capabilities by transcending culture

By Dr Petra T. Buergelt, School of Psychological and Clinical Sciences,  
Charles Darwin University, Australia.

2-day seminar for PhD candidates and staff members at GHIG

**Dates: 31<sup>st</sup> of January and 1<sup>st</sup> of February (10:00-15:00)**

Around the world, geological and meteorological hazards are occurring with increasing frequency and severity, and with increasingly devastating impacts. Recognition that capabilities and relationships required to reduce risk need to be developed has prompted research into all-hazards and cross cultural DRR models. In addition, work is increasingly exploring the unique opportunities for developing sustained adaptive capacities that arise from understanding how diverse cultural beliefs, values and practices contribute to DRR strategies, including those from Indigenous populations. In this workshop, we explore the opportunities multicultural societies afford for developing DRR capabilities and relationships, the challenges that hinder our accessing these opportunities, and pathways that could be pursued to unlock individual and collective capabilities and capacities. Transformative pathways capable of shifting consciousness and capabilities including Indigenous knowledges and practices, art and nature will be discussed.

**PhD candidates can gain 1 ECT by participating at the seminar.**

**Registration by e-mail to [maria.luttges@uib.no](mailto:maria.luttges@uib.no)**

**Deadline for registration: 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2018**

Dr Petra T Buergelt is a social scientist who lectures and researches at Charles Darwin University, School of Psychological and Clinical Sciences. She is also the Deputy Chair of the Group of Energy Efficient Researchers (GEER, Australia), a research fellow at the Joint Centre for Disaster Research (Massey University, NZ), and an international associate at the Centre for Applied Cross-Cultural Research (Victoria University, NZ).

Her research interest is human adaptation and transformation. She is specialising employing qualitative research to gain a holistic and in-depth understanding of the individual and contextual/environmental (historical, natural/build, interpersonal, social, cultural, spiritual, economic, political) factors and processes that empower humans and communities effectively managing and even thriving in the face of change, uncertainty, risk and adversity.



# Reading List

Buergelt, P. T., & Paton, D. (2014). An ecological all-hazard inter-disciplinary risk management and adaptation model. *Human Ecology*, 42(4), 591-603.

Buergelt, P. T., Paton, D., Sithole, B., Sangha, K., Campion, O. B. & Campion, J. (2017). Living in harmony with our environment: A paradigm shift. In D. Paton & D. Johnston (Eds.), *Disaster resilience: An integrated approach* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) (pp. 289-307). Springfield, Ill: Charles C. Thomas.

Mezirow, J. (2009). An overview of transformative learning. In K. Illeris (Ed.), *Contemporary theories of learning: Learning theorists ... in their own words* (pp. 90-105). New York: Routledge.

Paton, D., & Buergelt, P. T. (2017). Facilitating social-environmental adaptation in environmental hazards: Towards a universal theory. In J. A. Daniels (Ed.), *Advances in environmental research* (pp. 35 – 58). New York: Nova Scientific Publishers.

Paton, D., Jang, L., Kitagawa, K., Mamula-Seadon, L., & Sun, Y. (2017). Coping with and adapting to natural hazard consequences: Cross-cultural perspectives. In D. Paton & D.M. Johnston (Eds.), *Disaster resilience: An integrated approach* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) (pp. 236-254). Springfield, Ill., Charles C. Thomas.

Paton D., Michaloudis, I., Pavavaljung, E., Clark, K., Buergelt, P. T., Jang, L., & Kuo, G. (2017). Art and disaster resilience: Perspectives from the visual and performing arts. In D. Paton & D.M. Johnston (Eds.), *Disaster resilience: An integrated approach* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) (pp. 212-235). Springfield, Ill., Charles C. Thomas.

Paton, D., Okada, N., & Sagala, S. (2013). Understanding preparedness for natural hazards: A cross cultural comparison. *Journal of Integrated Disaster Risk Management*, 3(1), pp. 18 – 35.

**Articles can be provided upon request**