

Fram Focus volume 5:9 - April 2020

Special Issue on Disaster & Disruption

In this issue:

RIT has many experts in the domains of disaster, disruption and resilience. We share critical thinking from a few of us and will continue to build this [resource](#) over time. We would love to include your critical thoughts about disaster and disruption as well. Faculty and staff are invited to email them to us at ritframchair@rit.edu.

A Few Thoughts

With this issue of the Fram Focus we meet the following:

- **Jennifer Schneider**
Eugene H. Fram Chair, Academic Affairs
Professor, Collaboratory for Resiliency and Recovery; Civil Engineering Technology, Environmental Management and Safety, College of Engineering Technology

After a time in industry, Dr. Schneider has been at RIT for 23 years. She teaches many risk related courses (Exposure Assessment and Analysis, Risk Management, System Design, Disaster Science, etc.). She focuses on research that impacts communities. This domain is crosscutting, gives her the opportunity to broadly interact with students and colleagues, and is never the same.

> [View Dr. Schneider's answers to some critical thinking questions](#)

- Christine Keiner
Professor, Science, Technology and Society; College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Keiner is a historian of science and environmental historical who focuses on the political role of scientific expertise.

> [View how Dr. Keiner teaches applied critical thinking in the context of disaster](#)

- Rachel McGinnis
Director, Peace and Conflict Studies Program
Assistant Professor, Public Policy and International Relations, RIT Kosovo

Dr. McGinnis teaches conflict analysis and resolution from an environmental security approach at the graduate level military aeronautical school (ERUA), oversees the PCS program in Kosovo that requires similar course for undergrads, and works in refugee or conflict zones each summer (e.g., Lebanon, Turk-Syrian border, Greece, etc.) She also continues to work on and develop a mobile phone app that assists displaced individuals during crisis—primarily due to conflict, but also environmental issues.

> [Read Dr. McGinnis' answers to a few critical thinking questions](#)

- Qing Miao
Assistant Professor, Public Policy; College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Miao studies environmental economics and policy with a particular focus on climate change adaptation, natural disaster policy, and risk analysis. Her other research areas include public finance, science and technology policy.

> [View how Dr. Miao teaches applied critical thinking in the context of disaster](#)

- John Oliphant
Associate Professor, Physician Assistant; College of Health Sciences and Technology

Dr. Oliphant enjoys his “double life” as both a university professor and a practicing medical provider. He can apply what he learns in the academic setting to his patients and administrative work in the clinical setting and vice versa. He is also passionate about global/public health and leadership within healthcare systems, both domestically and internationally. His driving goal is to finish his life with no regrets and to leave his little piece of the world better than he found it.

> [Read Dr. Oliphant's answers to a few critical thinking questions](#)

- **Konstantinos Papangelis**
Assistant Professor, School of Interactive Games and Media; Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

Dr. Papangelis' research focuses on location-based games and social networks, the physical web, location-based and in-situ crowdsourcing, proximity technologies, extended reality, and multi-sensory entertainment technologies.

> [View Dr. Papangelis' answers to some critical thinking questions](#)

○ **Jessica Pardee**

Associate Professor, Department of Science, Technology, and Society; College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Pardee challenges her students to consider how different values and priorities shape the mitigation of, experience within, and recovery from emergent disasters of all scales.

> [View how Dr. Pardee teaches applied critical thinking in the context of disaster](#)

○ **Justin Pelletier**

Director of the GCI Cyber Range and Training Center, Global Cybersecurity Institute, Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

Dr. Pelletier teaches Authentications and Security Models and enjoys exploring information security economics, social cybersecurity, and quantum/post-quantum security. He is a combat veteran who has served as an intelligence officer during three overseas deployments and provided homeland response for two domestic emergencies.

> [Read Dr. Pelletier's answers to some critical thinking questions](#)

○ **David Schwartz**

Director and Associate Professor, School of Interactive Games and Media, Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

Dr. Schwartz has been studying how the convergence of games and media-centric computing, GIS, and disaster planning can save the world.

> [View how Dr. Schwartz applies critical thinking in his domain](#)

○ **Brian Tomaszewski**

Associate Professor, School of Interactive Games and Media, Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences

Dr. Tomaszewski is a geographic information scientist with research interests in the domains of geographic information science and technology, geographic visualization, spatial thinking, disaster management and forces displacement research with research projects fund by the US National Science Foundation and Germany, Rwanda and Jordan as well as collaborations with the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees. Fun fact: Dr Tomaszewski was the co-creator of the Refugee GIS or "RefuGIS" project that is the world's first innovation project to empower refugees themselves to use GIS and he also plays the banjo!

> [Read Dr. Tomaszewski's answers to a few critical thinking questions](#)

- Anthony Vodacek
Professor, Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science, College of Science
Dr. Vodacek loves remote sensing because he loves how it helps him explore the world.

> [Read Dr. Vodacek's answers to a few critical thinking questions](#)

From Gene Fram

“Biologist Carl Bergstrom on coronavirus, misinformation and why we weren’t prepared” by Christina Farr. Ms. Farr is a technology and health reporter for CNBC.com. Read more [HERE](#).

“A Framework for Thinking” by Elon Musk. Musk is co-founder and CEO at Tesla Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX); and The Boring Company. He is also CEO of Neuralink. Read more [HERE](#).

“Using the Mind’s ‘Executive Functions’ ” by Frank John Ninivaggi. Dr. Ninivaggi is an associate attending physician at the Yale-New Haven Hospital and an assistant clinical professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale University of Medicine. Read more [HERE](#).

This special edition of Fram Focus was also featured in RIT’s [News and Events Daily](#).

