Haiti’s Earthquake in the Context of Global Health and Development
21 - 22 October (9am - 5pm)
Conference Room, AD Hope Building, ANU

On January 12th 2010 an earthquake with the magnitude of 7.0M occurred with an epicentre near the town of Léogâne, approximately 25 km (16 miles) west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital. An estimated three million people were affected by the quake of which an estimated 230,000 people had died, 300,000 had been injured and 1,000,000 made homeless.

Many countries responded to appeals for humanitarian aid, pledging funds and dispatching rescue and medical teams, engineers and support personnel. Communication systems, air, land, and sea transport facilities, hospitals, and electrical networks had been damaged by the earthquake, which hampered rescue and aid efforts.

Although the acute response has finished international aid and reconstruction work will continue for several years if not decades. Haiti became very fast the arena for political interests plaid out in the name of humanitarian aid and development.

This conference is the result of Master student’s work finishing their research projects in Global Health and Development. Their research is focusing on analysing the event of the earthquake in relationship to global health and development.

The conference is open to everyone and tea, coffee, and lunch will be provided. A detailed conference outline will be provided soon.

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http://cass.anu.edu.au/future-students/graduate/mcham
9.00am-9.15am Introduction (Doreen Montag)

Session 1
International Organisations and Disaster Response

9.20am-9.40am

OGUNBANWO, Jamiu
The Role of International Organizations in Responding to Natural Disasters: Lessons Learned and Future Directions from the 12 January 2010 Haiti’s Earthquake

9.40am-10.00am

CHRISTIANI, Yodi
The World Health Organization and Health Cluster Coordination in Haiti’s Earthquake: What should had been learned from 2004 Aceh Tsunami?

10.00am-10.20am

NOTHANA, Thabiso
Health Lessons Learned from the Recent Earthquake in Haiti and Earthquake in Bam (Iran 2003)

10.20am-10.40am Discussion

10.40am-11.00 am Coffee Break
Session 2  
Women and Disasters

11.00am -11.20am

MAKUKULA, Twandiwle
Post-Earthquake Reproductive Health Services for Haitian Women

11.20am-11.40am

FALLAN, Myfanwy
Violence against Women: Lessons to be Learnt from the Haiti Earthquake

11.40am-12.00pm Discussion

12.00pm-1.00pm LUNCH BREAK

Session 3  
Disasters, Socio-culture and Civil Society

1.00pm-1.20pm

AI-HUDAID, Nada
Natural Disasters and Cultural Change in Haiti

1.20pm-1.40pm

McRAE, Michael
Generations Disconnected by Disaster: An Ethical, Pragmatic and Psychosocial Dilemma

1.40pm -2.00pm

HARA-CROCKFORD, Jackeline
“Haiti is here, Haiti is not here”: Historisizing Haiti in Search of Civil Societies

2.00pm-2.20pm Discussion

2.20pm-2.40pm Coffee Break
Session 4
Food Security, Nutrition and Disaster

2.40pm – 3.00pm

JENNINGS, Amanda
Poviding Nutritional Support during Times of Disaster: Lessons learnt from the Response to the Haitian Earthquake.

3.00pm-3.20pm

LI, Michelle
Improving Nutritional Status of Children after Natural Disasters: A Perspective on Activities of International Organizations in Earthquake-Affected Haiti

3.20pm-3.40pm

CHILD, Elliott
From Urban Disaster to Rural Tragedy? Haiti’s Fragile Post-earthquake Food Situation’

3.40pm -4.00pm Discussion
Friday, October 22\textsuperscript{nd}  2010

Session 5
Challenges in the Response

9.30am-9.50am

GARRANG, Angelo
Water Sanitation following the Haiti 2010 Earthquake

9.50am-10.10am

KENNING, Annie
After the Shock: An Evaluation of the Challenges and Opportunities Faced by Haiti’s new Generation of Post-earthquake Amputees

10.10am-10.30am

McCARTHY, Sonia
TBA

10.30am-10.45am Discussion

10.45-11.00am Coffee Break

Session 6
The Role of NGOs and Community Workers in the Response

11.00am-11.20am
LIU, Angie
Exploration of the Role of Community Support Workers in Post Disaster Settings

11.20-11.40am
DAVIS, Paul
The Media and NGOs in a Disaster: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Partners in Health
(PIH) after the Haiti Earthquake.

11.40am-12.00pm Discussion

12.00pm-1.00pm Lunch Break

Session 7
Politics of Humanitarianism

1.00pm -1.20pm

ZHANG, Yinxin
Humanitarian Aid, Doing Harm or Doing Good?

1.20pm-1.40pm

JESTER, Michelle
Hidden Agendas in Humanitarianism: The Motivations Behind the U.S. Response to the Haitian Earthquake

1.40pm- 2.00pm

PRASAD, Nandini
Business, Power and Politics: The Role of Pharmaceutical Companies in the Haiti Earthquake Disaster Response

2.00pm-2.20pm Discussion

2.20-2.40pm Coffee Break

2.40pm-3.00pm Final Remarks
ABSTRACTS
Session 1
International Organisations and Disaster Response

OGUNBANWO, Jamiu

The Role of International Organizations in Responding to Natural Disasters: Lessons Learned and Future Directions from the 12 January 2010 Haiti’s Earthquake.

Interdependence of the global economy and competing international priorities have created inadequate financial resources and time for preparedness activities towards responding to natural disasters. In this paper, I emphasize on the lessons learned during the 12 January 2010 Haiti’s earthquake and the cooperation of the international organizations in response to natural disasters through the global contingency planning and this responsibility needs to be broadened to encompass regional and international approaches. I focus on the role of international organizations in responding to natural disasters drawing from the lessons learned and future directions from the 12 January 2010 Haiti’s earthquake. I argue that the alignment of international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and its agencies, World Health Organization (WHO), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), private and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with the Haitian Government can improve their assessments, medical intelligence, coordination of the aid and funding of programs, governance structure, surveillance and response systems. The paper also shows that the alignment and compliance with these standards greatly depend on the political willingness of the key players and Haitian Government policy-makers and on a successful transfer of needed resources to developing Haiti in support of good governance and appropriate policy implementation. I conclude that if these global agreements are developed as part of natural disaster preparedness, on international, bilateral, and national levels, natural disaster relief efforts may likely be more relevant and easier to evaluate and thus bringing reliable and improved relief to the disaster victims such as the people of Haiti.

CHRISTIANI, Yodi

The World Health Organization and Health Cluster Coordination in Haiti’s Earthquake: What should had been learned from 2004 Aceh Tsunami?

The number of natural disasters has been increased four times in the last 35 years. In responding to a natural disaster, numbers of organizations, both international and local, involved in the humanitarian action. The various capacities, beliefs, missions and motivations of the organizations emphasized the importance of a good coordination, including in health cluster, which is provided by the World Health Organization.

The objectives of this literature study are to evaluate the performance of the World Health Organization as the health cluster coordination in Haiti’s earthquake and to provide a criticized on
what should have been carried out based on the experience of 2004 Aceh tsunami. This research is based on published articles on 2004 Aceh Tsunami, World Health Organization’s documents including policies and strategies in emergencies response and reports on Haiti’s earthquake. In addition, articles on the online newspaper on the response to Haiti’s earthquake will be studied to give a deeper understanding on both events.

The expected result of this study is: 1) Knowledge on the World Health Organization policies and strategies in emergency response and its performance as the health cluster coordination; 2) Criticized on what should have been carried out by the organization in Haiti’s earthquake response based on the 2004 Aceh’s tsunami experience; 3) Recommendation for the organization in performing its role as the health cluster organization in a natural disaster.

NOTHANA, Thabiso

Health Lessons Learned from the Recent Earthquake in Haiti and Earthquake in Bam (Iran 2003)

This paper aims to provide a distillation of the learning from thirty years of humanitarian response to earthquakes. It concentrates on issues of particular relevance in earthquakes. The paper assumes that readers are already familiar with the more general lessons in the aid sector such as the key roles of needs assessment, effective coordination, accountability and consultation with the affected population. The main intended audiences are policy-makers and relief programme managers working in the response to such sudden-onset natural disasters. Sadly, many of these lessons are not new. Each year, Caribbean countries are threatened by significant loss of life, catastrophic property damage and total social disruption as a result of natural disasters. Tropical storms, hurricanes, tidal waves, heavy rains, droughts, earthquakes and volcanoes have been especially frequent and intense since the early 1970s. When it comes to natural disasters, Haiti seems to have a bull’s eye on it. That’s because of a killer combination of geography, poverty, social problems, slipshod building standards and bad luck (Collier 2009).

The list of catastrophes is mind-numbing: The earthquake this year, four tropical storms or hurricanes that killed about 800 people in 2008. Killer storms in 2005 and 2004, floods in 2007, 2006, 2003(twice) and 2002 (Muggah 2010, 169). This paper argues that Investing in the preparedness of the National Health Service and community should become a priority for disaster-prone countries like Haiti. The first part of this paper looks at the earthquake in Bam (Iran 2003) and discusses several lessons learned from the earthquake. Part two of the paper looks at the lessons that can be learned from the Haiti earthquake and it ends with a list of recommendations.
Session 2
Women and Disasters

MAKUKULA, Twandiwe

Post-Earthquake Reproductive Health Services for Haitian Women
It has been argued that natural disasters affect men and women differently. In a patriarchal society such as Haiti, women’s health is often neglected in international aid delivery programmes as these programmes usually conform to pre-existing structures and social conditions. Victims of natural disasters, especially women, often find themselves in a position of extreme vulnerability but are still often left marginalised in many circumstances including matters concerning health. Reproductive health is a vast, complex and deeply personal area of health in which cultural sensitivity needs to be applied if the best outcomes for patients are to be achieved. This paper argues that international aid programmes offering reproductive health often fail to achieve their intended goal of delivering appropriate health aid relief. Many policies and programmes are developed in the West using Eurocentric models that neither integrate nor incorporate important local concerns, thus, ultimately affecting the manner in which aid is received by a community. Culture, religion, and gender are just some of the considerations that need to be accounted for in the development of reproductive programmes. Unlike other areas of aid relief, it is difficult to apply highly specific, standardised practices to individuals and population groups.

The paper also analyses current protocols employed by international aid agency to address women’s reproductive health in disasters regions. The shortcomings of these practices are examined as a means of identifying areas of weakness where possible improvement could be made. It has been argued that the planning and implementation of many female related health policies could benefit from anthropological and feminist insight. As a final point of discussion, the possibility of amalgamating a social science perspective into relief programmes in order to improve health outcomes for female disaster victims will be examined.

The main areas of interest explored include basic services such as safe motherhood, protection from and response to sexual and gender-based violence as well as the prevention and treatment of STIs including HIV/AIDS.

FALLAN, Myfanwy

Violence against Women: Lessons to be Learnt from the Haiti Earthquake
Violence against women in Haiti was well documented prior to the 2010 earthquake with rape only being recognized as a crime in 2005. The January earthquake not only devastated the impoverished countries infrastructure but also placed vulnerable women at further risk of violence. Despite data demonstrating a direct link between humanitarian emergencies and increased vulnerability of women and children to both sexual violence and exploitation, relief efforts are often unsuccessful at protecting women. Disaster relief
efforts often fail to give attention to the basic needs of women, which further jeopardizes their lives and safety.

This essay will explore the lessons to be learnt from humanitarian aid agencies failure to protect women in Haiti from the unfolding atrocities and violence following the earthquake. It will be argued that the response by the international community neglected women’s rights and that the protection of women should be considered a higher priority in planning future responses to natural disasters.

Haiti has taught us that pre-existing levels of violence should not be ignored and violence against women should not be subject that is considered too difficult to be managed in situations of disaster.

Session 3
Disasters, Socio-culture and Civil Society

Al-HUDAID, Nada

Natural Disasters and Cultural Change in Haiti
Human societies have developed different strategies to cope with challenges posed by the environment. Therefore, leading to certain processes of adaptation.

This research will look at the cultural effects of natural hazards in Haiti and how the last earthquake will propose a triggering cultural change. Few examples will be drawn from various other countries where similar disasters (in this case, earthquakes) occurred and how the local culture adopted to the whole situation. The study and management of natural disasters has become of an importance to today’s world which triggered large financial investments for the sake of prevention and relief in such cases.

By looking at examples of the aftermath of earthquakes in Ecuador and Pakistan, this paper will try to analyze the effects of the foreign disaster awareness programs on the effected local community and understand how disasters have become fairly widely accepted agents of cultural change. A brief assessment of the relationship between specific natural processes and cultural responses will be touched upon in order to understand the reasons that lead to greater socio-cultural complexity and levels of progress.

A focus on how other societies in relation to Haiti responded to earthquakes would seem to be an important way to understand the general processes of evolution. Variables like health, gender roles, education, role of NGOs, economics, and politics of Haiti will be looked at.

McRAE, Michael

Generations Disconnected by Disaster: An Ethical, Pragmatic and Psychosocial Dilemma
As a direct result of the devastating magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12th, 2010, approximately 230,000 people lost their lives. Consequentially, many of the nation’s young, elderly and infirm lost their primary caregivers.

On January 29th, ten Baptist missionaries were detained at the Haiti-Dominican border with 33 Haitian children who they declared to be orphans. The group claimed to be transporting the children to sanctuary in the Dominican Republic.

The situation highlights the dilemma of how to adequately define the role of transnational caregiving
following the loss of a nation’s social stability. In 1993, the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (HCIA) was created to address concerns about the transfer of children across state borders. For countries that have signed the convention, it requires recognition of the child’s wellbeing through a number of safeguards. However nations such as Haiti are restricted in their resources, creating obstacles to their meeting the requirements of the convention and creating a potential market for non-accredited adoption.

While accredited transnational adoption effectively provides immediate care for lost or orphaned children during a state crisis, contrasting cultural values between and within states and fundamentally low social stability creates additional issues that need to be taken into account. For states that cannot sign the HCIA, orphaned children would benefit from the pro-active establishment of a systemised foster care program in anticipation of nature disasters as opposed to reactive and non-accredited transnational adoption.

HARA-CROCKFORD, Jackeline

“Haiti is here, Haiti is not here”: Historisizing Haiti in Search of Civil Societies

In 1993 Caeto Veloso and Gilberto Gil wrote the lyrics “Haiti is here – Haiti is not here”. Amidst the interruptions of Haiti’s development through natural disasters, manmade disasters (for instance with “disaster capital”), and the corruption of leaders, it is often hard to distinguish the true characteristics of Haiti – those that reflect the culture of its citizens and their needs and wants. Since the end of WWII the term “development” has become a significant issue for transitional nations, particularly now, where there is increased movement towards globalisation. One discourse in development is civil society and its role in mobilising states to adopt a “bottom-up” approach to empower its citizens. It has been proposed that Haiti’s development has been unsuccessful due to its constant state of flux, which diminishes its capacity to form true civil societies that are able to grasp control and restore a degree of sovereignty within its state. This paper argues that we need to understand the historical complexities in which non-governmental organisations work to improve their future work in Haiti. I will explore the historical context of the manmade component of disasters in Haiti that exacerbate natural disasters. I will look at the transition of dependence from the black state to the mulatto state, leadership from Duvalier to Aristide, language from French to Kreyol, and culture from African Vodou to Roman Catholicism. The concept of embodied history and structural violence will form the basis of my theoretical framework. This will guide analysis and discussion into identifying future directions in developing civil societies in Haiti. Haiti’s history is complex and tumultuous, yet there is an ongoing theme of inequality and prejudice that forms segregations within Haitian society and these tensions within Haiti are thought to be the needed focus in developing Haitian civil societies.
Session 4
Food Security, Nutrition and Disaster

JENNINGS, Amanda

Providing Nutritional Support during Times of Disaster: Lessons learned from the Response to the Haitian Earthquake.

Maintenance of adequate nutrition is an important determinant of a population’s ability to manage and survive a disaster. During a disaster it is vital that nutritional support be provided to the community to prevent illness and enable them to physically manage the challenging situation. This may involve complete provision of food and water to survivors or supplementing what provisions they can access themselves. Meeting the needs of a community must be done in a timely manner to ensure impacts of the disaster are not compounded.

Food provided to a population during a disaster must meet their cultural as well as nutritional needs. While it is acknowledged standards exist to ensure adequate food and nutrition is provided to communities in need, these standards do not always consider cultural requirements of a community. If food provided is not culturally appropriate there is a risk that it will not be consumed and the impact of lack of food and nutrition not alleviated.

During the response phase it is important to monitor the nutritional status of the population on a regular basis. Provision of and access to food does not necessarily translate to adequate caloric intake and meeting of nutritional requirements. Food may be not be consumed as planned due to cultural factors including family responsibility, preparation and cooking practices, religious requirements and unknown food being distributed.

When responding to humanitarian disasters it is difficult to achieve the balance between saving lives and undertaking appropriate consultation with the affected community to ensure interventions are culturally acceptable and appropriate. This paper discusses these issues against the backdrop of the earthquake in Haiti in 2010. It will look at existing food security issues, nutritional status of the population and impact of the earthquake on the population.

LI, Michelle

Improving Nutritional Status of Children after Natural Disasters: A Perspective on Activities of International Organizations in Earthquake-Affected Haiti

Malnutrition as a common consequence of natural disasters is one of the major risk factors of children mortality. As an impoverished country with extremely inadequate internal resource, Haiti itself cannot deal with the complex nutritional consequences--malnutrition and other nutritional-related diseases--occurred during and after earthquake. This article aims to highlights the role of international organisations in providing nutritional support to the affected children in acute and post-acute relief phases after the 12 January 2010 Earthquake in Haiti.

The author focuses on the immediate assistance provided to the earthquake-affected Haiti by the international organizations and agencies (World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank (WB), United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Food Program (WFP),...
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), etc) in terms of food aid, nutrition interventions, assessment and monitoring and other supplies.
The author argues that as long-term strategies, it is more important to provide funds, technologies and professionals to reduce the vulnerability of the existing health and agricultural systems in Haiti. The activities of these international organizations and their programs for victims should be simply designed to provide the needed assistance to the local Haitians and specially funded to provide the required nutritional standards for the children in Haiti. The Government of Haiti in collaboration with international organisations should be able to develop a sustainable policy towards surveillance and monitoring of children’s nutritional status as a post-earthquake strategy for children health and development in Haiti.

In conclusion, post-earthquake activities in Haiti should include: establishment of sustainable agricultural programs and food supplies, trained personnel in nutrition and financial assistance to support programs on children’s malnutrition after earthquake. Collaborative efforts with Haiti Government supported by financial, human and technological resources for the reconstruction of less-vulnerable agricultural and health systems provide long-term assistance towards improving the nutritional status of children affected by the 2010 Haiti Earthquake.

CHILD, Elliott

From Urban Disaster to Rural Tragedy? Haiti’s Fragile Post-earthquake Food Situation’
Even before January 12, half the Haitian population was malnourished. The earthquake, however, refocussed attention on the fragility of the country’s food and agriculture economy and lack of food security. Where once domestic production was able to meet the nation’s food needs, over 80 percent of export earnings are now spent on food imports. Such a reduction in capacity to meet the nutritional requirements meant Haiti was, and remains, less food secure – vulnerable to natural disasters and fluctuating international prices. The earthquake may have come to represent urban destruction, but it could yet be the tipping point for a rural and agricultural catastrophe. After the disaster, challenges to food security such as environmental degradation, poor watershed management and limited access to good quality seeds and infrastructure have been exacerbated. This paper seeks to investigate how recent decades of encumbered reliance on market forces motivated damaging unsustainable practices. Further, the place of Haitian agriculture as a central facet of the country’s recovery project will be delineated. Given prevailing food insecurity, this recovery effort should focus on constructing a sustainable and appropriate agricultural landscape, whereby farmers regain capacity to provide domestic food security. Even where the earthquake directly struck the capital region, it served to highlight the complex relationship between the rural and urban components of the Haitian food system. The massive post-earthquake movement of displaced persons into rural areas and rising food prices and input costs, disrupted trade and agriculture were all factors in this relationship. In recent decades, efforts to building capacity within the domestic Haitian food system have been absent and Paul Farmer has challenged donors and institutions to learn from past mistakes and strengthen the country’s ability to provide for its people, fifty percent of whom are involved in agriculture. To this end, the Haitian state has identified rural rebuilding and food production to be just as important to post-earthquake recovery as reconstructing cities. Central to the new approach should be measures to avoid the pitfalls that saw the country become food insecure and the politics of recovery need to be critically analysed. Indeed, recent peasant protests against Monsanto-donated non-traditional crop seed are not coincidental, but reveal the contesting visions of Haiti’s post-earthquake food situation and the power relations at play.
Session 5
Challenges in the Response

GARRANG, Angelo
Water Sanitation following the Haiti 2010 Earthquake

In the past, Haiti had gone through critical situations related to natural disasters affecting mainly Port-au-Prince, Gonaives, Cap-Haitien, St Marc, and Port-de-Paix, Hinche as well as towns and villages in the North West. Early this year, Haiti was hit by a severe earthquake that measured 7.0 on the Richter scale. The earthquake claimed a huge toll in terms injury, life and property. Haiti being one of the poorest nations of the world was faced with key challenges ranging from inadequate water supply and poor sanitation before the earthquake. In the aftermath of the earthquake, there was a complete destruction of the Haiti drainage and sanitation system. Access to clean water, which was in the first place poor before the earthquake, was completely destroyed after the earthquake. There were constant dangers of epidemics and disease breakouts.

This presentation is analysing responses to the current water sanitation problems faced by the people of Haiti following the 2010 earthquake. I focus on determining the problems faced by the people of Haiti regarding water and water sanitation, examining past earthquake recovery programs for the manner in which water sanitation programs were implemented, identifying the technological advancements that can be used to resolve the problems, and planning the implementation of the same.

I argue that people from low socioeconomic groups or those from minorities may not get mainstreamed and may reside in areas that are prone to earthquakes, flood, pollution, etc. Besides, poverty, racism, education levels, access to health, economic policy, etc affects the manner in which the people respond to disasters and the manner in which they can recover. I will show that it is in these areas that anthropology can offer some insight into contextual and cross-cultural information especially with disasters in the developing world. In addition, I will emphasise that certain social, political, environmental and economic factors may be presented which would mitigate the impact of a disaster.

I conclude by stressing that for proper disaster preparedness and a reconstruction, an insight of the local community and the organizations present should be sought. There is a strong need to provide Haiti with long-term water and sanitation programs. Besides, a failure of the infrastructure can result in unlimited spread of the diseases. On a long-term basis, the public water management infrastructure should be repaired. This includes mobilizing experts, equipment and resources. Improvement of the water source and use of chlorination at the user end should be considered.

KENNING, Annie

After the Shock: An Evaluation of the Challenges and Opportunities Faced by Haiti’s new Generation of Post-earthquake Amputees
An estimated 6000 people are said to have lost limbs as a result of the earthquake in Haiti in January 2010. Learning to live life with an amputation is a difficult enough task for anyone, let alone for someone in a country where people with disability are stigmatised; there is poor access to health and disability services; and a rugged, treacherous terrain. This paper will start by exploring the context, both pre and post-earthquake, in which amputees in Haiti find themselves. The advantages and challenges this multifaceted context creates for people with amputations and service providers will then be discussed. The paper will then conclude by outlining strategies, such as community-based rehabilitation, that may assist amputees in maximizing their independence and strengthen their roles in their communities.

McCARTHY, Sonia
TBA

Session 6
The Role of NGOs and Community Workers in the Response

LIU, Angie

Exploration of the Role of Community Support Workers in Post Disaster Settings
Management of infectious diseases, mental health and chronic conditions in post disaster settings are beyond any doubt a major challenge. Close attention is required for the detection and treatment of infectious diseases and chronic conditions during acute phases of a disaster, particularly with the increased risk of non-compliance and treatment failure for diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. The role of community support workers can play a key role in identifying vulnerable patients, providing psychosocial support to their community members and facilitate access to health care in post disaster settings. Yet, there remains little evidence which documents the benefits of the community support worker model in post disaster settings.
This paper will argue that community support workers are the cornerstone to facilitating access to basic health care to patients particularly in post disaster settings. To explore this, I will use Haiti as a case study to demonstrate the benefits of the community support worker program and how this model is currently being used to facilitate care in a variety of settings including TB and HIV/AIDS treatment. This case study will also draw on how the roles of community support workers have expanded to accommodate the needs for the Haitian population following the 12 January 2010 earthquake. I will also draw attention to issues which affect the sustainability of the workforce and the need for flexible approaches which will enable these positions to be considered within the scope of foreign aid. This paper will conclude by arguing for a fundamental shift for foreign aid organisations towards adopting approaches which maximise the use of local knowledge and systems in post disaster settings.
DAVIS, Paul

The Media and NGOs in a Disaster: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Partners in Health (PIH) after the Haiti Earthquake.

With estimates of up to 10,000 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) arriving in Haiti after the 12th January 2010 earthquake, it is timely to examine their underlying complexities. Their web of interactions with the media is analysed using the “media of the disaster” as an export commodity. This allows the various levels of interactions, such as at the crisis level, the NGO level, the donor country level and others, to be untangled. The relationship with the media, in particular with the new electronic technology, by two major humanitarian NGOs, Médecins sans frontiers (MSF) and Partners in Health (PIH) is contrasted and compared. The effects of a charismatic leader and celebrities are reviewed. As both NGOs were present in Haiti before the earthquake, they are uniquely placed to add to the underlying knowledge of what changes occur and what changes need to occur after a natural disaster and how to successfully manage the media.

Session 7
Politics of Humanitarianism

ZHANG, Yinxin

Humanitarian Aid, Doing Harm or Doing Good?

Humanitarianism in the Western tradition is often associated with Christian traditions of altruism and charity, and humanitarian aid was carried out in different ways in different context. During the Cold War, government-to-government aid made sense in the context of the superpower rivalry. However, after the Cold War, government-to-government system of development did not work and probably could not be made to work. Recently, as aid distributed through structures created by governments or supranational structures like the United Nations was inefficient, could not be delivered in ways that responded in either a timely or an effective way to local needs and local conditions, and would lead to a bureaucracy more concerned with its own self-perpetuation than with the people it was supposed to serve. Then Western governments became increasingly insistent that new programs be administered through private, non-governmental organizations. Base on the fact that in the aftermath of Haiti earthquake, it is evident that lack of coordination among different relief crew was a serious problem. This essay will focus on international humanitarian aid, especially provided by the NGOs. And illustrate causing inequality and harm might be inevitable during the relief process.
ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences
ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment

JESTER, Michelle

Hidden Agendas in Humanitarianism: The Motivations behind the U.S. Response to the Haitian Earthquake

Soon after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, U.S. President Barack Obama pledged to make the U.S. response to Haiti a “top priority”. Obama made good on his pledge. The relief effort to Haiti far exceeds the relief effort given to any of the other recent disaster areas in Chile, China, and the Indian Ocean countries affected by the 2004 tsunami. Why is there such a dramatic difference in disaster responses? Obviously, humanitarianism plays a significant role. But this paper explores and analyzes the other unnamed motivations behind the U.S. response to the Haitian earthquake—the motivations that made the U.S’s humanitarianism to be significantly more than in other areas. It concludes that the relief effort was largely about politics, although not so much about international politics but more about U.S. domestic politics. The Haitian earthquake strikes sensitive chords in the U.S., ranging from U.S. credibility in handling a disaster response after Hurricane Katrina to electoral favor in catering to major swing voters in Florida and the African-American community. Although humanitarian in name, the U.S. response to the Haitian earthquake is more simply a continuation of using Haiti for U.S. interests.

PRASAD, Nandini

Business, Power and Politics: The Role of Pharmaceutical Companies in the Haiti Earthquake Disaster Response

Pharmaceutical companies played a crucial role in aid relief, responding within a day of the earthquake in Haiti. Global giants of the industry including Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Merck and GlaxoSmithKline donated money as well as medical and surgical products, totaling a few million US dollars. Affiliated NGOs received these donations including the Red Cross, Americares, Give Children Hope Foundation and Partners in Health, to name a few. Medical supplies were also allocated to PROMESS in Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s largest pharmaceutical store run by the Ministry of Health, WHO and PAHO. PROMESS was and is responsible for distributing these supplies to those in need. This paper analyses the omnipresent interplay between control, power and politics illustrated by the affiliations between the pharmaceutical companies, aid organizations and the Haitian Ministry of Health. The motivations behind these affiliations as well as the reasons for the substantial global attention given to this disaster are explored. On the one hand there have been enormous donations from pharmaceutical companies. Conversely, doctors, healthcare providers and volunteers continue to struggle with lack of equipment, medication and resources to treat the injured and the ill. Issues such as the lack of planning and coordination between companies and aid organizations have also surfaced. Biomedicine and related technology undeniably control survival and mortality and are at the heart of political, social and economic processes. Those that control medical knowledge and supplies can generate and conceal global inequalities relating to the access of resources and power.