



Envisioning Resilient Community Futures

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TEACHING

Teaching Philosophy: The Classroom as a Sanctuary

I approach **teaching as scholarship** a dynamic and interactive process where learning is collaborative, inclusive, and transformative.

Courses I teach : *International Social Work, Community Social Work, and Green Social Work* Practices include:

MOOCs, Zero-Textbook, and Open Educational Resources (OERs) to enhance equity and accessibility.

Global justice and Decolonial thinking and Practice embedded across curricula and learning assignments

Transformative pedagogies prepare learners for intercultural and interdisciplinary engagement.

GLOBAL AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

My teaching and research integrate **local and global perspectives** through community-based and participatory approaches.

Built Collaborations span **Canada, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka.**

Projects emphasize:

- **Disaster-resilient community futures**
- **Climate justice and Blue Carbon-based livelihoods**
- **Circular economies and sustainable development**

These initiatives align with:

- ☐ **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- ☐ **Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy**
- ☐ **TRU's global vision and EDSW's priorities**

RESEARCH

Vision

To **co-create transformative educational and action research spaces** that connect communities, inspire equity-driven learning, and contribute to global sustainability through scholarship, teaching, and service.

Key Concepts and Tools

Community Science • Global Citizenship • Community Resilience • Decolonial Pedagogy • Climate Justice • Open Education • Transdisciplinary Research and Co Production of Knowledge

Research Funding

Principal Investigator (PI) - SSHRC Imagining Canada's Future Ideas Lab - *Making Culture and Circular Economy*, \$ 200,043.

Principal Investigator (PI) - NFRF - Special Call on Innovative Approaches to Research in the Pandemic Context - *Breaking the Mold: Interlinking Place-based Knowledge, social learning, collective action, and Empowerment to nurture disaster resilience in Canada, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka.* \$ 227,000

Publications:

Nikku, B.R., Galimberti, S., Gurung, K., & Kodi, S. (2025). International Social Work, Community Science, and Disaster Justice. In: Henrickson, M., Coffey, D.S. (eds) *Pushing Boundaries in Social Work Around the World*, Vol. 2. Springer Briefs in Advancing Social Work and Social Work Education. Springer, Cham.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-91421-8_3

Nikku, B. R. (2024). *Social work on the front line: Teaching disaster social work in Nepal and Canada*. In C. Adamson, M. Alston, B. Bennett, J. Boddy, H. Boetto, L. Harms, & R. Tudor (Eds.), *The Routledge International Handbook of Social Work and Disaster Practice* (1st ed., Chapter 36). Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003309208>

SERVICE

Strategic Internationalization Plan (2025–2035)

My work aligns with all five goals outlined in the **Plan**, with a particular emphasis on **Goal # 5**:

“To lead the way in cultivating a culture of community-mindedness with a global conscience by sharing educational practices, exchanging knowledge worldwide, and addressing regional, national, and global challenges through education and scholarship.”

This goal resonates deeply with my pedagogical approach and commitment to **global engagement** and **local action**, which I embody through my teaching, research, and service projects.

Stories of Resilience

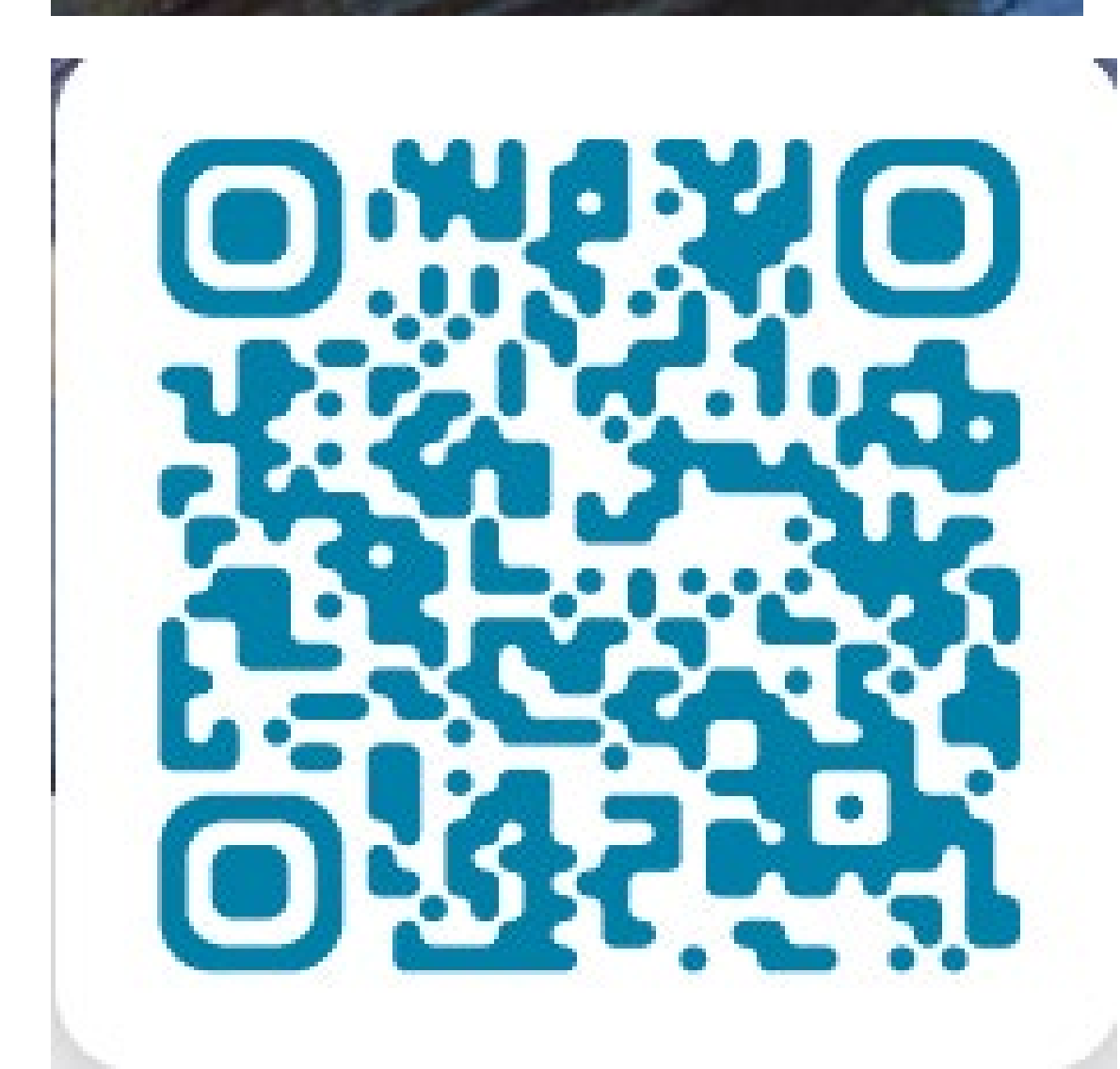
Resilient Community Futures Research Network (RCFRN)

<https://resilientfutures.trubox.ca>



Left: Artwork co-created by Project Artist Liz Toohey-Wiese and Storyteller Dr. Bala Nikku.

Scan to read the stories!



From earthquakes to wildfires. What are the human impacts?

May 29, 2019

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Dr. Nikku Bala meets with a Nepalese resident after an earthquake in that country.

