

Maciej Pawlik – Disaster Scientist

Dept. Risk & Disaster Reduction | Institute of Education – **University College London**

Bio	Early-career researcher with an international & interdisciplinary background, vital publications focused on Disaster Risk Reduction, and growing expertise maximising research project impact and fostering community engagement in science research across the UK, Japan & beyond. Focused on fostering learning about nature-based solutions, as well as to support behavioural change in the context of emergencies.
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Contact Details	Address: Dept. Risk & Disaster Reduction University College London Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT (Also based at the Institute of Education)	Phone: +44 7597167354 Email: maciej.pawlik.24@ucl.ac.uk Website: https://maciej-pawlik.github.io/ LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/maciejpawlik2000 UCL Page: https://profiles.ucl.ac.uk/102104-maciej-pawlik ORCID: 0009-0009-6585-4852
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Research Interests	Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Resilience, Green Learning, Disaster Education, Nature-based Solutions, Human-Nature Interactions, Ecological Posthumanism, & Disaster Ethics
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Employment (Academic)	University of East London <i>Research Assistant (2022-2024)</i> - Supported the organisational management & development of two international, interdisciplinary research projects focused on Disaster Risk Reduction (1. Risk Communication; 2. Disaster Evacuation) - Involved in the recruitment of participants, arrangement of fieldwork, & follow-up correspondence across the UK and Japan - Effectively processed essential research administration - risk assessments, ethics applications, data management forms, as well as grant applications & research proposals - Secured funding for an extension of my research contract - Used NVIVO to process large volumes of data - Engaged in the write-up & editing of top-tier research papers, as well as liaison with publishers Royal Holloway, University of London Senior Officer for Science Events (2022-)
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	- Led the organisation of knowledge-transfer events, as well as supporting prospective student entry into higher education
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Education	University College London (UCL) <i>PhD., Nature-based Disaster Resilience, In Progress</i> - Dissertation topic: “Green Learning for Disaster Resilience: A study of nature-based solutions storytelling in flood-prone communities in Glasgow & Kyoto” - Advisors: Dan Haines, Kaori Kitagawa, & Megnaa Mehtta - Basic Rationale: Engaging with how people learn about nature (in the context of disaster risk reduction) in their community through interviews with varying types of people. Using insights to develop creative learning interventions to support the fostering of nature-based resilience in the face of potential disasters (esp. hydrological-type emergencies) Royal Holloway, University of London <i>MSc., Global Futures: Justice, Development, & Sustainability, 2022</i> - Distinction; Focused on the role of nature (esp. plants) in upholding human society, e.g. eco-economics & Ecological Posthumanism (conceptualising pathways for a more sustainable future on the planet) - Utilised blogging & videography to engage in creative dissemination of research work (to support accessibility to project outcomes for wider audiences) - Gained training in effective engagement in cultural immersion to deepen research insights (including learning to use software like NVIVO) <i>BSc (Hons)., Psychology, Clinical Psychology, & Mental Health, 2021</i> - 2:1; Focused on the psychological impact of human-nature disconnect political polarisation of group relations (in-groups vs. out-groups in terms of political perceptions) - Used SPSS & R-prog to process statistical data (esp. conducting multiple regressions, ANOVA, & t-tests) - Developed understanding about controlling confounding variables & tailoring interventions to contexts
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Honours & Awards	- Young Scientist Award (5th place) - 13th conference of the Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM) Society, Roorkee, India (Online), 2023 - Gold Passport Award (highest student honour) – Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, England (UK), 2021 - Commendation (best speaker on climate change) – Trust for Sustainable Living, Oxford, England (UK), 2017
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Teaching	Dept. Risk & Disaster Reduction, University College London (UCL) <i>Postgraduate Teaching Associate</i> - IRDR0052: Fieldwork Skills (2026-) - IRDR0015: Integrating Science in Disaster Risk Reduction (2026-) - IRDR0002: Emergency Planning & Management (2025-) Institute of Education, University College London (UCL) <i>Guest Lecturer</i> - EDPS0245: Co-learning for Disaster & Climate Justice (2024-) STEM Learning Scheme, Dept. Education (DfE) <i>Climate Ambassador (2025-)</i> - Direct Mentoring - Development of Climate Action Plans - Delivering School Workshops: Climate Change, Emergency Evacuation, Natural Hazards (esp. Flooding)
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Funding	Previous (Total: £55,000; plus £50,000 pending) - Research & Development Enabling Grant, £50,000. Institution of Civil Engineers, 2026-2028. - Student Fieldwork Grant, £2,500. British Association for International & Comparative Education, 2025-2026. - Standard Travel Grant, £2,500. Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, 2025-2026. - Impact Builder Grant, £50,000. University of East London, 2023-2024.
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Publications (Google Scholar)	Pawlik, M. (2026). ‘The Third Function: Ecological Posthumanism in London Botanical Gardens’, <i>People and Nature</i>. (In Review). Pawlik, M. (2026). ‘Already an Injustice: Death Note & the Threshold Problem in Disaster Risk Ethics’, <i>Disaster Prevention and Management</i>. (Due for publication). Pawlik, M. & Kitagawa, K. (2025). ‘Supporting Sustainable Development Through Early-Life DRR Learning Opportunities: UK School Insights’. <i>Sustainability</i>, 17, 5671. https://doi.org/10.3390/su17135671 Pawlik, M., Takabatake, T., Shiroshita, H., Jayaratne, R., Haddad, H., Kitagawa, K. & Hasegawa, N. (2025). ‘Agent-based modelling for flood evacuation as inclusive disaster risk reduction: Pilot participatory action research with 11-and 12-year-old children
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	from a Japanese school’, <i>International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction</i>, 117, 105180. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2025.105180 Pawlik, M., Kitagawa, K., Shiroshita, H., Jayaratne, R., Nomoto, S., Okumura, Y. & Kono, K. (2024). ‘Proposing thematic mapping for integrated risk communication: A study of British & Japanese perspectives in flood-prone communities’. <i>International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction</i>, 107, 104472. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2024.104472
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Media Articles	Ravindra Jayaratne & Maciej Pawlik (02/2026). East London is at high risk of extreme flooding – here’s how to limit the damage, The Conversation. https://theconversation.com/east-london-is-at-high-risk-of-extreme-flooding-heres-how-to-limit-the-damage-275238 Maciej Pawlik (12/2025). What It’s Really Like Starting a PhD That Saves Lives, FindAPhD.com. https://www.findaphd.com/blog/12493/what-its-really-like-starting-a-phd-that-saves-lives Maciej Pawlik (11/2025). Children should help shape disaster preparedness, PreventionWeb. https://www.preventionweb.net/drr-community-voices/children-should-help-shape-disaster-preparedness Maciej Pawlik & Ravindra Jayaratne (04/2025). Why flood evacuation plans must account for real human behaviour, CIWEM’s Environment Magazine. https://www.ciwem.org/news/why-flood-evacuation-plans-must-account-for-real-human-behaviour
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Public Interviews	Upcoming: Mark Ashley Parry (09/2026). IDRIM Podcast: ‘Disaster Risk Ethics & Death Note’. Integrated Disaster Risk Management Society. Garry Turner (04/2026). The Power of Healthy Masculinity with Maciej Pawlik, In the Business of Healthy Masculinity episode #25. https://inbusinessofhealthymasculinity.substack.com/p/the-power-of-healthy-masculinity
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	Amanda Coleman (12/2025). 10 Minutes With Maciej Pawlik, Amanda Coleman Communication. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTgSY0OHpYg
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Conferences & Talks	UPCOMING: 16th conference of Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM) Society – Bali, Indonesia (09/2026) - Set to present preliminary insights from Japanese fieldwork in Kyoto and coining my conceptual idea: Green Learning. PREVIOUS: UCL Disaster Risk Reduction & Humanitarian Society Innovation Evening – London, UK (11/2025) - Led a talk titled ‘With nature we can tell a different story rooted in hope’, expressing the need re-establish a better relationship with nature for the sake of our future resilience to threats. 15th conference of Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM) Society – Samos Island, Greece (09/2025) - Presented research about the use of social data in agent-based modelling to increase predictive capacity in terms of human behaviour in tsunami-induced flooding emergencies. UCL Sociology Network inaugural conference - London, UK (06/2025) - Shared a presentation titled ‘Children as Our Last Hope: How Creative Learning can Save the Planet’, which expressed the need to engage children in early-life DRR learning opportunities. UCL IOE Centre for Education & International Development (CEID) Sustainability Showcase (12/2024) - Poster presentation illustrating the need to utilise storytelling to convey better narratives about how nature-based solutions can support disaster resilience efforts. British Science Festival, hosted by University of East London - London, UK (09/2024) - Delivered an interactive workshop to the general public: ‘Flood, Sweat & Tears’, focused on mapping flood evacuation behaviour in East London. Catalysing Connections conference, hosted by University of East London - London, UK (11/2023) - Led discussions about crafting processes of effective risk communication in the context of flooding following a presentation. 13th conference of Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM) Society - Roorkee, India (ONLINE) (09/2023)
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	- Attended the Young Scientist Session competition, presenting research about using thematic mapping to create integrated risk communication; won 5th place award. Impact & Innovation conference, hosted by University of East London - London, UK (09/2023) - Presented at the Climate Adaptation Session about the need to include wider stakeholder perspectives in risk communication crafting processes. 6th conference of the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) - Kyoto, Japan (03/2023) - Produced and delivered a poster presentation about developing better systems of communication in DRR to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the Climate Action pledge. 12th conference of Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM) Society, Cluj-Napoca, Romania (ONLINE) (09/2022) - Presented at 1st international conference of research career, focusing on translating expert language to non-experts, in terms of risk communication.
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Fieldwork	• Glasgow, Scotland (UK): March – April 2026 • Kyoto (and Sendai), Japan: December 2025 – January 2026 • Wakayama, Japan: October – November 2023 • Inami & Minamiawaji (and Osaka), Japan: March 2023 • Egham & Sturmer, England (UK): November 2022
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Consultancy & Advisory	- Development of an Early Career Researcher Resource Portal for disaster risk researchers on behalf on the UK Alliance for Disaster Research (2026). - Expert contribution, UNESCO survey on Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction (2026). - Advisory conversation with Dr Lorna Riddle, Head of Public Risk & Preparedness Communications, Societal Resilience Team, COBR Directorate, Cabinet Office (2025).
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Affiliations	Fellowships: - Fellow, Royal Geographical Society (FRGS) - Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy (AFHEA) Memberships: - British Ecological Society
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	- British Association for International & Comparative Education - World Wildlife Fund - Avoidable Deaths Network - Green Party of England and Wales - British Red Cross - Crisis UK
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Governance & Leadership	Steering Committee Member, UK Alliance for Disaster Research (2026-) - Supporting early career researcher development across disaster science and shaping UK policy-research relationships in the context of disaster risk reduction. PhD Representative, UCL Mathematical & Physical Sciences Faculty Student-Staff Committee (2025-) - Supporting strategic planning & decision making at faculty level. Assessing ECR Awards across the Faculty. PhD Representative, UCL Dept. Risk & Disaster Reduction Student-Staff Committee (2025-) - Providing PhD student feedback at department level & supporting development of new initiatives. PhD Representative, Dept. Risk & Disaster Reduction EDI Committee (2025-) - Supporting the development of initiatives that foster greater accessibility across the department. Representative, Green Party International Committee (2023-2024) - Organised and oversaw the selection of UK delegates for the Global Greens Congress in Lyon, France (2024). South-East Representative, Green Party Disciplinary Committee (2022-2023) - Investigated cases of misconduct, served as a juror, & oversaw expulsions over violations of the code of conduct. Delegate, National Union of Students UK (2021) - Represented Royal Holloway students at the annual meeting of the NUS, voting on national strategic aims of focus. Founder & President, Royal Holloway Pokémon Society (2019-2021) - Built a new university society based on the most popular media franchise, developing a community & support network.
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Skills	Languages: English & Polish (Native level), Japanese & British Sign Language (Intermediate; JLPT in progress)
	Media: Canva, Audacity, Adobe Suite (Inc. Photoshop)

	Statistics: R-prog & SPSS
	Coding: Python, JavaScript, & SQL
	Other: Basic Engineering for DRR, Basic Medicine (First Aid & Mental Health First Aid), Self-Defence, Botany, NVIVO, Agent-based Modelling, & Survivalism
	Current CPD: GIS, AI, & Sustainable Finance
	Research: Grant Management, Mixed Methods, Writing & Publishing, Community Engagement, Public Speaking, Storytelling, Creative Education, Validation & Strategic Planning

Hobbies	Hiking, Swimming, Anime & Manga (esp. Death Note), Sci-Fi & Dystopian Literature (esp. Dune), & Classical Music Concerts (esp. Strings)
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Testimonials	Fizah Saddique UCL 2026 Graduate, Education, Gender, and International Development Masters Programme Former Student, Co-learning for Disaster & Climate Justice module at UCL Institute of Education (2026)
	<i>'I had the pleasure of attending Maciej Pawlik's session: "Green learning for disaster resilience" during one of my masters module: Co-learning for Disaster and Climate Justice, and it was one of the most engaging learning experiences I've had. What I appreciated most was his ability to create a genuinely participatory space where everyone felt encouraged to contribute, reflect, and learn from one another. Through thoughtful discussions, storytelling, and creative activities, the session was both intellectually stimulating and enjoyable.</i>
	<i>What particularly resonated with me was how Maciej connected Green Learning not only to disaster resilience and nature-based solutions, but also to broader questions of social justice, inequality, and the value of local and indigenous knowledge. He encouraged us to think critically about who has access to knowledge, whose voices are heard in disaster risk reduction, and how stronger relationships with nature can contribute to more equitable and resilient communities.</i> <i>Maciej has a remarkable ability to make complex ideas accessible while inspiring meaningful reflection. I left the session with a much deeper appreciation of Green Learning and the role of storytelling, community engagement, and human–nature</i>

relationships in building resilience. I would highly recommend him as a facilitator, educator, and researcher to anyone interested in sustainability, disaster risk reduction, and community-centred approaches to learning.'

Alex Black

Senior Professional, Disaster Risk Reduction

Former Student, Emergency Planning & Management module at UCL Dept. Risk & Disaster Reduction (2025-2026)

*'I'm glad to recommend Maciej, who led our emergency planning seminars at UCL as a PhD teaching associate. **His enthusiasm for the subject was genuine and infectious**, and every session reflected real preparation and care.*

*What stood out most was how he drew in the whole group – **making space for quieter voices and bringing a real breadth of perspectives to our collective learning.***

Dr Hideyuki Shiroshita

President, Avoidable Deaths Network

Associate Professor, Safety Sciences (Kansai University, Japan)

Japan Lead for RA research projects (2022-2024)

*'I have known Maciej since 2022, when we offered a research assistant position for the project titled "Developing an Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) System to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," funded by Kansai University. **Among more than 60 applicants, he was selected as the sole research assistant for the project.** I was impressed by his passion and enthusiasm for the project, and **I can confidently say that our decision to hire him was the right one.***

*The aforementioned research project involved conducting interviews with various stakeholders in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) across local communities in both the UK and Japan. Maciej organized and led most of the interviews in the UK and actively participated in those conducted in Japan. **Despite the language barrier, he made significant efforts to communicate effectively with Japanese participants** and to understand the information they provided. His dedication and hard work were instrumental to the project's success. Within six months, he delivered two presentations related to the project and **led the writing of a***

research paper, which has already been published in a Q1 journal.

*Due to his commitment and contributions, our team sought to extend his contract and successfully secured additional funding to retain him. Subsequently, as part of Kansai's SDGs project, we applied for and won the Impact Builder Competition at the University of East London. Maciej once again served as the research assistant for this initiative, which included delivering a series of special lectures at a junior high school in Japan. **During fieldwork in Japan, he demonstrated excellent coordination skills** and further proved his capability as a researcher.*

*Based on my experience working with Maciej, I can attest to his strong aptitude for research. He is skilled at arranging and conducting interviews, collecting and analyzing data, delivering presentations, and writing research papers. **Research requires not only a sharp mind but also well-developed skills, both of which Maciej possesses.***

Dr Ravindra Jayaratne

Chartered Civil Engineer, Institution of Civil Engineers
Reader, Coastal Engineering (University of East London, UK)
Line Manager at University of East London (2022-2024)

*'Maciej was an outstanding Research Assistant on two major interdisciplinary, international projects focused on disaster risk reduction, funded by Kansai University and the University of East London. He demonstrated an exceptional ability to engage with a wide range of stakeholders and fully adapt to diverse fieldwork environments in both the UK and Japan. **His capacity to seamlessly integrate into these varied contexts made him indispensable to the success of the projects.***

***The quality of Maciej's work is truly exceptional.** From research papers and presentations to creative blogs produced to non-academic audiences were of the highest standard. **His ability to manage complex administrative tasks**, such as ethics applications and risk assessments, was flawless, **placing him among the top 1% of researchers** I have supervised. Beyond his technical skills, **Maciej is an exceptional team player** who brings enthusiasm and collaboration to every setting. The passion he has for research, combined with his ability to inspire those around him,*

	<i>sets him apart as a truly exceptional researcher with an exciting future and real potential to enact positive change.</i>
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