

## Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation Scholars (2008–2025)

Honouring a Legacy. Advancing Global Resilience to Hazards  
and Risks





This photograph was taken during Afsana Afrin Esha's fieldwork in Bangladesh in 2024. It shows Esha pumping water from a tube well into a Pond Sand Filter (PSF), while a local woman explains how the system is used. The image highlights a community-based freshwater treatment system and illustrates an important aspect of everyday water access and local knowledge in the fieldwork setting.

Photo credit: Mohammad Rimon Hossain

# Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation Scholars (2008–2025)

## Honouring a Legacy. Advancing Global Resilience to Hazards and Risks

Since 2008, the Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation (CMMF) has partnered with Durham University's Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience (IHRR) and Department of Geography to support outstanding postgraduate researchers tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges.

From 2008 to 2025, they have funded twelve PhD and three Master's Global South scholarships at Durham University. This brochure honours their generosity and the enduring impact of these scholarships—spanning disciplines, borders, and generations.

"At the heart of Durham University's mission is a commitment to tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges, and work undertaken by the Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience embodies this. For 17 years, the visionary generosity of the Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation has empowered a generation of promising researchers from the Global South to tackle some of the most complex challenges facing society. Your support and commitment continues to transform lives, and we are deeply grateful for your investment."

Katie Harland-Edminson, Chief Development Officer.

Photo Credits: Page 1: Top Left: IHRR sign, Credit: IHRR; Top Centre: Christopher Moyes Foundation logo; Middle Left: Credit: Durham University; Bottom Right: Bangladesh, Credit: Mohammad Rimon Hossain.  
Page 2 below: Bottom Left: Sundarbans, Credit: Naznin Nasir; Bottom Right: Bangladesh, Credit: Mohammad Rimon Hossain.



# In Memory of Christopher Moyes, OBE (1949–2006)

## A Visionary Committed to Public Good

Christopher Moyes was a respected entrepreneur, Chair of Durham University Council, Deputy Lieutenant of County Durham, and co-founder of the Go-Ahead Group. He was known for his calm, principled leadership and his dedication to education, community service, and societal resilience.

The Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation (CMMF), formally established in 2009 and chaired by Jan Moyes, honours his legacy by supporting postgraduate research that addresses global risks, public health challenges, and environmental resilience—particularly in vulnerable regions of the Global South.

## A Strategic Partnership for Global Impact

### The Foundation and the Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience (IHRR)

The Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation supports PhD and Masters researchers at Durham University's Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience—a global centre for interdisciplinary research on natural hazards, disaster risk reduction, and community resilience. In line with the Foundation's wishes, all scholars are based within the Department of Geography, where their work is grounded in world-leading research and supervision.

Together, the Foundation and IHRR funded studentships based in the Department of Geography have focused on the IHRR themes of hazard, risk and resilience, including:

- Climate change and adaptation
- Public and environmental health
- Access to clean water
- Disaster recovery and mental health
- Risk governance and equity

These CMMF studentships have supported scholars who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to pursue doctoral study. Many have gone on to become leaders and changemakers in their home countries and beyond.

Photo Credits: Below Left: Chandika Shresta, Moyes PhD fieldwork in 2017, Credit: Pramila GC; Bottom Right: Jan Moyes and Prof Sarah Curtis with postgraduate students funded by the Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation, Credit: Michelle Allan



## Current Scholars

### Pursuing Knowledge. Creating Change.

#### Naznin Nasir (Started 2018, Bangladeshi)

**PhD Title:** The Future Lab: Governing Climate Change in Bangladesh.

Naznin explores how climate governance and development programmes shape the lives and futures of vulnerable communities in Bangladesh.



#### Afsana Afrin Esha (Started 2022, Bangladeshi)

**PhD Title:** Avoiding Graveyards of Drinking Water Technologies: Building Resilience for Vulnerable Communities in the Field of Water Security, Technology and Governance in Bangladesh.

Esha investigates the long-term sustainability of donor-led water technologies in coastal regions affected by climate-induced water insecurity.

Photo Credits: Bottom Left: Sirajganj, Bangladesh: Floating House, Credit: Naznin Nasir; Bottom Right: Valley-blocking landslide at Jure, Sindhupalchok, Credit: Nick Rosser.



## Alumni Scholars

### From Durham to the World: Alumni Making a Difference

#### Chandika Shrestha (PhD Awarded 2024, Nepalese)

**PhD Title:** Post-Disaster Wellbeing of Women: A Case Study of the Gorkha Earthquake in Dolakha, Nepal.

Chandika explored gendered experiences of trauma and recovery following the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

**Now:** Chandika went on to work for the Face-up project as a Postdoctoral Research Assistant at Durham University.



#### Ritwika Basu (PhD Awarded 2024, Indian)

**PhD Title:** Brokered Resilience Climate-Resilient Spatial Reconfigurations as Strategic Governance in Informal Labor Geographies, Case of Surat.

Ritwika studied inclusive approaches to climate governance in Indian cities, with a focus on justice and environmental mobility.

**Now:** Ritwika is a Critical Geographer specializing in Urban Studies & Environmental Social Sciences in the United States.



#### Erwin Nugraha (PhD Awarded 2024, Indonesian)

**PhD Title:** Resilience Governmentality: Rationality, Apparatus, and Subjectivity in Building Urban Resilience in Indonesia.

Erwin examined how urban governance structures respond to climate adaptation challenges in Southeast Asia.

**Now:** Erwin is a Postdoctoral Research Associate on the FACE-UP project at Durham University.



#### Ayushman Bhagat (PhD Awarded 2020, Indian)

**PhD Title:** Departure Avenues: The Politics of (Anti-) Trafficking and Emigration Control in Nepal.

Ayushman focused on the pre- and post-disaster mobility of women in regions vulnerable to trafficking and displacement.

**Now:** Ayushman is a lecturer in Political Geography at Brunel University, London.



## Alumni Scholars

### Transformative Research with Global Reach

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#### Liaqat Hussain (PhD Awarded 2017, MSc Awarded 2012, Pakistani)

**PhD Title:** Post-Disaster Housing Reconstruction: A Study of The Government of Pakistan's Housing Reconstruction Programme in Azad Jammu & Kashmir after October 2005 Earthquake.

Liaqat analysed the reconstruction efforts after Pakistan's 2005 earthquake, with an emphasis on community-led recovery. MSc (also supported by the CMMF) in Environmental Hazards and Risk.

**Now:** Since his return to Pakistan, Liaqat has held various key positions in the government at senior level, mainly at the policy making level.



#### Nahid Rezwana (PhD Awarded 2016, Bangladeshi)

**PhD Title:** Disasters and Access to Healthcare in the Coastal Region of Bangladesh: A Gendered Analysis.

Nahid investigated how disaster preparedness and response policies affect women's access to healthcare during cyclones.

**Now:** Nahid is an associate professor in the Department of Geography & Environment in the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Dhaka University.



#### Joseph Sambali (PhD Awarded 2015, Tanzanian)

**PhD Title:** Exploring Health Risks and Resilience in a Rural Population in the Context of Environment-Related Diseases, Ngara, Tanzania.

Joseph explored how local perceptions influence responses to malaria and waterborne disease in East Africa.

**Now:** Joseph works in health, safety and environmental aspects at Swissport Tanzania based in Dar es Salaam.



## David Damby (PhD Awarded 2012, American)

**PhD Title:** From Dome to Disease: The Respiratory Toxicity of Volcanic Cristobalite.

David studied the inhalation risks of volcanic ash, providing critical insights for public health planning in high-risk regions.

**Now:** David currently works for the USGS Volcano Hazards Program. He has worked on volcanic emissions, wildfire smoke, desert dusts, coal dust, lunar dust, and diatomaceous earth.



## Muhammad Jahedul Huq (Shovon) (MSc Awarded 2012, Bangladeshi)

**MSc Thesis Title:** Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Flood Hazard in Bangladesh.

Muhammad examined how climate adaptation policies and funding in Bangladesh align with domestic development priorities, using a political economy and qualitative case study approach.

**Now:** Muhammad is a Planning Specialist for the National Resilience Programme in Bangladesh.



## Mohammed Nadiruzzaman (PhD Awarded 2012, Bangladeshi)

**PhD Title:** Cyclone Sidr and Its Aftermath: Everyday Life, Power and Marginality.

Mohammed's research revealed how cyclone-affected Bangladeshi fishing communities face inequality, unsafe housing, and helped amplify their voices for policy change.

**Now:** Muhammed is Assistant Professor of Health, Ethics and Society at Maastricht University, leading research on livelihoods, climate change, disasters, development and population movements.



## Christina Makungu (MA Awarded 2011, Tanzanian)

**MA Thesis Title:** Young People in Self-Care – Behaviours and Experiences in Farming Households in Kilombero Valley, Tanzania.

Christina explored how the absence of parents due to farming activities affects school children's vulnerability to malaria in southern Tanzania.

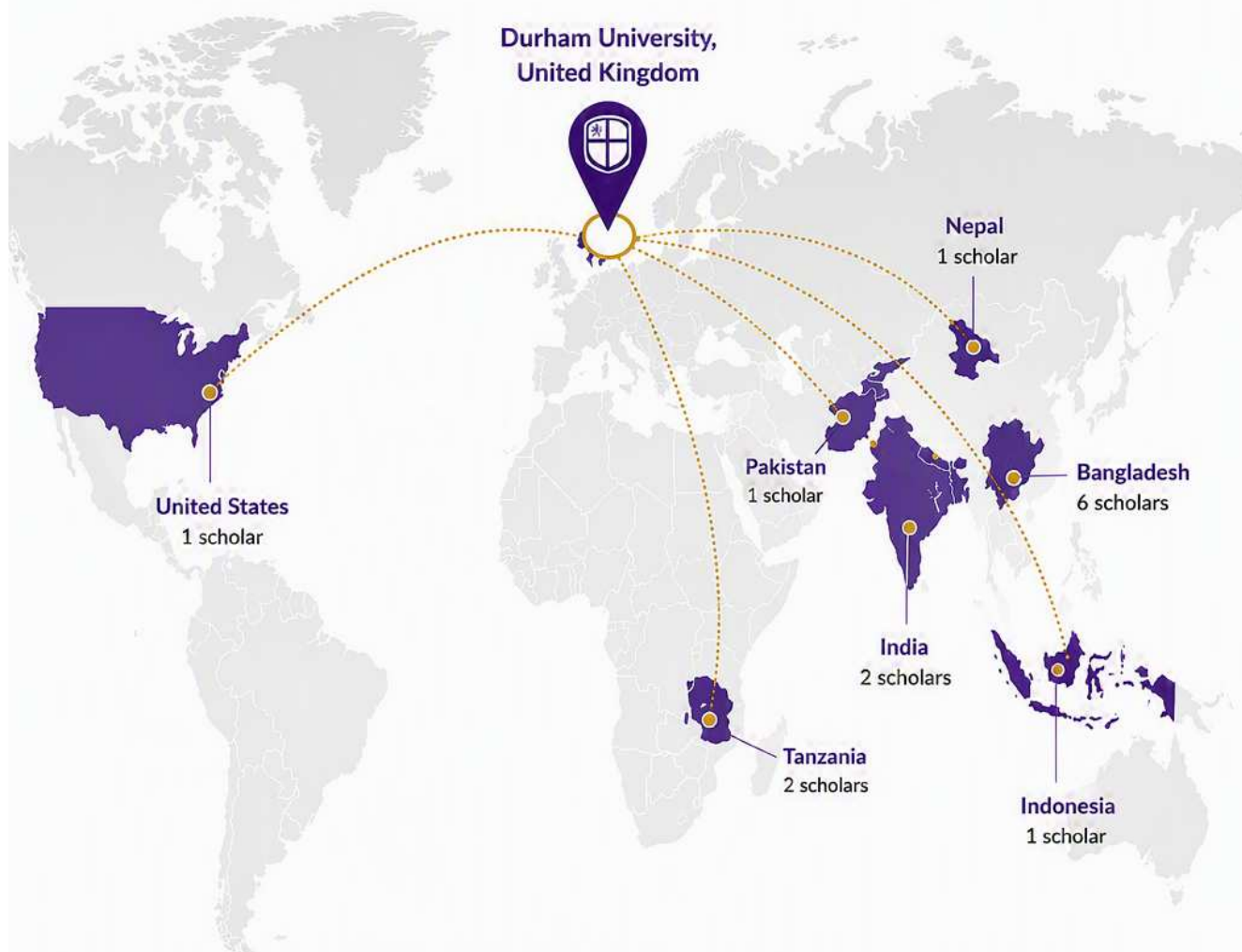
**Now:** Christina is currently a PhD student at the Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow supported by the Moyes Foundation.



# The Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation: A Global Legacy

## 17 Years of Supporting Global Resilience Research

*Scholarships empowering researchers from around the world to tackle society's most pressing hazard, risk and resilience challenges.*



15

Scholarships  
Funded



12

PhD  
Researchers



3

Master's  
Scholars



6

Countries  
Represented



17

Years of  
Partnership



2008-2025

Supporting Global  
Resilience Research

# The Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation Legacy of Impact

## Over a Decade of Generosity. A Future of Global Resilience.

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Thanks to their commitment, the Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation has supported over a decade of transformative research. These scholars have advanced global knowledge of risk and resilience while effecting meaningful change in their communities.

Their work embodies the values that Christopher Moyes stood for: quiet leadership, long-term impact, and unwavering support for those working to build a better future.

“These Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation scholarships align directly with the core aims of the Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience—namely, to forecast hazards, understand risk, and build resilience. These scholarships have enabled exceptional researchers from the Global South to address urgent challenges in their communities. These scholarships do not just fund research; they empower leadership for transformative, lasting change.”

Professor Bruce D Malamud, Director, IHRR

The Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation is a registered charity in the United Kingdom (UK Charity No. 1123491).

The Christopher Moyes Memorial Foundation is a living legacy of compassion, vision, and meaningful impact. On behalf of Durham University, IHRR and the Department of Geography, we extend our deepest thanks for their continued support.

To find out more about the foundation please visit [moyesfoundation.org](http://moyesfoundation.org)

Photo Credits: Bottom Left: Munshiganj vibrant community gathering, Credit: Naznin Nasir; Bottom Right: Jan Moyes and four scholars, Credit: IHRR.





This photograph captures a moment during fieldwork by Moyes Scholar Naznin Nasir which she conducted in the remote coastal areas of Gabura Island, near the Sundarbans Mangrove Forest in Shyamnagar, Satkhira, Bangladesh. The image was taken while travelling by motorbike, the primary mode of road transportation on the island, to meet a key informant. The journey followed an earthen embankment that serves as a vital protective barrier against high tides and storm surges.

Lined with trees and bordered by traditional wooden boats moored along the water's edge, the scene reflects the island's dependence on both road and water transport. The tranquil landscape also hints at the daily challenges faced by local communities living in a fragile coastal environment. The image conveys not only the natural beauty of this unique deltaic setting but also the resilience required to navigate its physical and environmental realities.

Photo credit: Naznin Nasir

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research for a  
safer, more  
resilient world.”**

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