

Epilogue

As a first responder (in the form of journalist and communication practitioner) to the 2015 Nepal earthquake that killed more than 8,000 people, I witnessed discrepancies in disaster relief and crisis communication that led me to pursue a PhD focused on improving future responses to global challenges. In 2017, I observed a similar disparity in disaster response as Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico. These transformative lived experiences created a scholarly trajectory for me focused on significant and evolving global challenges and disasters, such as earthquakes, climate change, pandemics, or war. Witnessing racial injustices, inequities, and misinformation during COVID-19, I continue to interrogate *how we can improve the human condition when the globe is shaken by crises such as COVID-19, climate change, war, misinformation, and aid discrepancies*. We need to create space for global communities facing disasters for humanists to glean insights from the experiences of these communities and to develop public interventions by empowering first responders to conduct disaster responses with social justice. This book is an attempt to do so as it showcased how disaster responders in Nepal and Puerto Rico enabled global philanthropic partnerships and engagements via digital technologies to launch social justice-oriented disaster responses. However, there is still much to do. As a field, we need to integrate our knowledge, practices, and lived experiences of the community toward ending disparities and empowering marginalized populations. As cliché as it sounds, how are we moving beyond our publications and projects that are mostly from the walls of academia? As the time demands, we need stronger investment from scholars in building community and enhancing technological infrastructures aiding communication and fostering global partnerships to support vulnerable communities facing issues of disasters, climate change, health, and environmental disparities.