

YAJAIRA ISABEL AYALA ALANIS

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Education

- 2019 Ph.D. Student in Disaster Science and Management
2022- Ph.D. Candidate in Disaster Science Management
University of Delaware
Dissertation title: "Reframing Reality: An Analysis of Vulnerability and Resiliency Among Poor Black Women in the Long-Term Recovery Process"
- 2019 MA in Disaster Studies
Thesis title: "Understanding Local Vulnerability in the Rio Grande Valley."
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- 2016 BA in Sociology
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Research Experience

- 2021 Latin American Recovery. Graduate Research Assistant. ELQ Collection at the Disaster Research Center. University of Delaware. Newark, DE.
- 2020 DRC- It! Graduate Research Assistant. Disaster Research Center. University of Delaware. Newark, DE.
- June 2020 Composite of Post-Event Well-being (COPEWELL). Graduate Research Assistant. Disaster Science and Management. University of Delaware. Newark, DE.
- 2018 Collaborative on Population Health Innovation and Improvement. Graduate Research Assistant. Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Our Voice/Nuestra Voz. Graduate Research Assistant. Center for Survey Research and Policy Analysis. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Teaching Experience

- Spring 2023 Leadership, Creativity, and Innovation. Graduate Teaching Assistant. Joseph R. Biden Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Delaware. Spring 2023.
- The Leadership Challenge. Graduate Teaching Assistant. Joseph R. Biden Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Delaware. Spring 2023.

- Fall 2022 Leadership, Creativity, and Innovation. Graduate Teaching Assistant. Joseph R. Biden Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Delaware. Fall 2020.
- The Leadership Challenge. Graduate Teaching Assistant. Joseph R. Biden Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Delaware. Fall 2020.
- Spring 2020 Issues in Disaster Recovery. Graduate Teaching Assistant. Disaster Science and Management Program, University of Delaware. Newark, DE. Spring 2019.
- Fall 2019 Disasters in Film. Graduate Teaching Assistant. Disaster Science and Management Program, University of Delaware. Newark, DE. Fall 2019.

Professional Experience

- July 2023 American Evaluation Association (AEA). Graduate Education & Diversity Intern (GEDI)
- 2022- 2023 Next Generation Scenarios. Qualitative study. Independent Consultant.

Presentations

- 2023 Ayala A., Yajaira I. "Reframing Reality: A Demographic Profile of Black Women in Lake Charles, LA." Research with Impact: Improving Mitigation Practice and Increasing Community Resilience. Natural Hazards Center. Boulder, CO. August 15, 2023.
- Ayala A., Yajaira I. "Reframing Reality: A Demographic Profile of Black Women in Lake Charles, LA." Bill Anderson Fund Lightning Talks. Natural Hazards Workshop. Broomfield, CO. July 12, 2023.
- Ayala A., Yajaira I. "Reframing Reality: An analysis of vulnerability and resiliency among poor Black women in the long-term recovery process." XX International Sociological Association's World Congress of Sociology. Melbourne, AU. June 2023.
- 2021 Lane C, Ayala Y. "Using Social Science to Understand Risk Exposure & Infant Feeding in Hazards & Disasters." United States Breastfeeding Conference & Convening. Round Table Presentation. June 2021.
- 2019 Ayala A., Yajaira I. "Assessing Local Flooding Vulnerability in the Rio Grande Valley." Southern Sociological Society 2019 annual meeting. Atlanta, GA. April 2019
- 2018 Ghaddar S, Guerra S, Ayala Y. *Operation Lone Star: Sociodemographic and Health Profile*. Invited presentation to the Task Force of Border Health Officials. Austin, December 7, 2018.

- 2018 Suad Ghaddar, Samantha Guerra, Yajaira Ayala, and Laryssa Mykyta. "Understanding Attitudes towards Telehealth: Evidence from the United States-Mexico Border." 1st International Conference on e-Health and Telehealth (ICEHAT), Kathmandu, Nepal. November 1, 2018

Poster Presentations

- 2022 Ayala Y. Nepantla: Defying Notions of Vulnerability and Resiliency During COVID-19; an Autoethnographic Approach. Natural Hazards Workshop, Boulder CO. July 11, 2022
- 2019 Ayala Y, Guerra S, Ghaddar S. *Understanding emergency preparedness among vulnerable groups in Hidalgo County*. 2019 College of Health Professions Research Symposium, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Edinburg, March 28, 2019.
- 2019 Guerra S, Ayala Y, Ghaddar S. *Striving for Health Equity: 2018 Health Profile of Operation Lone Star Participants*. 2019 College of Health Professions Research Symposium, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Edinburg, March 28, 2019
- Guerra S, Ayala Y, Ghaddar S. *The Effects of Poverty on Health by Gender: A Sample of 2018 Operation Lone Star Participants*. 2019 UTRGV School of Medicine Research Symposium, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Edinburg, September 14, 2019

Guest Lectures

- Fall 2023 "Reframing Reality: A Lecture." Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. Virginia Commonwealth University. October 12, 2023.

Working Papers

Using critical perspectives to explore disasters through shifting climates- this special issue seeks to examine the use of critical theoretical approaches and standpoint epistemologies to interpret and address the shifting physical, social, economic, and political climates for marginalized and minoritized communities.

Notions of Resilience- this paper explores theoretical notions of resilience in Southern America in relation to theoretical notions of the concept in the U.S. This paper aims to build a more comprehensive disaster resilience theory that accounts for the role of imperialist systems within the disaster field and its practice.

Assessing protective action among Rio Grande Valley Colonia residents- this work uses qualitative data to understand protective actions Colonia residents in the south of Texas use to prepare and protect themselves before disasters such as floodings and hurricanes occur.

Grants

- 2023 Doctoral Fellowship for Excellence. University of Delaware. February 2023.
- 2022 Gerard J. Mangone Climate Change Science & Policy Hub. Climate Change Graduate Research Enhancement Grant. \$9,764.00. Department of Geography and Spatial Sciences. University of Delaware, Newark, DE.

Honors and Awards

- 2023 Bill Anderson Fund- Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies Planning Team Grantee. \$4,000.00. April 2023.
- Corlett Nagel Family- Disaster Research Center Enrichment Fund Fellow. Award \$1,500.00. University of Delaware. June 2023.
- 2022 Teaching Assistantship and Tuition Scholarship, Joseph R. Biden School of Public Policy and Administration. Disaster Science and Management Program, University of Delaware, Newark, DE.
- 2020- 22 Graduate Scholar Award. University of Delaware, Newark, DE.
- 2021 William Averette Anderson Fund Fellow. University of Delaware, Newark, DE.
- 2019 Teaching Assistantship and Tuition Scholarship, Joseph R. Biden School of Public Policy and Administration. Disaster Science and Management Program, University of Delaware, Newark, DE.
- First place. Poster Presentation, Graduate Student Category. 2019 College of Health Professions Research Symposium, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Edinburg. March 29, 2019.

Journal Article Reviewer

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Organizations

- American Evaluation Association (June 2023- Present)
- Disaster Justice Network (2022- Present)
- William Averette Anderson Fund Fellow. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. (2020- Present)
 - 2021-2022 Elected Student Council Vice-Chair
- International Association of Emergency Managers, University of Delaware Chapter. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. (2019- 2020)

- June 2019 Elected Chapter Secretary
- Southern Sociological Society (2018- 2019)

University Service

- 2020 Disaster Research Center Diversity and Inclusion Committee. University of Delaware, Newark, DE.
- 2018 Ghaddar S, Guerra S, Ayala Y. Participation at Operation Lone Star. Hidalgo County, TX. July 23-27, 2018

Certifications

- FEMA- IS-00230.d- Fundamentals of Emergency Management
- FEMA- IS-00100.B- Introduction to Command System. ICS-100

Technical Skills

- ArcGIS
- Dedoose
- STATA
- SPSS

Languages

- Spanish
- English