

# 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)

## 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

*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

- 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
- STATA
- SPSS
- Dedoose

## **Languages**

- Spanish
- English