

**LAURA LYNN OLSON, PhD**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

**EDUCATION**

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<b>Ph.D.</b> , Public Administration / Organization Development, The George Washington University	2012
<b>M.A.</b> , Political Science, Ruprecht-Karls Universität Heidelberg	2000
<b>M.A.</b> , German Literature, Ruprecht-Karls Universität Heidelberg	2000
<b>B.A.</b> , Political Philosophy, Macalester College	1990

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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<b>Adjunct Faculty</b> , Maastricht School of Management, The Netherlands M.Sc. in Management & Engineering	2019
<b>Associate Faculty</b> , Royal Roads University, School of Humanitarian Studies, B.C., Canada Master of Arts Program in Disaster & Emergency Management	2018
<b>Research Associate</b> , Jacksonville State University, Alabama Center for Disaster and Community Resilience	2017
<b>Faculty Lecturer</b> , Georgetown University, School of Continuing Studies Emergency & Disaster Management Graduate Programs	2015
<b>Senior Research Scientist</b> , The George Washington University Institute for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management (ICDRM)	2006-2013
<b>Research Fellow</b> , The George Washington University International Council for Small Business (ICSB)	2005-2006
<b>Visiting Research Scholar</b> , The George Washington University Institute for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management (ICDRM)	2004-2005
<b>Public Management Fellow</b> , The George Washington University Center for Excellence in Public Leadership	2002-2004

**PUBLICATIONS**

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***Under Review:***

- Olson, Laura (2019). The Recovery Models, Practitioner Frameworks, and Organizational Contexts of U.S.-based NGOs that Developed in Response to Hurricane Katrina. *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*.
- Olson, L., Kushma, J. & Jerolleman, A. (2020). Internally-Displaced: Puerto Rican Evacuees in Philadelphia and the Formation of the Greater Philadelphia Long-Term Recovery Committee. *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters (IJMED) Special Issue: Living with Hurricanes*.

***Refereed:***

- McNamara, K., Olson, L, Rahman, A. (2016). *Insecure Hope: The challenges faced by urban slum dwellers in Bhola Slum, Bangladesh*. *Migration and Development Journal*. 5(1), 22 p.
- Olson, Laura. (2011). *Of Hell and High Water: Longitudinal Case Studies of the Internal and External Recovery Efforts of Non-Governmental Organizations after Hurricane Katrina*. [Doctoral Thesis]. ProQuest/UMI. Washington, DC: The George Washington University; 437 p.

Olson, Laura (2007). Case Study of a Catastrophic Event - Hurricane Katrina: An Evaluation of Social Vulnerability and Community/Organizational Resilience. *SOURCE: Studies of the University: Research, Counsel, Education*, 6, 115-125.

**Working Papers:**

Olson, L. & Alaniz, R. (in press for 2019). *Addressing Future Drought in the United States*. Research Counts Series. Natural Hazards Center: Boulder, CO.

Olson, L. (2019). *From Local Government to Civil Society, from Urban to Rural Settings: Making Recovery Inclusive*. Discussion Paper for 4<sup>th</sup> World Reconstruction Conference. Washington, DC: World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction; 8 p.

Olson, L., Browne, K., et al (2019). *Building Culture of Preparedness: Report for the FEMA Higher Education Program*. Washington, DC: FEMA; 38 p.

[https://training.fema.gov/hiedu/docs/latest/2019\\_cultures\\_of\\_preparedness\\_report\\_10.22.18%20final.pdf](https://training.fema.gov/hiedu/docs/latest/2019_cultures_of_preparedness_report_10.22.18%20final.pdf)

Olson, Laura. (2019). *Guidebook on Institutional Arrangements for Disaster Recovery: Six Case Studies and Implementation Guide*. UNDP Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction Cluster. New York: UNDP; 128 p.

Olson, L., Harootunian, G. & Alaniz, R. (2016). FEDERAL POLICY BRIEF: Drought as Disaster “2021” Goals—5-Year Plan: Taking Steps towards a Drought-Resilient Future. Submitted at request of National Security Council, Director of National Preparedness. Retrieved from:

[http://fresnostate.edu/academics/water/documents/Drought\\_Policy\\_Brief\\_Federal.pdf](http://fresnostate.edu/academics/water/documents/Drought_Policy_Brief_Federal.pdf)

Olson, L., Harootunian, G. & Alaniz, R. (2016). STATE of CALIFORNIA POLICY BRIEF: Drought as Disaster “2021” Goals—5-Year Plan: Taking Steps towards a Drought-Resilient Future - Drought Response, Risk Reduction, Preparedness, Mitigation, & Climate Change Adaptation. Submitted at request of National Security Council, Director of National Preparedness. Retrieved from:

[http://fresnostate.edu/academics/water/documents/Drought\\_Policy\\_Brief\\_California.pdf](http://fresnostate.edu/academics/water/documents/Drought_Policy_Brief_California.pdf)

Olson, Laura. (2013). *Facilitator Guide for Regional Training Programme on Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Recovery*. UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Asia Pacific Regional Centre. Bangkok: UNDP; 56 p.

Olson, Laura. (2012). *Summary Report on Regional Training Programme on Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Recovery*. UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Asia Pacific Regional Centre. Bangkok: UNDP; 73 p.

Olson, Laura (2010). *Social Impact Analysis and Strategic Plan: The Deepwater Horizon Gulf Oil Spill - Response, Resilience, & Recovery*. ICDRM Report. Washington, D.C.: The George Washington University Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management.

Olson, Laura (2007). *Performance Evaluation and Recommendations for Greater New Orleans Disaster Recovery Partnership (GNODRP) and Long-term Recovery Committees of Plaquemines Parish, Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish, and St. Bernard Parish*. ICDRM Report. Washington, D.C.: The George Washington University Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management.

Olson, Laura & Harrald, John R. (2007). *Final Report on SELA Resilience Project*. Washington, D.C.: American Red Cross.

Olson, Laura & Harrald, John R. (2006). *Report on SELA Resilience Project Retreat*. Washington, D.C.: American Red Cross.

Olson, Laura (2005). *Public Safety Best Practices: Talking Siren Technology: An Evaluation of U.S. Implementation of Early Warning Systems*. ICDRM Report. Washington, D.C.: The George Washington University Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management.

Olson, Laura (2005). *Public Safety Case Study: 2004 USACE and FEMA Senior Leaders’ Seminar. An Evaluation of an Emergency Preparedness Exercise*. ICDRM Report. Washington, D.C.: The George Washington University Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management.

Barbera, J.A., Olson, L., Harrald, J.R., Bissell, R., and Frost, H. (2004). *Report on the First Regional EMS - Forum National Capital Area*. ICDRM Report. Washington, D.C.: The George Washington University Institute for Crisis, Disaster, and Risk Management.

**Book Reviews:**

- Olson, Laura. (2019). Handbook of Disaster Research (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*. (expected in October 2019).
- Olson, Laura. (2010). Clear as Mud: Planning for the Rebuilding of New Orleans. *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.2202/1547-7355.1819>
- Rubin, C. & Olson, L. (2004). Countering Terrorism: Dimensions of Preparedness. *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*, 1(2), doi:10.2202/1547-7355.1027
- News Media, OpEds and Radio Broadcasts / Newspaper Articles:**
- Oct. 15, 2019. "Building cultures of preparedness: A forward-looking approach to community resilience." *Crisis Management Journal*, 14(4).
- March 9, 2019. "Successful National Preparedness Requires a Radical New Approach". Homeland Security Today. <https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/emergency-preparedness/perspective-successful-national-preparedness-requires-a-radical-new-approach/>
- March 6, 2019. "Building Cultures of Preparedness". IAEM Bulletin.
- March 1, 2019. "Report: We've Failed Miserably at Preparedness". Emergency Management Magazine. <https://www.govtech.com/em/preparedness/Report-Weve-Failed-Miserably-at-Preparedness.html>
- Sept. 20, 2018. "One year after Hurricane Maria, Philly a model for recovery" <https://why.org/articles/one-year-after-hurricane-maria-philly-a-model-for-recovery/> Jacksonville State University Center for Disaster and Community Resilience. WHYY Philadelphia: Pennsylvania / National Public Radio.
- July 17, 2017 "Local Resilience" <http://www.themarknews.com/2017/07/17/local-resilience/>. Culture and Disaster Action Network (CADAN) Series – Part II. The The Mark News: Toronto.
- July 14, 2017 "A Helping Hand" <http://www.themarknews.com/2017/07/10/a-helping-hand/>, Culture and Disaster Action Network (CADAN) Series – Part I. The Mark News: Toronto.
- May 11, 2017 "A Place Called Home" <http://www.themarknews.com/2017/05/11/a-place-called-home/>. The Mark News: Toronto.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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<b>Resilience Academy Fellow</b> , Bangladesh / Germany / California / DC United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security / Munich Re Foundation	2013-2017
<b>Senior Research Fellow</b> , Virginia Tech, Global Forum on Urban & Regional Resilience	2014-2017
<b>Tropaia Award for Excellence in Teaching</b> , Georgetown University	2016
<b>MentorCoach Fellowship Award</b> , 31-week Executive Coach training program	2014
<b>Keystone Conference Fellow</b> , Bonn, Germany United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security / Munich Re Foundation	2012
<b>State Farm Insurance Company Foundation Dissertation Fellowship</b>	2010
<b>Social Vulnerability Fellow</b> , Bonn, Germany United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security / Munich Re Foundation	2006-2008
<b>EU / NATO Research Fellow</b> , European Security & Defense Policy, Brussels, Belgium Ruprecht- Karls Universität Heidelberg	2000-2001

## **INVITED TALKS**

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- August 14, 2019. *Preparedness: Building Community-Based Capacity using Culture Brokers*. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VIII Leadership Webinar. Denver, CO.
- May 14, 2019. *From Local Government to Civil Society, from Urban to Rural Settings: Making Recovery Inclusive*. 4<sup>th</sup> World Reconstruction Conference & United Nations Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction. Geneva, Switzerland.

- April 16, 2019. *Building Cultures of Preparedness - A Culture-Based Approach to Resilience in American Communities*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Silver Jackets Webinar. Washington, DC.
- Sept 20, 2018. *Developing Culture(s) of Preparedness: The Important Role of Culture in FEMA's Strategic Plan (2018-2022)*. FEMA Higher Education Program Webinar. Emmitsburg, MD.
- June 8, 2017. *Civil Protection as a Pillar of Disaster Resilience: The Recovery Phase of Disasters*. 3<sup>rd</sup> World Reconstruction Conference 3. World Bank: Brussels, Belgium.
- July 13, 2016. *Understanding the Magnitude of Impacts from Disasters in Louisiana – Past, Present and Future*. Louisiana Philanthropy Initiative Conference, Baton Rouge, LA.
- April 8, 2016. *Challenges and Successes of Recent Innovations in Recovery*. Expert Voices III – Improving Disaster Recovery Services. Conference of the Disaster Recovery Contractors Association. Booz Allen Hamilton: Washington, DC.
- March 21, 2010. *Non-Profit & Philanthropic Models of Disaster Recovery: What We Learned*. Katrina @ 5 Conference: Association of Small Foundations / Exponent Philanthropy. New Orleans, LA. U.S.
- Nov 28, 2007. *Long-Term Recovery Committee Challenges & Successes: Based on Performance Evaluation Report*. National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) High-Level Stakeholder Meeting. United Way Headquarters: Arlington, VA.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Conference Co-Organization:**

- May 4-7, 2008. 5th International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM), Special Academic Session on Visualization for Decision Making, Information Sharing, and Collaboration. The George Washington University -- Institute for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management: Washington DC.

### **Panel Organization:**

- April 6, 2020 – *Advancing Alternative Approaches to Administrative Theory and Practice in the Field of Emergency Management*. American Society for Public Administration. Anaheim, California. (Panel Participants: Christopher Emrich, UCF; Steven Torrence, Placentia Police Department, Alessandra Jerolleman, JSU).
- July 17, 2019. *Cultures with an “S”: Encouraging Grassroots Preparedness and Mitigation*. Natural Hazards Workshop. Broomfield, CO.
- June 7, 2019. *Building Cultures of Preparedness: Teaching & Learning Culture-Based Approaches in Emergency Management*. FEMA Higher Education Symposium. Emmitsburg, MD.
- May 14, 2019. *From Local Government to Civil Society, from Urban to Rural Settings: Making Recovery Inclusive*. 4<sup>th</sup> World Reconstruction Conference & United Nations Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction. Geneva, Switzerland. (Panel Participants: Mr. Kiyoshi Murakami, Special Representative of Mayor & Senior Executive Advisor to the City of Rikuzentakata, Japan; Mr. Shinichi Takahashi, Vice Mayor of Sendai City, Japan; Mr. Bijay Kumar, Executive Director, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction; Mr. Vinod Menon, National Disaster Management Authority, India & Professor / Director, School of Social Innovation, Partnerships & Co-Creation, MIT World Peace University, Pune, India).
- April 3-7, 2018. *Living with Hurricanes: Four Panel Sessions*. Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Philadelphia, PA. (Panels Co-organized with Meredith Welch-Devine, University of Georgia & Heather Lazrus, National Center for Atmospheric Research).

### **Papers Presented:**

- April 6, 2020 – *The Evolution and Continued Development of Models of Governance Suited to Post-Disaster Environments*. American Society for Public Administration. Anaheim, California.
- September 20, 2019. *Non-Profit Management in Post-Disaster Contexts – The Case of Hurricane(s) Irma and Maria*. Midwest Public Affairs Conference 2019. IUPUI: School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indianapolis, IN.

- July 17, 2019. *Cultures with an "S": Encouraging Grassroots Preparedness and Mitigation*. Natural Hazards Workshop. Broomfield, CO.
- June 7, 2019. *Building Cultures of Preparedness: Teaching & Learning Culture-Based Approaches in Emergency Management*. FEMA Higher Education Symposium. Emmitsburg, MD.
- May 8, 2019. *New Directions for the Long-Term Recovery Committee Model: Responding to the Unexpected and Adapting our Approach to Recovery*. National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) Annual Conference. Nashville, TN.
- Mar 20, 2019. *Puerto Rico and the Diaspora -- the efforts and capacity of non-profit recovery efforts*. Society for Applied Anthropology Conference. Portland, OR.
- Mar 20, 2019. *Civil Society and Root Causes: moving from disaster risk reduction to preventing disaster risk creation*. Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Portland, OR.
- July 10, 2018. *Putting Knowledge to Work using Hazards Information to Reduce Loss*. Natural Hazards Workshop. Broomfield, CO.
- June 5, 2018. *Collaborating with Practitioners to Realize Emergency Management Student Learning Opportunities*. Federal Emergency Management Agency Higher-Education Conference, Emmitsburg, MD.
- April 7, 2018. *Living with Hurricanes: Recent Hurricanes, Resource Scarcity and Interagency Collaboration in the NGO Sector - Comparative Perspectives on Response and Recovery*. Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- April 5, 2018. *Culture and Disaster Action Network: What Can We Learn about Culture from Practitioners' Stories about Their Work on Disasters?* Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Oct 20, 2017. *Coastal Resilience: Examples from the United States*. Coastal Resilience: U.S. and International Risks and Preparedness conference. Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars: organized in cooperation with the Hoover Institution and the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. Washington, DC.
- Oct 18, 2017. *The Cruelty of Climate-Induced Relocation Processes*. Resilience Academy Capstone Conference. Co-Organized by the United Nations Institute for Environment and Human Security, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, and Munich Re Foundation. Washington, DC.
- May 22, 2017. *Culture & DRR: No One Left Behind*. Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction: Ignite Stage: Cancun, Mexico.
- Mar 30, 2017. *Secondary Traumatization and Disaster Mental Health: A Sandtray Experience for Academics / Practitioners*. Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Santa Fe, NM.
- Mar 28, 2017. *Applied Anthropology: A Defense of the People - Notions of Solidarity, Advocacy, and Positionality with regards to the Academic / Practitioner Divide*. Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Santa Fe, NM.
- Mar 30, 2016. *Drought as Disaster and Climate Change Adaptation – the Art of the Possible or a Needs-Based Strategy?* Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Vancouver, Canada.
- Mar 29, 2016. *Facilitating Recovery – Does Culture Really Matter?* Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Vancouver, Canada.
- Oct 5, 2015. *Federal Policy Brief: Drought Response, Risk Reduction, Preparedness, Mitigation, & Climate Change Adaptation*. Disaster by Drought Conference. California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA.
- Mar 24, 2015. *The Dark Side of Networks*. Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Aug 27, 2014. *Moving towards Risk? Intersections of Disaster and Mobility*. Global Risk Forum. Davos, Switzerland.
- Aug 22, 2014. *Do Sustainable Livelihood Programs Lead to Sustainable Livelihood Outcomes? Evidence from the Asia Pacific Region*. Resilience Academy. Co-Organized by the United Nations Institute for Environment and Human Security, International Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Development, and Munich Re Foundation. Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- Mar 18, 2014. *Integrating Academic Expertise into Government Practice: A Chimera or Worthwhile Pursuit?* Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- Sept 16, 2013. *Livelihood Resilience & Climate Change*. Resilience Academy. Co-Organized by the United Nations Institute for Environment and Human Security, International Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Development, and Munich Re Foundation. Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Oct 10, 2012. *From Social Vulnerability to Resilience: Measuring Progress toward Disaster Risk Reduction*. The Keystone Conference: From Social Vulnerability to Building Resilience in the context of Climate Adaptation. Bonn, Germany. United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security.
- May 4, 2008. *Database Innovations to support Non-Profit Organizations after Hurricane Katrina*. Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM): Washington DC.
- Apr 21, 2007. *Case Study of a Catastrophic Event: Hurricane Katrina - An Evaluation of Vulnerability and Resilience*. Roosevelt Institution. New Orleans, LA.
- July 19, 2006. *Case Study of a Catastrophic Event: Hurricane Katrina. An Evaluation of Social Vulnerability and Community Resilience*. Social Vulnerability Academy. United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security. Hohenstein Castle, Germany.

**Discussant:**

- September 20, 2019. *Environmental Issues and Disaster Response Panel*. Midwest Public Affairs Conference 2019. IUPUI: School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indianapolis, IN.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**The George Washington University School of Business - Master of Science Program in Project Management, Washington, DC.**

- Dept. of Management Science - International Development for Project Managers
- Dept. of Decision Sciences – Project Management Application (Capstone Course)
- Dept. of Decision Sciences - Project Estimating and Cost Management

**Georgetown University, School of Continuing Studies, Master's Program, Emergency & Disaster Management, Washington, DC.**

- Natural Hazards
- Louisiana Disaster Field Residency Program
- Quantitative and Qualitative Methods for Emergency and Disaster Management
- Capstone Thesis Advisor – nine students

**Royal Roads University, School of Humanitarian Studies, M.A. Program, Disaster & Emergency Management, British Columbia, Canada.**

- Foundations of Research
- Disaster Response and Sustainable Recovery
- Master's Thesis Advisor – two students

**The Maastricht School of Management, MSc Program in Management & Engineering, Maastricht, The Netherlands.**

- Project Management in the Context of Disasters
- Crisis Leadership and Organizational Behavior

**RESEARCH PROJECTS**

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**Grant-Funded**

- NSF-Supported Workshop in Cancun Mexico at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction: Cultural Competency for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery, Award Period: 5/01/2017--5/01/2018, \$18,165.
- American Red Cross – *Southeast Louisiana Resiliency Project*, \$250,000
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments – *Early Warning System Best Practices*, \$15,000

- State Farm Foundation Dissertation Grant – NGO-Assisted Recovery & Hurricane Katrina, \$10,000
- Greater New Orleans Disaster Recovery Partnership – M&E for Long-Term Recovery Committees in Southeast Louisiana, \$10,000

#### ***University-Supported***

- Jacksonville State University, Center for Disaster and Community Resilience 12/2017 – present (Co-PI) – analysis of theoretical models, practice, and organizational context of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) non-profit agencies assisting Puerto Rican evacuees that have relocated to the U.S. mainland after Hurricane(s) Maria and Irma. Two cases focus on the Greater Philadelphia Long-Term Recovery Committee (GPLTRC) and New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) and their strategies to cope with resource scarcity, migration, and the failure of normal forms of assistance.
- The George Washington University, Institute for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management – 2007-2009 NVOAD Long-Term Recovery Committee Formation after Hurricane Katrina, Dissertation Research

#### ***Culture and Disaster Action Network (CADAN)-Supported***

- Cultural Competency for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery: a set of 33 ethnographic interviews were conducted with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) scholars, donors, practitioners, policy makers and government officials attending the 2017 United Nations Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR). The goal is to examine how actors in this arena conceptualize the role of culture and context in disaster policy and practice.

#### **AFFILIATIONS**

- American Geophysical Union (AGU), Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA)
- American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP), International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)
- International Sociology Association (ISA): Research Committee on Sociology of Disasters
- Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Topical Interest Group on Risk and Disaster

#### **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

**Associate Editor**, *International Journal of Disaster Response and Emergency Management* 2018-present

**Co-Editor**, Special Issue of the *International Journal of Disaster Research and Management* (with Heather Lazrus & Meredith Welch-Devine), called ‘Living with Hurricanes’. 2018-2020

**Co-Chair, Training & Education, Culture and Disaster Action Network (CADAN)** Aug 2017 - present  
CADAN is a network of social scientists working to integrate cultural competency into disaster management / climate adaptation efforts.

- **NSF- and CADAN-funded research project** – at the 2017 UN Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) on the role of culture and context in disaster policy and practice.
- **FEMA ‘Building Cultures of Preparedness’ Workshop** – for 39 disaster scholars and practitioner experts focused on FEMA’s new strategic priority: to build a culture of preparedness.
- **FEMA Higher Education Program Report** – Co-Lead Author, *Building Cultures of Preparedness*.

#### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

German (fluent)

Portuguese (excellent, near fluency)

Spanish (intermediate)

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

##### **HAZARD RESILIENCE LLC**

*Co-Principal & Founder – Consultancy & Research*

**New Orleans, LA & Minneapolis, MN**

*June 2018 – present*

- **Hazard Resilience** focus on risk, recovery, mitigation, climate adaptation & community resilience.

## UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

*Senior Consultant – Disaster Recovery Planning and Coordination*

**New York City, NY**

*June 2015 – present*

- **Global Policy and Corporate Product Development** – authored policy documents, training materials, guides for foreign governments, practitioner handbooks, UNDP Signature Products;
- **Institutional Assessment and Capacity Building** – led training program and curriculum development for practitioners (i.e. government ministries, UN, DRM professionals);
- **Reconstruction Policy and Planning** – led government and UN agency teams in Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) and Recovery Frameworks with focus on climate change adaptation.
- **Institutional Arrangements and Governance of Disaster Recovery** – authored Policy Manual for government leaders and senior officials on institutional structures to govern disaster recovery.
- **Case Studies on Governance of Disaster Recovery** – authored six case studies (Chile, Indonesia, India, New Zealand, Mozambique, Serbia) on institutional mechanisms for recovery operations.

## U.S. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

*Recovery Coordination Group Supervisor, National Disaster Recovery System*

**Multiple Locations, US**

*February 2012 – present*

- **Philanthropic Advisor** – led *Public-Private Partnerships for Resilience & Recovery* supporting communities to access to non-governmental resources, local knowledge, cross-sector collaboration;
  - *Louisiana Disaster Recovery Alliance* – concept / organizational structure / website / recruitment, which brought private, community, corporate foundations together with federal / state government agencies to focus on long-term investments in recovery and resilience in Louisiana;
  - *Resource Mobilization / Disaster Philanthropy* – generated financing and investment strategies for resilience and recovery projects with donors and government agencies;
  - *Temporary to Permanent Housing Solution, Recovery Workshop* – organized Post-Disaster Housing Best Practice (RAPIDO) for over 125 participants from state agencies and NGOs.
- **Community Planning & Capacity-Building** – led Community Needs Assessment & Community Recovery Planning process, produced technical reports, resilience interventions, institutional capacity-building models, participatory processes that empowering local vision and goals.
- **Recovery Coordination Group / Recovery Support Strategy** – manage personnel and resources, establish cross-agency & internal coordination structures, led Recovery Framework development.
- **Partner Agency Programs** – experience with government programs administered under NDRF Recovery Support Function (RSF) structure (FEMA, HUD, US ACE, DOI, HHS, EDA);
- **Organizational Change and Development in Disaster Settings** – developed system reengineering solutions to improve performance using evidence-based interventions to help manage change.

## UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

*Recovery Advisor, Needs Assessment & Recovery Planning Process - The Gaza Strip*

**Israel/occupied Palestinian territory**

*Nov. 2014 – April 2015*

- **Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) & Recovery Framework for Gaza Strip** – led institutional coordination, recovery planning process, and writing of Social, Health, Education, Culture and Governance chapters of the Gaza Strip PDNA, as well as the Recovery Framework after July-August 2014 war. Coordinated the work of *14 UN agencies and over 140 staff* and led recovery policy dialogue with the Palestinian National Consensus Government on recovery needs, resource requirements, programs / interventions, implementation plan for the recovery of the Gaza Strip.
- **Cross-Sector / International Collaboration** – with World Bank (GFDRR), EU, other partners on legislative framework and transparency / accountability of the recovery process.

## PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HURRICANE SANDY REBUILDING TASK FORCE

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

*Senior Policy Advisor*

**Lincroft, New Jersey**

*March 2013 – September 2013*

- **Federal Government's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Strategy** – produced rebuilding strategy to assist federal, state, and local officials plan resilient communities. Authored chapters on Mitigation, Capacity Building, Community Planning, Climate Change, Presidential Policy Directive-8, National Disaster Recovery Framework, and Lessons Learned from past disasters.

- **Signature Policy Initiatives** – crafted policy recommendations on land acquisition strategies, eco-system service restoration, regional recovery planning networks, disaster recovery / resilience tools and training to improve federal assistance to states, municipalities, and communities.
- **Liaison to Philanthropic Sector / Federal Agencies in Joint Field Office** – coordinated with sixteen Federal government agencies, Governor’s Office of Recovery & Rebuilding, philanthropic sector organizations on recovery. Procured financing for cross-sector recovery interventions.

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)** **Kathmandu, Nepal**  
*Consultant/Trainer for DRR & Early Recovery Training Programme and Workshop* *February 2014*

- **Curriculum Design, Training, Report** – organized and led Training Workshop on Early Recovery.

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)** **Bangkok, Thailand**  
*Consultant, Economic Recovery - Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery* *June 2012 – March 2013*

- **Training Program Curriculum on Sustainable Livelihoods & Economic Recovery** – designed training program and handbook on economic recovery, livelihood restoration, recovery frameworks, needs assessment, livelihood interventions, monitoring & evaluation tools & resource mobilization.
- **Logistics, Budgeting, and Event Management for Training Programme** – supported 42 trainees from 14 countries, 5 UN agencies (UNDP, FAO, ILO, UNCTAD, UN Resident Coordinator), 8 local NGOs, 4 INGOs (Oxfam, Caritas, IOM, World Vision), 6 govt agencies, 3 universities, World Bank, & N-Peace network, and managed 14 expert trainers and \$200,000 project budget.
- **Evaluation Report** – authored 62-page report recommending improvements for future training programs; standardized curriculum for use in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- **Facilitator Handbook for Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Development** – design of livelihood programs, good practices and adherence to UN policy in Asia-Pacific Region.

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS DISASTER RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP** **New Orleans, LA**  
*Director, Monitoring, Performance Evaluation, and System Improvement* *April 2007 – May 2011*

- **Holistic Project Management of Multi-Agency Non-Profit System** – analyzed programs and services, created data collection system adopted by 72 partner organizations. Conducted monitoring & evaluation, produced quarterly performance evaluation reports for Long-Term Recovery Committees engaged in rebuilding housing for low-income residents, managed system re-engineering, created operational system & streamlined complex, multi-agency bureaucratic process.
- **Database** – created robust database and Project Management Office (PMO) to capture data.
- **Social Vulnerability** – introduced Best Practices & Lessons Learned from academia / international humanitarian practice, authored flagship report on social vulnerability & non-profit assistance.
- **Eligibility Criteria** – designed new eligibility process for assistance based on vulnerability criteria.
- **Compliance and Accountability** – monitored performance of 72 non-profit partner agencies.
- **Monitored System Revenues and Expenditures** – showed that the consortium awarded \$9.84 million dollars to 875 clients and managed a total 1,431 cases. Volunteers contributed 528,935 hours to housing construction, valued at \$10.7 million dollars.

**CRESCENT ALLIANCE RECOVERY EFFORT (CARE)** **New Orleans, Louisiana**  
*Director, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) process* *August 2008 – October 2008*

- **HMGP grant application** – managed 3 staff and authored \$2.2 million grant application submitted to State of Louisiana to support mitigation of 200 homes (elevation, hardening).
- **Strategic Planning for Housing Sector** – conducted research, housing needs assessment, and quality control for construction processes completed by disparate non-profit agencies.

**AMERICAN RED CROSS, SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA CHAPTER** **New Orleans, Louisiana**  
*Director, SELA Resilience Project* *August 2006 – April 2007*

- **Project Management** – managed five senior academic experts and 10 Americorps, \$250,000 project budget, logistics, supplies, travel and performance evaluation for an organizational change project.

- **Care for Caregivers** – the SELA Resiliency Project was based on the realization that both individuals and organizations responding to this catastrophic event became its victims. The focus was to re-build, re-make, and re-invent the organization so that it could effectively manage recovery.
- **Replicable Resilience-Building Model** – an effective, replicable resilience-building model for non-profit organizations impacted by major disasters that focused on capacity building to strengthen organizational and individual effectiveness, group dynamics, and a collectively agreed-upon change agenda. The goal was to foster relationships that enhance creativity, productivity, innovation.

**AMERICAN RED CROSS, SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA CHAPTER** **New Orleans, Louisiana**  
*Emergency Response Team Lead, Hurricanes Gustav & Ike* *August 2008 – October 2008*

- **Evacuation and Repatriation of Vulnerable Populations from Union Passenger Terminal in New Orleans** – led 10 staff and volunteers assisting vulnerable residents to evacuate.

**ARLINGTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES** **Arlington County, Virginia**  
*Consultant for Spontaneous Volunteer & Donations Management in Disasters* *April 2006 – August 2006*

- **Emergency Planning** – authored Standard Operations Plan (SOP) & Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for Spontaneous Volunteer & Donations Management, created office go-kits for disasters,
- **Preparedness Training** - designed curriculum & trained local Volunteer Emergency Support Team,
- **Full-Scale Exercise Planning** - designed and executed Full-Scale Pandemic Flu Exercise for Dept. of Human Services, Dept. of Public Health, and Office of Emergency Preparedness.

**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**  
**INSTITUTE FOR CRISIS, DISASTER AND RISK MANAGEMENT** **Washington, DC**  
*Senior Research Scientist / Visiting Research Scholar* *Jan. 2004 – Aug. 2005, Sept. 2007 to Jan. 2012*

- **Emergency Response/Recovery** – experience in Emergency Operation Centers, field operations, disaster response & recovery planning, monitoring & evaluation, data collection, statistical analysis, knowledge management, social impact & needs assessment, lessons learned, best practice case studies, incident-specific strategic plans, and relationship management in collaborative networks,
- **Preparedness/Prevention/Mitigation** – design/evaluation of mass casualty exercises / tabletop exercises, early warning system studies, coastal reconstruction & disaster risk reduction projects,
- **Program Design/Management** – Southeast Louisiana Resiliency Project: organizational resilience / capacity-building model for first response organizations working in catastrophic event contexts, re-engineering and continuous improvement of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) Recovery programs after Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf Oil Spill through data gathering, monitoring & evaluation, documenting Lessons Learned, and social impact analyses,
- **Fundraising, Grant Writing & Grants Management** – wrote, was awarded and managed \$250,000 American Red Cross-supported grant for resilience project in Louisiana post-Katrina. Authored proposals to foundations/NGOs/government/NSF and managed grants. Assisted NGOs with grant-writing and expertise on funding shortfalls for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.
- **Applied Research, Reports, Program Reengineering** – clients: D.C. Fire & EMS, FEMA, American Red Cross, Army Corps of Engineers, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Business-Community Synergies, D.C. Dept. of Health, Veteran's Administration, United Way, Greater New Orleans Disaster Recovery Partnership, Association of Small Foundations, and United Nations Development Programme.
- **Conference / Event Planning** – organized and managed the 2008 Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM) Conference; Greater Washington D.C. Regional EMS Forum; American Red Cross Resilience Project Retreat; and National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) Workshop on Katrina recovery programs.
- **Management of Research Teams** – led team of 7 graduate student researchers working on various research projects, deliverables, and deadlines.

**CENTRE FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING** **Edinburgh, Scotland**  
*Policy Analyst / Consultant* *May 2001 – August 2002*

- **Policy Analysis** - Balkan security / civil-military cooperation on reconstruction, EU accession.
- **Strategic Development** – organizational structure, business processes and services of Szeged Security Centre; conference on European/Balkan State cooperation in higher-education.

**OLSON & ASSOCIATES CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

**Karlsruhe, Germany**

*Business Owner / Senior Consultant*

*July 1993 –May 2000*

- **Grant-Writing** - raised average of \$12 million annually as European Union initiatives grant writer.
- **Business Skills Training** - conducted workshops on cross-cultural communication, effective writing, presentation skills, negotiation, project management, diversity, and core business skills.
- **Corporate Training** - managed Sales & Merchandising Training Program for major U.S. retailer.
- **Project Management** - led teams of project management specialists, managed language and professional education programs for German IT clients.