

Roni J. Fraser

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Graduate Affiliate, The Disaster Research Center
University of Delaware

Education

Ph.D. Sociology, University of Delaware: Expected May 2024

Dissertation: Exploring the Mental Health Impacts of Short-Term Disaster Volunteerism
(Supervisor: Dr. Sarah E. DeYoung)

M.A. Sociology, University of Delaware: August 2020

Thesis: Mission first, Greyshirts Always: An Exploration into the Reintegration Experiences of Short-term Volunteers following Disaster Response Operations
(Supervisor: Dr. Tricia Wachtendorf)

B.S. Emergency Administration and Planning, University of North Texas: August 2018

Areas of Expertise

Disaster and Environmental Sociology; Sociology of Mental Health; Disaster Response and Recovery, Nonprofits and Emergency Management, Volunteer Management, Mental Health and Disasters, Maternal and Infant Health in Disasters, and Qualitative Methods

Academic Experience

Adjunct Instructor – Whole Community Inclusive Planning (AWR-330), Texas A&M University Extension Service (TEEX), U.S. National Emergency Response and Recovery Training Center (NERRTC), Multiple Locations, United States, September 2023 – Present.

- Instruct AWR 330 – Whole Community Inclusive Planning with TEEX. This one-day course introduces participants to comprehensive emergency management practices using a whole community approach.
- Facilitate discussion about whole community principles, the importance of identifying and integrating community strengths into planning, and discuss methods to engage and empower community stakeholders.
- Encourage students to apply the principles and strategies of a whole community approach in ways that best fit the unique needs and capabilities of their communities.

Doctoral Fellowship for Excellence Fellow, University of Delaware, The Graduate College, Newark, DE, June 2023 – May 2024.

- Selected as an awardee for one of the competitive University-wide merit-based fellowships for advanced graduate students demonstrating excellence in research, teaching, and service.

Ph.D. Summer Course Participant, Centre of Natural Hazards and Disaster Science (CNDS) and European Geosciences Union (EGU), Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, August 2023.

- Selected to attend the 2023 Natural Hazards and the Anthropocene International Ph.D. course hosted by the CNDS and EGU in Sweden, which focused on studying the dynamics and impacts of natural hazards, disaster management, and social vulnerability under the umbrella of disaster risk reduction.
- Participated in lectures, seminars, and small group assignments with other Ph.D. students from Europe, the United States, China, India, and Japan, exploring the disaster management cycle and the interplay between natural hazards, societal impacts, and human responses to disasters.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Delaware, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Newark, DE, August 2018 – May 2021; August 2022 – May 2023.

- Led three discussion sections independently for SOCI 201: Introduction to Sociology, with twenty-five undergraduate students per class in Spring 2019 and Spring 2021.
- Assessed student discussion engagement, attendance, and essay assignments throughout the semester.
- Produced course materials, including discussion scripts, essay guidelines, assignment rubrics, and selected films and activities that best fit the weekly learning objective.
- Led office hours and review sessions for upcoming exams and essay assignments.

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Delaware, Disaster Research Center, Newark, DE, September 2021–May 2022.

- Conducted research with the Disaster Research Center under the supervision of Dr. Sarah E. DeYoung related to maternal and infant health and feeding in Hurricane Ida (2021), COVID-19 Pandemic, and the Infant Formula Shortage.

Undergraduate Summer Research Intern, South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Baton Rouge, LA; Lubbock, TX; Norman, OK; Stillwater, OK, July 2018.

- Participated in hands-on activities related to climate research to study the direct impacts of climate variability and change on the West Texas Southern High Plains, the prairie and forest ecosystems and tribal cultures of Oklahoma, and the bayous, delta, and coastline of Louisiana during July 2018.
- Developed relationships with climate researchers at Texas Tech, Louisiana State, Oklahoma State, and the University of Oklahoma with researchers and other students from the south-central region of the U.S.
- Expanded my knowledge of climate change, climate adaptation communication, and community resiliency through data analytics and communications projects.

Practitioner Experience

Emergency Preparedness Student Co-Op, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, Division of Preparedness and Response, Rockville, MD, May 2022 – August 2022; May 2023 – August 2023.

- Obtained a Department of Energy (DOE) L-Level Security Clearance.
- Rewrote the NRC Emergency Preparedness Specialist Training and Qualification Manual and training materials for H203: Emergency Preparedness Technology.
- Completed internal courses on nuclear emergency preparedness, risk decision-making, probabilistic risk assessment, media communications, and reactor licensing.
- Attended the emergency preparedness exercise at the Comanche Peak Nuclear Generating Station in Glen Rose, TX as part of my Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) General Proficiency-Level Training and Qualification Card (IMC 1245 Appendix B).

Regulatory Policy and Oversight Intern, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, Division of Preparedness and Response, Virtual, May 2021 – August 2021.

- Conducted a literature review on decision-maker disaster decision-making and risk communication related to nuclear emergency preparedness and response.

Graduate Data Analysis Intern, National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, Region II Headquarters, Virtual, May 2020 – August 2020.

- Conducted a literature review and wrote a white paper on pedestrian fatality and injury studies that target driver behavior(s).
- Compiled and analyzed U.S. fatality and injury pedestrian crash data.
- Created an inventory of available crash databases for U.S. state use in analyzing pedestrian-related motor vehicle crashes.
- Developed relationships with NHTSA Region II staff, other NHTSA regions and STIPDG interns, DOT administrators, and state/local partner organizations through virtual engagement platforms.

Environmental and Historic Preservation Intern, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VI Headquarters, Denton, TX, June 2019 – August 2019.

- Gained experience with the environmental and historic preservation (EHP) compliance process and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) determinations related to Federal agency undertakings in a disaster recovery environment.

- Used existing operations platforms (EMIS and P.A. Grants Manager) to document NEPA determinations to support the Public Assistance Program and EHP Administrative Record.
- Gathered, documented, and reported routine and episodic report requirements utilizing program/project-level status trackers at the branch office level.
- Completed FEMA Professional Development Series and courses related to the environmental review process during disaster recovery.

Life Safety Park Education Intern, City of Coppell Fire Department, Life Safety Park, Coppell, TX, January 2018 – June 2018.

- Conducted weekly life safety classes and school field trips for classes of 5 to 30 children and adults residing within the DFW metroplex.
- Created a grant library for future utilization to obtain local, state, and national grant opportunities (Pivot and SPIN).
- Developed 25 mini-lesson plans on fire and heat safety, traffic safety, travel safety, holiday decoration safety, and home safety that enhanced community preparedness education following distribution efforts in Coppell public parks, libraries, and the recreation center.
- Created marketing materials for the spring traffic safety, water and heat safety, and children's summer courses distributed over three social media platforms and 15 local businesses.
- Conducted emergency preparedness community outreach at the Coppell Public Library to prepare families for the summer season.

Emergency Preparedness Intern, Executive Office of the United States President, Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness, Washington, D.C., May 2017 – August 2017.

- Attended security briefings and meetings relating to emergency management with internal partners such as the U.S. Secret Service.
- Edited the occupant emergency guides for employees, contractors, and tourists working or visiting facilities within the Executive Office of the President.
- Assisted with other projects, including the Feds Families and White House Complex campus-wide update projects.
- Conducted research on decontamination best practices and provided best practices on floor safety team programs.
- Reformulated Microsoft Excel documents and other office-related projects related to emergency preparedness.

Publications

1. **Fraser, R. J.**, Schumann III, R. L., and Nelan, M. M. (2022). "Building Houses, Active Citizens, and Disaster Resilience: The Transformative Potential of Alternative Break Experiences." *Journal of Security, Intelligence, and Resilience Education* 14(5), 1-7. [Accessible online via the journal website](#)
2. DeYoung, S. E., **Fraser, R. J.**, Gerber-Chavez, L. (2022). "Maternal and Infant Health in Disasters: Texas's High-Risk Landscape." *Women's Health*, 18. doi: <https://doi-org.udel.idm.oclc.org/10.1177/17455057221112289>.
3. **Fraser, R. J.** (2020). *Mission first, greyshirts always: An exploration into the reintegration experiences of short-term volunteers following disaster response operations* (Order No. 28086811). Accessible online via the [ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I](#).

Manuscripts Under Review

1. DeYoung, S. E., **Fraser, R. J.**, and Dyck, S. "Parental Decision-Making for the COVID-19 Vaccine for Infants and Toddlers in the United States."
2. Cox, Z., White, Z., **Fraser, R. J.**, Kendra, J., Ayala, Y., Posch, C., Winslow, M., Woodruff, D., MacFadyen, L., and Flynn, B. "Business Continuity as Self-Efficacy: Augmenting Existing Business Continuity Practice."

Manuscripts in Progress

1. **Fraser, R. J.** "Camaraderie of Disaster: Understanding the Post-Deployment Experience Among Short-Term Disaster Response Volunteers."
2. DeYoung, S., **Fraser, R. J.**, Leahy, S., and Pumo, E. "Hurricane Ian and Maternal-Infant Health and Wellbeing."

Academic Presentations + Panels

1. DeYoung, S. E., **Fraser, R. J.**, and Leahy, S. (2023). Maternal and Infant Support Policies in Hurricanes: The Case Study of Hurricane Ian. Poster presentation at the *Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management 2023 Fall Research Conference*, Atlanta, GA. November 2023.

2. **Fraser, R. J.** (2023). Through a Mother's Eyes: The Compound Nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Hurricane Ida on Maternal-Infant Health. Poster presentation at the *International Association of Emergency Managers 71st Annual Conference*, Long Beach, CA. November 2023.
3. **Fraser, R. J.** and DeYoung, S. E. (2023). Using Systematic Social Media Recruitment in Disaster Research. Poster presentation at the *48th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop + Researcher's Meeting*. Broomfield, CO. July 2023.
4. **Fraser, R. J.** and DeYoung, S. E. (2023). The Compound Nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Hurricane Response: A Study of Maternal-Child Health Following Hurricane Ida, Louisiana, USA. Presentation at the *XX ISA World Congress of Sociology*, Melbourne, Australia. June/July, 2023.
5. **Fraser, R. J.** (2023). Towards a Whole Community Approach during Disaster Response and Recovery: Understanding Stress and Mental Health Experiences of Volunteers Post-Disaster. Presentation at the *XX ISA World Congress of Sociology*, Melbourne, Australia. June/July, 2023.
6. Casey, T. and **Fraser, R. J.** (2022). "Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Populations: Best Practices Regarding Maternal and Infant Health Throughout the Four Phases of the Disaster Cycle." Poster presentation at the *International Association of Emergency Managers 70th Annual Conference*, Savannah, GA. November 2022.
7. DeYoung, S. E., **Fraser, R. J.**, and Leahy, S. (2022). "Systematic Social Media Recruitment for Disaster Research." Presentation at the *47th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop + Researcher's Meeting*, Virtual due to COVID-19. July 2022.
8. **Fraser, R. J.** (2022). "Exploring the Juxtaposition in Mental Health Outcomes Between Disaster and Non-Disaster Volunteers." Poster presentation at the *47th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop + Researcher's Meeting*, Virtual due to COVID-19. July 2022.
9. **Fraser, R. J.** (2022). "Mission First, Greyshirts Always: An Exploration into the Reintegration Experiences of Short-term Volunteers Following Disaster Response Operations." Presentation and poster at the *Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference*, West Palm Beach, FL. May 2022.
10. **Fraser, R. J.** and DeYoung, S. E. (2022). "Maternal and Infant Vaccine Protection in the Age of COVID-19." Presentation at the *2022 University of North Texas Disaster Preparedness, Response, Innovation, Mitigation, and Recovery (PRIMR) Conference*, Denton, TX. March 2022.

11. Davies, H., **Fraser, R. J.**, and Webb, M. (2022). “Psychosocial Factors in Disaster Research.” Roundtable session at the *2022 University of North Texas Disaster Preparedness, Response, Innovation, Mitigation, and Recovery (PRIMR) Conference*, Denton, TX. March 2022.
12. Panelist (2021). “The Science of COVID-19.” University of North Texas Honors College Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Virtual due to COVID-19. April 2021.
13. **Fraser, R. J.** (2020). “Raising the Beer Flag: Bonding and Bridging Social Capital Among Disaster Response Volunteers as Protective Factors Against the Post-Deployment Blues.” Presentation and Poster at the *International Association of Emergency Managers 68th Annual Conference*, Virtual due to COVID-19. October 2020.
14. **Fraser, R. J.** (2019). “Haunted by Ike: Severe Trauma, Damage to Sentimental Possessions, Collective Efficacy, and Gender as Predictors of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) following Hurricane Ike.” Presentation and poster at the *International Association of Emergency Managers 67th Annual Conference*, Savannah, GA. November 2019.
15. **Fraser, R. J.** (2019). “Demons of Disaster: Predictors of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Following Hurricane Ike.” Presentation and poster at the *33rd Annual Governor’s Hurricane Conference*, West Palm Beach, FL. May 2019.

Awarded Scholarships

- 2023: Centre of Natural Hazards and Disaster Science (CNDS) and European Geosciences Union (EGU) Summer School Travel Grant
Agency: European Geosciences Union
Received: €500
- 2021 – 2023: Women in Defense Scholarship
Agency: National Defense Industrial Association
Received: \$5,000
- 2021: Dr. Ronald Glaus Disaster Behavioral Health Academic Achievement Award
Agency: Bolante.NET
Received: \$1,000
- 2020 – 2021: International Association of Emergency Managers Graduate Student Scholarship
Agency: International Association of Emergency Managers
Received: \$4,000

Other Awards and Distinctions

- 2023: Team Rubicon USA Impact Award – South Branch
- 2023: University of Delaware Doctoral Fellowship for Excellence Award
- 2022: International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Student of the Year
- 2022: Silver Medal Distinction- IAEM 70th Annual Conference Poster Presentation Competition
- 2020: Silver Medal Distinction- IAEM 68th Annual Conference Poster Presentation Competition
- 2019: Gold Medal Distinction- IAEM 67th Annual Conference Poster Presentation Competition
- 2018: University of North Texas (UNT) John Maxwell Award for the Most Outstanding Emergency Administration and Planning Student
- 2018: UNT Golden Eagle Award for Outstanding Student Leadership
- 2017: UNT Outstanding Student Volunteer of the Year
- 2015: Girl Scout Gold Award

Teaching Experience

Texas A&M University Extension Service (TEEX) – Adjunct Instructor

- AWR-330 – Whole Community Inclusive Planning: Fall 2023

University of Delaware – Teaching Assistant

- SOCI 201 – Introduction to Sociology: Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023
- SOCI 312 – Theories of Society: Spring 2020
- SOCI 325 – Disasters and Society: Fall 2019
- SOCI 471 – Disasters, Vulnerability, and Development: Fall 2018; Spring 2020; Fall 2020, Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Team Rubicon USA – Instructor

- Core Operations 1– Debris Management and Muck Outs: Winter 2019 – Present
- Disaster Damage Assessments and Site Surveys: Spring 2021 – Present

Disaster Research and Fieldwork

Fall 2023 – **Hurricane Idalia Evacuation Decision Making, Remote**

- Conducted systematic social media survey data collection exploring hurricane evacuation decision-making among residents in Florida and Georgia with a research team from the Disaster Research Center. Funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation.

Spring 2023 – **Hurricane Ian and Maternal/Infant Health, Ft Myers, FL**

- Conducted field observations and interviews with mothers of infants and toddlers exploring infant and toddler feeding, evacuation decision-making, pregnancy and birthing, post-partum experiences, and post-disaster childcare in Ft. Myers, FL, with a research team from the Disaster Research Center. Funded by the University of Delaware Research Foundation.

Fall 2021 – **Hurricane Ida Maternal/Infant Health, Remote**

- Conducted systematic social media survey data collection exploring infant and toddler feeding, pregnancy and birthing experiences, and evacuation decision-making with a research team from the Disaster Research Center. Funded by the University of Delaware Research Foundation.

Summer 2019 – **Cultural Heritage Recovery and Hurricane Harvey, Houston, TX**

- Conducted two-year follow-up field observations and interviews with cultural heritage managers exploring Hurricane Harvey recovery at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the Houston Children's Museum, the Blue Triangle Community Center – John Biggar's Mural titled "Contributions of Negro Women to American Life and Education, the Bayou Bend Cemetery, and the Bayou Bend – Ima Hogg Historical Home.

Service to the Department

University of Delaware

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice Graduate Policy Committee Student Representative (August 2020 – May 2021)

- Co-represented the interests of graduate students in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the monthly faculty-run Graduate Policy Committee meetings.

Service to the University

University of Delaware

President, International Association of Emergency Managers Student Chapter @ UD (August 2021 – May 2023)

- Led a team of three executive board members to host five emergency management panel events on topics such as emergency management consulting careers; federal careers in emergency management; business continuity and private sector careers in emergency management; critical infrastructure protection and emergency management with D.C. Water; and the January 6th Insurrection from an Emergency Management perspective with the Washington D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency.
- Directed two field trips to Washington D.C., and New York City, NY with visits to the Smithsonian Office of Emergency Management, U.S House of Representatives Office of Emergency Management, The American Red Cross Headquarters, The U.S. Coast Guard – Sector New York, FEMA Region II Headquarters, and the New York City Emergency Operations Center.
- Represented the University of Delaware and IAEM@UD at the IAEM Region 3 Symposium, IAEM National Membership Events, and the IAEM Annual Conference in Savannah, GA.

Secretary, International Association of Emergency Managers Student Chapter @ UD (January 2019 – May 2020)

- Assisted the executive board team in hosting events such as the NOAA Storm Spotter training, a Federal Flood Plain Management Lunch and Learn with FEMA Headquarters and FEMA Region III, and a Meteorology and Emergency Management Lunch and Learn with a retired NWS Meteorologist.
- Co-directed three field trips to Washington D.C., New York City, NY and Smyrna, DE, with visits to the State of Delaware Emergency Operations Center, Smithsonian Office of Emergency Management, Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative, FEMA Headquarters, the Ground Zero Memorial and 9/11 Museum, and New York City Emergency Operations Center.

Service to the Community and Profession

Ad Hoc Peer Review for Journals

- VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations

Professional Organization and Academic Society Memberships

- Alpha Kappa Delta International Honor Society of Sociology
- Florida Emergency Preparedness Association
- Golden Key International Honor Society
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure Graduate Student Council
- Order of the Sword and Shield National Honor Society for Homeland Security, Intelligence, and Emergency Management

Disaster Response and Recovery Volunteer Service

San Antonio – Del Rio Metro Administrator, Team Rubicon (November 2021 – Present)

- Manage a team of seven volunteer leaders within the San Antonio metro to drive impact and increase membership by hosting social and wellbeing events, service projects, and training opportunities for local volunteers twice monthly.
- Cultivate relationships with other Team Rubicon volunteer leaders, volunteer organizations involved with the San Antonio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (SAVOAD) chapter, and local/county emergency managers within the San Antonio – Del Rio Metro area.
- Represent Team Rubicon at bi-yearly tabling outreach and emergency management events at The Alamo, Joint Base San Antonio – Ft. Sam Houston, and Uvalde County, TX.

Operations Section Chief, Team Rubicon (October 2021 and November 2022)

- Responded to Hurricane Ian (FL) and Hurricane Ida (LA) on an eight-day deployment as an Operations Section Chief.
- Developed a tactical plan for the next operational period that best met the incident objectives set by the Incident Commander
- Managed 5-10 strike team leaders and 50-75 general volunteers to implement the tactics established within the incident action plan for the operational period.
- Completed National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System ICS Forms 204 to develop the IAP for multiple operational periods.
- Represented Team Rubicon at the Tangipahoa Parish Long-Term Recovery Meeting following Hurricane Ida in 2021.

Disaster Responder, Team Rubicon (August 2019; September 2020; February 2021)

- Responded to COVID-19 (TX), Hurricane Laura (LA), and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Floods (TX) as a volunteer chainsaw operator and general responder supporting debris management, site surveys, and logistics activities over an 8-day deployment.

South Branch Cadre Instructor, Team Rubicon (2019 – Present)

- Co-instruct two lecture and activity-based courses on as needed across the South Branch, including Site Survey and Core Operations I: Debris Management and Muck-Outs, with 5-20 students per course.

Other Professional Service

- ATLAS.ti Qualitative Software Certified Student Trainer (2020 – Present)
- March of Dimes, Mom and Baby Action Network, Environmental Justice Research Working Group (2021– Present)
- International Association of Emergency Managers Annual Awards Working Group (2022 – Present)

Training and Certifications

- K-449 FEMA Incident Command System Train-the-Trainer
- O-305 – FEMA All-Hazards Incident Management Team, Type III
- Psychological First Aid (PFA) Provider
- FEMA Professional Development Series