

Ratna Okhai
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EDUCATION

PHD IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS, School of Public Administration, University Central Florida, Orlando,
Florida **May 2023**

FIELD: Public Policy and Governance

DISSERTATION: *Interorganizational Networks and Coordination in Emergency Management: Policy and Practice in Response to Disasters*. A study

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

Moore, P. and **Okhai, R.** (2024). Embedding social equity in disaster response: Simulation case study. *Journal of Public Affairs Education*.

Abukhalaf, A. H. I., **Okhai, R.**, Naser, A. Y., von Meding, J., Cohen, S. L., Mehdipour, H., & Abusal, D.

Okhai, R. & Bukalova, D. (*submitted*). *Where Are All The Women? Leadership in Public Administration and Policy*

Okhai, R. (*submitted*). *Assessing Social Media Based Crisis Communication of Local Agencies During Hurricane Irma.*

Entress, R., **Okhai, R.** & Knox, C. C. (*revise and resubmit*). *Hurricane Evacuation and Administrative Burdens: Special Needs Shelter Policies During Hurricane Irma.*

Bukalova, D. & **Okhai, R.** (*in progress*). *Leadership Considerations and Gender: Local Government Leaders and Competence Perceptions.*

Conference Papers and Presentations:

Okhai, R. & Kapucu, N. (2024, April). *The Role of Multi-Level Network Governance in Implementing Resilience Plans and Policies.* International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) Annual Conference. (Tampere, Finland).

Okhai, R. ó panel convener (2024, April). *World in Disasters: Resilient Communities, Adaptable Practices and Future Needs.* American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Annual Conference. (Minneapolis, MN).

Okhai, R. & Kapucu, N. (2023, November). *Resilience Polices for Regional Coordination in Response to Disasters.* Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Conference. (Atlanta, GA).

Okhai, R. & Bukalova, D. (2023, September). *Where Are All The Women? Leadership in Public Administration and Policy.* International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference. (Austin, TX).

Okhai, R. (2023, June). *Interorganizational Networks and coordination in Emergency Management: Policyelp0000ikrdil R*

Cross-Sector Partnerships and the University of Central Florida Downtown Community Engaged Research Efforts, Graduate Research Assistant

- Reached out to faculty and compiled data on those working on downtown community engaged research
- Created mock-ups of completed projects for possible website feature, including aligned UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Organized faculty directory, including relevant headshots, associated projects and any other resources provided

Research Interests:

Network Governance, Emergency and Crisis Management, Local Government, Smart Cities, Public Policy in Practice, Gender and Leadership

Skills and Competencies:

METHODOLOGY COMPETENCY: MAXQDA (Qualitative Data Analysis), SAS and SPSS (Statistical Analysis), EndNote (Citation Analysis), Prezi (Virtual Presentation), UCINET (Network Analysis), Dedoose (Qualitative Data Analysis)

COMPUTER COMPETENCY: Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Teams), Apple Operating System, Windows Operating System, Zoom Video Conferencing

LANGUAGE SKILLS: Gujarati (native), English (fluent), Hindi (fluent), Spanish (conversational)

TEACHING

Graduate Courses:

PAD 6060 Public Organizational Theory Spring 2024

Undergraduate Courses:

PAD 3003 Introduction to Public and Community Service (Online) Fall 2023

PAD 4720 Research Methods in Public Administration (Research-Intensive Designation) Fall 2022

PAD 4395 Disaster Response and Recovery (Online) Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Summer 2023

PAD 4390 Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness Fall 2021

CERTIFICATES

University of South Florida – Online Instruction Certification

September 2023

SERVICE

University Service:

University of Central Florida

- UCF International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) Student Chapter 2020 ó 2023
- Served as the Vice President and now President for the student chapter, during which time we seamlessly transitioned our speakers to Zoom, and successfully received \$500 from Student Government to sponsor the networking social at the Public Administration Research Conference (PARC)

University of South Florida

- USF Bobby Green ICMA Student Chapter 2014 ó 2016
- Served as the Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, and finally the President for the student chapter, during which time we secured an annual \$1,000 donation from the City of Auburndale, raised over \$500 through 50/50 raffles during the annual FCCMA conferences, and organized ICMA conference attendance of up to 9 student members

Professional & Community Service:

American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)

2019 – Present

- Serving on the communications team for the Section on Emergency Management (SECM) (2023 ó Present)
- Served on the communications team for the Section on Complexities and Network Studies (SCNS) (2022 ó 2023) \
- Served as conference volunteer for the 2022 annual conference in Jacksonville

International City/County Management Association (ICMA)

2014 – Present

- Served on the conference planning committee for the 2023 conference in Austin, TX, 2022-2023
- Ugtxgf "qp"vj g"ōY grēqo g"Co dcuūcf qtuö"eqo o kwgg."423: "ó 2019
- Secured a competitive 2-year fellowship with the City of Fort Lauderdale, 2016 ó 2018

Florida City and County Managers Association (FCCMA)

2014 – Present

- Serving on a two-year term on the Conference Planning Committee (2023 ó

MANUSCRIPT REVIEW

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction
International Journal of Public Administration
Journal of Emergency Management
Natural Hazards Review
Public Integrity
Public Management Review
Review of Public Personnel Administration
Urban Governance

HONORS, AWARDS, & RECOGNITIONS (AWARDED)

ASPA Founders' Fellowship Award, American Society for Public Administration, 2023 (ASPA presentation and conference attendance support)

Emerging Leaders Scholarship, Florida City and County Management Association, Annual Conference, 2023 (fully funded conference attendance)

The Section on Professional and Organizational Development Scholarship, American Society for Public Administration, Annual Conference, 2023 (\$250 monetary award)

Public Management Research Association (PMRA) Academic Writing Workshop, Bogota, Colombia, 2023 (fully funded for conference including travel for conference including 8N740.3 397.27 Tm0 g0 G{)TJETQq0.0

