

Yajaira I. Ayala A.
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Education

- 2019 PhD Student in Disaster Science and Management
University of Delaware
- 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

- 2020 Research Assistant, Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware.
Newark, DE.
- June, 2020 Research Assistant, Disaster Science and Management, University of
Delaware. Newark, DE.
- 2019 Teaching Assistant, Disaster Science and Management, University of
Delaware. Newark, DE.
- 2018 Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Health and Biomedical
Sciences, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Presentations

- 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 Yajaira I. Ayala A. "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

- 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
- 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

Honors and Awards

- 2021 – 2022 Graduate Scholar Award. University of Delaware, Newark, DE.
- 2021 William Averette Anderson Fund Fellow. University of Delaware, Newark, DE.
- 2020 – 2021 Graduate Scholar Award. University of Delaware, Newark, DE.
- 2019 Teaching Assistantship and Tuition Scholarship, Disaster Studies Program, University of Delaware, Newark, DE.
- 2019 First place. Poster Presentation, Graduate Student Category. 2019 College of Health Professions Research Symposium, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Edinburg. March 29, 2019.

Certifications

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

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. July 23-27, 2018

Memberships

- International Association of Emergency Managers, University of Delaware Chapter. University of Delaware, Newark, DE. (2019- 2020)
 - June, 2020- Elected Chapter Secretary
- Southern Sociological Society (2018- 2019)

Technical Skills

- ArcGIS
- STATA
- SPSS

Languages

- Spanish
- English

References

James Kendra, DRC Director and Program Director
School of Public Policy and Administration
University of Delaware
302-831-4203, jtrainor@udel.edu

William Donner, Professor and Department Chair
Department of Sociology
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
956-665-2367, william.donner@utrgv.edu

Suad Ghaddar, Assistant Professor
Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
956-665-7937, suad.ghaddar@utrgv.edu