

# SANTINA L. CONTRERAS, PH.D.

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021 - Present     **University of Southern California** – Los Angeles, CA  
Assistant Professor, Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis  
Price School of Public Policy
- 2018 - 2021     **The Ohio State University** – Columbus, OH  
Assistant Professor, City and Regional Planning  
Knowlton School of Architecture  
Faculty Affiliate, Sustainability Institute  
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Latin American Studies
- 2017     **University of Colorado Boulder** – Boulder, CO  
Research Associate, Program in Environmental Design  
Researcher-in-Residence, Natural Hazards Center

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## EDUCATION

- 2016     **Ph.D. Planning, Policy and Design**  
University of California, Irvine  
Dissertation: Organizations and Participatory Development: Post-disaster Recovery in Haiti
- 2008     **M.S. Civil and Environmental Engineering**  
University of California, Berkeley  
Concentration: Structural Engineering, Mechanics, and Materials
- 2007     **B.S. Structural Engineering**  
University of California, San Diego

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental Justice • Natural Hazards & Resilience • Community Engagement & Participation  
NGOs, Nonprofits, & Organizations • Engineering for Development • Humanitarian Engineering

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## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2022     **Contreras, S.** & Niles, S.<sup>1</sup> Building Resilience through Informal Networks and Community Knowledge Sharing: Post-disaster Health Service Delivery after Hurricane Maria. *Environmental Hazards*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17477891.2022.2049191>
- 2021     **Contreras, S.** & Roudbari, S. Who's Learning from Whom: Grassroots International NGOs Learning from Communities in Development Projects. *Development in Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2021.1937554>
- 2020     Niles, S.,<sup>1</sup> Roudbari, S., **Contreras, S.** Integrating Social Justice and Political Engagement into Engineering. *International Journal of Engineering, Social Justice, and Peace*, 7(1), 57-69. <https://doi.org/10.24908/ijesjp.v7i1.13568>

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<sup>1</sup> Indicates co-author is a past or present graduate student advisee.

Niles, S.,<sup>1</sup> **Contreras, S.**, Roudbari, S., Kaminsky, J., & Harrison, J. Resisting and Assisting Engagement with Public Welfare in Engineering Education. *Journal of Engineering Education*, 109:491-507. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jee.20323>

Goodrich, K., Sanders, B., Basolo, V., Feldman, D., Matthew, R., Schubert, J., Luke, A., Eguiarte, A., Boudreau, D., Serrano, K., Reyes, A., **Contreras, S.**, Houston, D., & Cheung, W., AghaKouchak, A., Sanders, B. Addressing Pluvial Flash Flooding through Community-Based Collaborative Research in Tijuana, Mexico. *Water*, 12, 1257. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w12051257>

Sanders, B., Schubert, J., Goodrich, K., Houston, D., Feldman, D., Basolo, V., Luke, A., Boudreau, D., Karlin, B., Cheung, W., **Contreras, S.**, Reyes, A., Eguiarte, A., Serrano, K., Allaire, M., Moftakhari, H., AghaKouchak, A., & Matthew, R. Collaborative Modeling with Fine Resolution Data Enhances Flood Awareness, Minimizes Differences in Flood Perception, and Produces Actionable Flood Maps. *Earth's Future*, 7, e2019EF001391. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019EF001391>

2019 **Contreras, S.** Using Arnstein's Ladder as an Evaluative Framework for the Assessment of Participatory Work in Post-disaster Haiti. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 85:3, 219-235. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01944363.2019.1618728>

**Contreras, S.**, Niles, S.,<sup>1</sup> Roudbari, S., Harrison, J., & Kaminsky, J. Bridging the Praxis of Hazards and Development with Resilience: A Case Study of an Engineering Education Program. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 42, 101347. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2019.101347>

2017 Houston, D., Cheung, W., Basolo, V., Feldman, D., Matthew, R., Sanders, B., Karlin, B., Schubert, J., Goodrich, K., **Contreras, S.**, & Luke, A. The Influence of Hazard Maps and Trust of Flood Controls on Coastal Flood Spatial Awareness and Risk Perception. *Environment and Behavior*, 1-29. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916517748711>

2016 Feldman, D., **Contreras, S.**, Karlin, B., Basolo, V., Matthew, R., Sanders, B., Houston, D., Cheung, W., Goodrich, K., Reyes, A., Serrano, K., Schubert, J., & Luke, A. Communicating Flood Risk: Looking Back and Forward at Traditional and Social Media Outlets. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 15, 43-51. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2015.12.004>

Cheung, W., Houston, D., Schubert, J., Basolo, V., Feldman, D., Matthew, R., Sanders, B., Karlin, B., Goodrich, K., **Contreras, S.**, & Luke, A. Integrating Resident Digital Sketch Maps with Expert Knowledge to Assess Spatial Knowledge of Flood Risk: A Case Study of Participatory Mapping in Newport Beach, California. *Applied Geography*, 74, 56-64. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2016.07.006>

#### **PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW**

2022 Remington, C. Witkowski, K., Headley, A., Ganapati, E., & **Contreras, S.** First Responders and the COVID-19 Pandemic: How Organizational Strategies Can Help Prevent Role Abandonment

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

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- 2022 Lorenzo-Pérez, M.<sup>1</sup> & **Contreras, S.** Understanding the Impacts of Managed Retreat and Resettlement on Informal Communities (MM8). Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center Mitigation Matters Research Report. <https://hazards.colorado.edu/mitigation-matters-report/understanding-the-impacts-of-managed-retreat-and-resettlement-on-informal-communities>
- Dashti, S., Ganapati, E., Abayo, N., Cabas, A., Calderon, J., **Contreras, S.**, Dessable, J., Garcia, E., Guerrier, K., Hwang, Y., Jeannot, T., Ji, C., Lagesse, R., Logiste, M., Lorenzo-Velazquez, C., Nicolas, S., Remington, C., Perodin, J., Saint Fleur, N., Shirro, M., Vissiere, S., & Whitworth, M. Reconnaissance Following the August 14, 2021 Haiti Earthquake: Perspectives from Geotechnical Engineering and Social/Political Sciences. Geotechnical Extreme Reconnaissance (GEER) Report No. 073. <https://doi.org/10.18118/G60090>
- 2021 Headley, A., Remington, C., Witkowski, K.,<sup>1</sup> **Contreras, S.**, & Ganapati, E. Reprioritizing Responsibilities: Examining How Colliding Epidemics Impact First Responders. Drug Enforcement and Policy Center, Moritz College of Law, Ohio State University. Available at: [https://moritzlaw.osu.edu/sites/default/files/2021-12/Reprioritizing%20Responsibilities Andrea%20Headly%20et%20all exec-summary.pdf](https://moritzlaw.osu.edu/sites/default/files/2021-12/Reprioritizing%20Responsibilities%20Andrea%20Headly%20et%20all%20exec-summary.pdf)
- 2018 Niles, S.<sup>1</sup> & **Contreras, S.** Social Vulnerability and Health Care Workers' Response after Hurricane Maria (QR288). Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center Quick Response Research Report. <https://hazards.colorado.edu/quick-response-report/social-vulnerability-and-the-role-of-puerto-ricos-healthcare-workers-after-hurricane-maria>

## RESEARCH GRANTS

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- 2021 **Contreras, S.** & Lorenzo-Pérez, M.<sup>1</sup> Linking Planning Education, Research and Engagement in Puerto Rico: Understanding the Impacts of Managed Retreat and Resettlement of Informal Communities. Center for Latin American Studies Faculty Programming Grant. Ohio State University, January 2021-May 2021.
- 2020 Lorenzo-Pérez, M.<sup>1</sup> & **Contreras, S.** Understanding the Impacts of Managed Retreat and Resettlement on Informal Communities in Puerto Rico. Mitigation Matters Research Grant. The Natural Hazards Center, May 2020-August 2021.
- Hull, N., Campbell, J., **Contreras, S.** Hamilton, M., Patterson, C., & Waugh-Quasebarth, J. Systemic Interactions between Individuals and Drinking Water Quality in Appalachia. Sustainability Institute Seed Grant. Ohio State University, May 2020-June 2021.
- Headley, A., **Contreras, S.**, Ganapati, E., Remington, C., & Witkowski, K.<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 and the Reprioritization of Responsibilities: Examining How Colliding Disasters Impact First Responders. Drug Enforcement and Policy Center Research Grant. Ohio State University, May 2020-June 2021.

2018 Niles, S.<sup>1</sup> & **Contreras, S.** Social Vulnerability and Health Care Workers' Response after Hurricane Maria. Quick Response Grant. The Natural Hazards Center, May 2018 – August 2018.

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**PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS AT MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

- 2022 **Contreras, S.** & Lorenzo-Pérez, M.<sup>1</sup> Informal Coping and Adaptive Practices: Exploring Community-led Efforts to Address Gaps in Relocation and Resettlement Programs. Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Toronto (abstract submitted).
- Contreras, S.**, Headley, A., Ganapati, E., Remington, C., & Witkowski, K. Understanding the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Community Engagement Practices of First Responders. Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Washington, DC.
- 2021 **Contreras, S.** & Lorenzo-Pérez, M.<sup>1</sup>. Moving to “safety”: An exploration of the impacts of risk and safety framing on the relocation of informal communities in Puerto Rico. Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (virtual).
- Contreras, S.** & Lorenzo-Pérez, M.<sup>1</sup>. Understanding decision-making surrounding hazard motivated relocation of informal communities in Puerto Rico. International Research Committee on Disasters Annual Meeting (virtual).
- 2020 **Contreras, S.** & Roudbari, S. Who’s Learning from Whom: Small Organizations Learning from Communities in International Development. Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (virtual).
- 2019 **Contreras, S.** Post-disaster Housing Reconstruction after the Mexico City Earthquake: Learning from the language and communication surrounding the participatory work of NGOs. Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Greenville, SC.
- Contreras, S.** Evaluating the Participatory Work of Nongovernmental Organizations in Post-Disaster Haiti. International Research Committee on Disasters Annual Meeting, Broomfield, CO.
- Contreras, S.** Utilizing Arnstein’s Ladder as an Evaluative Framework for the Assessment of Participatory Work in Post-disaster Haiti. Association of European Schools of Planning Annual Congress, Venice, Italy.
- Niles, S.<sup>1</sup> & Roudbari, S., **Contreras, S.** Harrison, J., & Kaminsky, J. Politicizing Engineering Pasts, Envisioning Engineering Futures. Annual Engineering, Social Justice and Peace Conference, Binghamton, NY.
- Niles, S.<sup>1</sup> & **Contreras, S.** Capitalism, Colonialism, Crisis, and Care: The Response of Health Care Workers after Hurricane Maria. International i-Rec: Information and Research for Reconstruction Conference, Gainesville, FL.
- Contreras, S.** & Niles, S.<sup>1</sup> Community Engagement and Post-disaster Health Care: An Exploration of the Work of Medical Organizations in Puerto Rico

after Hurricane Maria. Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Los Angeles, CA.

2018 Niles, S.,<sup>1</sup> **Contreras, S.**, Roudbari, S., Kaminsky, J., & Harrison, J. Bringing in “The Social” Resisting and Assisting Social Engagement in Engineering Education. World Engineering Education Forum, Albuquerque, NM.

**Contreras, S.** & Roudbari, S. Participation as a Two-way Street: Small Organizations Learning from Communities in International Development. Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Buffalo, NY.

2016 **Contreras, S.**, Basolo, V., Goodrich, K., Matthew, R., Sanders, B., Feldman, D., Houston, D., & Cheung, W. An Investigation of Urban Development on Hillsides in Tijuana, Mexico. Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Portland, OR.

**Contreras, S.** Organizations and Participatory Development: Post-disaster Recovery in Haiti. Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, San Diego, CA.

2014 Basolo, V. & **Contreras, S.** Incorporating Sustainability and Resiliency for Housing in Earthquake Prone Areas of Latin America and the Caribbean. Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, San Antonio, TX.

2013 Basolo, V. & **Contreras, S.** Urban Housing and Earthquakes in Developing Countries: Vulnerability, Resiliency, and the Goal of Sustainability. Joint Congress of the Association of European Schools of Planning and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Dublin, Ireland.

#### **LECTURES, ROUNDTABLES, AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS**

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2022 **Contreras, S.**, Glass, M., Downey, D., & Reece, J. UAA Webinar: Selecting the Right Journal. Urban Affairs Association (virtual).

**Contreras, S.** The Production of Environmental Risks and Vulnerabilities in Latin America. Center for Latin American Studies: Book Box K-12 Outreach Project, Ohio State University (invited lecture – virtual).

**Contreras, S.** Building Resilience through Community-led Practices. Resilient Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RISE IRT) Seminar Series, University of Colorado Boulder (invited lecture – virtual).

2021 **Contreras, S.** An Interdisciplinary Approach towards Building Resilience to Environmental Hazards. Social Justice Seminar, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Irvine (invited lecture – virtual).

**Contreras, S.** Examining Latin America Through Nature and the Environment. Center for Latin American Studies: Book Box K-12 Outreach Project, Ohio State University (invited lecture – virtual).

**Contreras, S.** & Martinez, M. Inclusion in the Environmental Movement. Sustainability Institute, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (invited panel – hybrid).

Lorenzo-Pérez, M.<sup>1</sup> & **Contreras, S.** Understanding decision-making surrounding hazard motivated relocation of informal communities in Puerto Rico. At What Point Managed Retreat? Resilience, Relocation, and Climate Justice, The Earth Institute, Columbia University (virtual).

2020

**Contreras, S.** (organizer), Rivera, D.(co-organizer), Chalana, M., Irazabal, C., Mukhija, V., Sletto, B. How can Community-Engaged Studios and Teaching Increase their Impacts? Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (roundtable - virtual).

**Contreras, S.** Cherry, B., Ikerd, J. Planning for a Resilient Future: Climate Action Workshop. Midwest Climate Summit, Washington University in St. Louis (invited panel – virtual).

**Contreras, S.** NGOs and Community Engagement: Learning from the Recovery work of Nongovernmental Organizations in Post-Disaster Haiti. Texas A&M University Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Fall 2020 Lecture Series (invited lecture - virtual).

2019

**Contreras, S.**, Irazabal-Zurita, C., Lieberknecht, K., Sanders, T., & Sanyal, B. FWIG, GPEIG, POCIG Session: Mentoring from the Margins: Cultivating a Culture of Inclusion for Faculty and Students of Color, Women, LGBTQIA, and the Global South in Planning, Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Greenville, SC (roundtable).

**Contreras, S.**, Lieberknecht, K., Oden, M., Richter, S., & Wachsmuth, D. How Planning Leadership Contributes to Sustainability through University-Based Grand Challenges, Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Greenville, SC (roundtable).

**Contreras, S.**, Campbell, J., Tang, X., & Duke, T. Regenerative Cultures and Resilient Communities (RCx2). Ohio Campus Compact Annual Meeting: Campus, Community, and Student Connections from the Inside Out, Columbus, OH (presentation).

**Contreras, S.**, Campbell, J., Tang, X., & Duke, T. Regenerative Cultures and Resilient Communities (RCx2). Community Engagement Conference: Partnering for a Resilient and Sustainable Future, Columbus, OH (presentation).

2018

Tellez, C.,<sup>2</sup> **Contreras, S.**, & Campbell, J. Regenerative Cultures and Resilient Communities' Development Process. Workshop on Sustainability Education through Collaborative, Community-Engaged, Problem/Project-Based Learning (PPBL), Columbus, OH (presentation).

**Contreras, S.**, Encarnacion, A., Lamba-Nieves, D., Santiago, L., & Siembieda, W. Towards a More Equitable Recovery and Reconstruction for Post-Hurricane Maria Puerto Rico, Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Buffalo, NY (roundtable).

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<sup>2</sup> Indicates co-author is a past or present undergraduate student advisee.

- 2015 Feldman, D., **Contreras, S.**, Karlin, B., Basolo, V., Matthew, R., Sanders, B., Houston, D., Cheung, W., Goodrich, K., Reyes, A., Serrano, K., Schubert, J., & Luke, A. Getting the Message Right – The Challenge of Communicating Flood Risk as a Boundary-Spanning Problem: A Case Study of Newport Estuary, California. Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Broomfield, CO (poster).
- Cheung, W., Houston, D., Schubert, J., Matthew, R., Sanders, B., Basolo, V., Feldman, D., Karlin, B., Goodrich, K., & **Contreras, S.** Role of Participatory Mapping in Citizen Science: Challenges and Opportunities. Citizen Science Conference, San Jose, CA (poster).
- Contreras, S.** Organizations and Participatory Development: Post-disaster Recovery in Haiti. Center for Organizational Research, Irvine, CA (poster).
- 2014 Goodrich, K. & **Contreras, S.** Flood Resilient Infrastructure and Sustainable Environment Project. Planning for Disaster Resilience Symposium, College Station, TX (poster).
- Goodrich, K. & **Contreras, S.** Flood Resilient Infrastructure and Sustainable Environment Project. Metropolitan Water District Spring Green Expo, Los Angeles, CA (poster).

## **MEDIA**

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- 2020 Disasters Deconstructed Podcast: Participation (S2E5).  
<https://disastersdecon.podbean.com/e/s2e5-participation/>
- 2018 PreventionWeb Research Feature: Social Vulnerability and Health Care Workers' Response after Hurricane Maria.  
<https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/61705>

## **TEACHING**

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### **Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis, University of Southern California**

- Environmental Planning and Analysis (graduate)
- Planning for Resilience: Natural Hazards, Climate Risks, and Vulnerability (graduate)
- Planning for Environmental Justice, Equity, and Sustainability (undergraduate)

### **City and Regional Planning, The Ohio State University**

- Disaster Planning and Policies (graduate)
- Global Environment in Planning (undergraduate)
- Comparative Studies in Planning (undergraduate)
- International Development Planning Studio (undergraduate/graduate)
- Introduction to City and Regional Planning (undergraduate)
- Research Methods (undergraduate)

### **Planning, Policy and Design, University of California Irvine**

- Quantitative Analysis (undergraduate)
- Research Implementation in a U.S. – Mexico Border Context (undergraduate)
- Environmental Hazards – (undergraduate – hybrid course)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2013-2014	Graduate Research Assistant, UCI <i>Flood Resilient Infrastructure &amp; Sustainable Environment (FloodRISE)</i>
2013-2014	Graduate Research Assistant, UCI <i>Diversity in Urban Planning Doctoral Programs (DECADE)</i>
2013	Graduate Research Assistant, UCI <i>Housing Sustainability and Resiliency in Latin American Cities</i>
2008-2011	Project Engineer, Miyamoto International, CA <i>International earthquake and structural engineering firm specializing in technical design, disaster mitigation, and earthquake reconstruction</i>
2008	Structural Engineer, Build Change, West Sumatra, Indonesia <i>International non-profit organization focused on earthquake-resistant housing design and training of local builders/engineers in Global South</i>
2007-2008	Graduate Research Assistant, UCB <i>Data reduction &amp; Model Calibration: Unreinforced Masonry Infill Frames</i>
2005	Undergraduate Research Assistant, UCSD <i>Testing of Leaning Columns in an Unbraced Moment Frame System</i>
2004	Structural Engineering Technician, Robertson and Associates, CA <i>Earthquake and structural engineering firm specializing in housing design</i>
2003-2007	Program Assistant, California Alliance for Minority Participation, CA <i>Statewide initiative funded by NSF to strengthen the representation of underrepresented students in STEM at the University of California</i>

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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2020	NSF Enabling the Next Generation of Hazards and Disasters Researchers Program
2019	ACSP Junior Faculty of Color Workshop, Harvard University, Boston, MA
2016-2017	Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (administered by NASEM)
2016	Social Ecology Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, UCI
2013/2016	Graduate Mentor Award, UCI
2015	Public Impact Fellowship, UCI
2015	Founding Fellows Award, Bill Anderson Fund for Hazard Education Research
2015	Dean's Award for Community Engagement, UCI
2014	Center for Organizational Research (COR) Grant, UCI
2012	Martha Newkirk Fellowship, UCI
2011-2012	Graduate Opportunity Fellowship, UCI
2007-2008	Chancellor's Fellowship for Graduate Study, UCB
2007	Berkeley Edge Summer Fellowship, UCB
2006	Summer Undergrad Program in Engineering Research Fellowship, UCB
2004-2006	Thurgood Marshall College Provosts Honors, UCSD
2005-2006	Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, UCSD

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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ACSP/Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Award Task Force (2021- Present)
Journal of Urban Affairs (JUA) Scholar Development Editor (2021 – Present)