

TASNIM ISABA, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Associate

Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center

385-371-9852

Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning

Texas A&M University

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tasnim.isaba@tamu.eduisaba.buet@gmail.com**EDUCATION**

2025

PhD, City & Metropolitan Planning, *University of Utah*

CGPA: 4.00 out of 4.00

Advisor: Dr. Divya Chandrasekhar**Dissertation Topic:** *Integrating Land Use Strategies in Wildfire Recovery Planning in the Western United States*

2021

Masters in Urban and Regional Planning, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, *Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology***Thesis Topic:** *A Network-Based Study on the Organizational Involvement and Community Perception in Hurricane Preparedness of Selected Coastal Areas of Bangladesh* (Advisor: Dr. Ishrat Islam).

2017

Bachelor in Urban and Regional Planning, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, *Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology***Thesis Topic:** *A Spatial Analysis of Government Budget Allocations and its Alignment with National Policies and the Sixth Five-Year Plan (2011–2015) of Bangladesh* (Advisor: Dr. Ishrat Islam).**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Disaster recovery and resilience; land use planning and governance; housing recovery and land tenure; community engagement; qualitative and mixed methods; adaptive and climate-resilient planning.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**Academic Appointments**

August 2025- Current	Postdoctoral Research Associate , Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center (HRRC), <i>Texas A&M University</i> , College Station, TX
August 2025- Current	Instructor , Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, <i>Texas A&M University</i> , College Station, TX
May-August 2025	Instructor , City & Metropolitan Planning, <i>University of Utah</i> , Salt Lake City, UT
May 2023- April 2025	Graduate Teaching Assistant , City & Metropolitan Planning, <i>University of Utah</i> , Salt Lake City, UT
August 2021-May 2024	Graduate Research Assistant , City & Metropolitan Planning, <i>University of Utah</i> , Salt Lake City, UT
February-July 2021	Assistant Professor , BUET-Japan Institute of Disaster Prevention & Urban Safety, <i>Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology</i> , Dhaka, Bangladesh
December 2017- January 2021	Lecturer , BUET-Japan Institute of Disaster Prevention & Urban Safety, <i>Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology</i> , Dhaka, Bangladesh
February-November 2017	Research Assistant , Department of Civil Engineering, <i>Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology</i> , Dhaka, Bangladesh

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

August 2025- Present **Postdoctoral Research Associate**, Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center (HRRC), *Texas A&M University*, College Station, TX

Supervisor: Dr. Michelle Meyer, Director, HRRC

Key Activities:

- **Grant & Proposal Development:** Co-PI ongoing proposal to the NSF with focus on amenity migration and wildfire risk. Lead PI on accepted proposal from the *Lincoln Institute of Land Policy* examining heir's property and disaster preparedness.
- **Research & Analysis:** Conduct thematic analysis of interview data for the Southeast Texas Urban Integrated Field Lab, a U.S. Department of Energy (DoE)-funded project. Co-author resulting manuscripts and participate in biweekly interdisciplinary project meetings.
- **Student Mentorship:** Co-supervise Ph.D., graduate, and undergraduate researchers in qualitative methods, literature synthesis, and manuscript preparation.
- **Program & Workshop Coordination:** Support organization of workshops for *Heritage and Hazards* and related HRRC initiatives.
- **Curriculum Development:** Collaborating with Dr. Michelle Meyer and faculty team to design and review online course materials focused on disaster recovery and community planning.

August 2021-May 2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**, City & Metropolitan Planning, *University of Utah*, Salt Lake City, UT

Supervisor: Dr. Divya Chandrasekhar, University of Utah

- **Research Assistantship in a NSF-funded Project:** Designed and implemented research surveys and GIS-based data visualization as part of an NSF-funded project.
- **Mixed-Method Data Analysis:** Led qualitative and quantitative data analysis using NVivo and SPSS.
- **Stakeholder Interviews:** Conducted stakeholder interviews and developed PhotoVoice-based community impact assessments.
- **Interdisciplinary & Multi-Institutional Collaboration:** Collaborated on a multi-institutional research project with *Florida International University* and the *University of Puerto Rico*.
- **Research Team Management:** Supervised student research teams in data collection and content analysis.

October 2022- Current **Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-PI**

- **Research Leadership & Grant Management:** Led and collaborated on multiple research projects funded by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Natural Hazards Center, NOAA, FEMA, and the Global Change & Sustainability Center, University of Utah. Lead PI on accepted Lincoln Institute proposal (2025-2026) examining heirs' property disaster preparedness and recovery strategies through comparative analysis of urban Houston and rural Southeast Texas communities.
- **Policy Analysis:** Conducted a comprehensive review of community and city-level wildfire plans to assess how land use planning is integrated into wildfire mitigation and resilience strategies.
- **Stakeholder Engagement & Qualitative Research:** Conducted 30+ interviews with community leaders, planners, and policymakers to evaluate challenges, opportunities, and best practices in wildfire risk management.
- **Field Research & Policy Review:** Conducted on-site field assessments in unincorporated areas impacted by the 2021 Marshall Fire in Colorado, analyzing wildfire-related plans and regulatory frameworks.
- **Report Development & Policy Recommendations:** Contributed to the reports by synthesizing findings into recommendations for integrating land use strategies into wildfire adaptation planning.

December 2017-July 2021 **Assistant Professor (Former Lecturer)**, BUET-Japan Institute of Disaster Prevention & Urban Safety, *Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology*, Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Contributed to disaster mitigation and transportation planning projects supported by national and international agencies, including the *Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*.

February-November 2017 **Research Assistant**, Department of Civil Engineering, *Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology*, Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Conducted mixed-method data analysis (qualitative reviews, statistical modeling, and spatial analysis) for topics relevant to disaster management in Bangladesh.
- Mentored undergraduate students in data analysis and mentored research projects
- Collaborated on the UNDP seismic vulnerability assessment project.

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Presentations

- Isaba, T.** (2025). *Maintaining Housing Under Climate Stress: Urban and Rural Strategies for Land Retention in Heirs' Property Communities*. Paper accepted for presentation at the Multiplied Displacements: The Climate-Housing Nexus Conference, January 15-16, 2026, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Isaba, T.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Fainkich, A. (2025). *Research and Policy Perspectives on Land Use Planning in Wildfire Management*. Presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Annual Conference, October 21-24, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Isaba, T.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Fainkich, A. (2025). *Research and Policy Perspectives on Land Use Planning in Wildfire Management*. Presented at the Natural Hazards Workshop's Researchers Meeting, July 16-17, Boulder, Colorado.
- Isaba, T.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Bhandari, S., & Loquellano, A. (2024). *Land Use Based Wildfire Planning for Unincorporated Communities*. Presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Annual Conference, November 7-9, Seattle, Washington.
- Isaba, T.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Bhandari, S., & Loquellano, A. (2024). *Land Use Based Wildfire Planning for Unincorporated Communities*. Poster presented at the 2024 WIRED Grid Resilience Symposium, September 12, University of Utah.
- Isaba, T.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Bhandari, S., & Loquellano, A. (2024). *Assessing Community Wildfire Protection Plans in the Western US: Land Use Strategies for Wildfire Adaptation*. Selected for presentation at the Natural Hazards Workshop's Researchers Meeting, July 14-17, Broomfield, Colorado.
- Isaba, T.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Bhandari, S., & Loquellano, A. (2024). *Assessing Community Wildfire Protection Plans in the Western US: Land Use Strategies for Wildfire Adaptation*. Presented at the American Association of Geographers Meeting, April 16-20, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Isaba, T.**, & Chandrasekhar, D. (2023). *Assessing the Potential Feasibility of Land Use Based Adaptation against Emerging Wildfires*. Presented at the Natural Hazards Workshop's Researchers Meeting, July 12-13, Broomfield, Colorado.
- Isaba, T.**, & Chandrasekhar, D. (2023). *Assessing the Potential Feasibility of Land Use Based Adaptation against Emerging Wildfires*. Presented at the American Association of Geographers Meeting, March 23-27, Denver, Colorado.
- Isaba, T.**, & Chandrasekhar, D. (2023). *Assessing the Potential Feasibility of Planned Retreat against Emerging Wildfires in the USA: A Case Study of Marshall Wildfire, Colorado*. Presented at the Environment and Sustainability Symposium, Global Center & Sustainability Center (GCSC), University of Utah, February 22.
- Chandrasekhar, D., Garcia, I., Padilla, M., Ganapati, N.E., Olshansky, R., & **Isaba, T.** (2022). *How Stakeholder Interdependencies Affect Household Decision-Making About Post-Disaster Relocation in Puerto Rico*. Presented at the 47th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, July 10-13.

Manuscript Under Review

- **Isaba, T.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Bhandari, S., & Loquellano, A. (2024). *Land Use-Based Wildfire Planning for Unincorporated Communities*. Manuscript under revision for the *Journal of Planning Education and Research (JPER)*.
- **Isaba, T.**, Chandrasekhar, & Fainkich, A. (2025). *Research and Policy Perspectives in Wildfire Management*. Manuscript submitted.

Peer-Reviewed Reports

- Chandrasekhar, D., Finn, D., Contreras, S., & **Isaba, T.** (2023). *Land use adaptations to wildfire in unincorporated communities in Colorado (Quick Response Report)*. Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder. <https://hazards.colorado.edu/quick-response-report/land-use-adaptations-to-wildfire-in-unincorporated-communities-in-colorado>.
- **Isaba, T.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Ganapati, N., Bhandari, S. (2024). *Integrating Land Use Strategies into Wildfire Recovery Planning in the Western United States*. Report submitted to the Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder.
- Jordan, S. Seth & **Isaba, T.** (November 2025). *From Students to Responders: Building the Future Disaster Workforce*. Published on Domestic Preparedness Journal. <https://domprep.com/articles/from-students-to-responders-building-the-future-disaster-workforce/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

List of Courses

- **PLAN 650 Disaster Recovery Planning (Instructor)**, Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Texas A&M University (Spring 2026)
- **PLAN 629 Neighborhood Revitalization (Instructor)**, Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Texas A&M University (Fall 2025)
- **CMP 2010 Design Ecology (Instructor)**, City & Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah (Summer 2025)
- **CMP 6010 Community and Regional Analysis** (Co-Instructor/Teaching Assistant), City & Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah
- **CMP 4450 GIS for Urban Ecology** (Teaching Assistant), City & Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah
- **CMP 4020 Field Studies in Planning** (Teaching Assistant), City & Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah
- **CMP 4600 The Just City** (Teaching Assistant), City & Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah
- **Earthquake Preparedness Training for Government Officials** (Moderator), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

PEER-REVIEWED EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS

2025	Lead PI with Michelle Meyer, John Cooper Jr., and Nishat Maria Tasnim, "Heirs' Property and Disaster Preparedness: Comparative Analysis of Urban and Rural Challenges in Texas," <u>Lincoln Institute of Land Policy- Heirs Property & Disaster Preparedness</u> (\$18,000).
2024	Lead PI with Divya Chandrasekhar, Nazife Ganapati, Suraksha Bhandari, "Advancing Wildfire Recovery: Integrating Land Use Strategies in Wildfire Recovery Planning of Western US," funded by the <u>Wildfire Ready Quick Response Research- Natural Hazards Center</u> with support from the National Science Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). (\$7,500)
2023	Co-PI with Divya Chandrasekhar, Donovan Finn, and Santina Contreras, " <u>Land Use Based Wildfire Adaptation in Unincorporated Communities</u> ," funded by FEMA Region 8 Quick Response Research Award- Natural Hazards Center . (\$4,000)

INTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS

2024	Lead PI with Divya Chandrasekhar, "Integrating Wildfire Risk Management in Land Use Planning: An Evaluation of Local Land Use Plans and Zoning Codes in Los Angeles County," funded by the Global Change and Sustainability Center (GCSC) , University of Utah (\$1,584) https://www.environment.utah.edu/programs-projects/student-projects/
2022	Lead PI with Divya Chandrasekhar, "Assessing the Potential Feasibility of Planned Retreat against Emerging Wildfires in the USA: A Case Study of Marshall Wildfire, Colorado," funded by the Global Change and Sustainability Center (GCSC) , University of Utah (\$1,522) https://www.environment.utah.edu/programs-projects/student-projects/
2022	Tinker Field Research Grant, "Stakeholder Interdependencies in Post-Disaster Relocation under High Uncertainty in Puerto Rico," funded by the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) , University of Utah (\$1,000)

PROJECTS

- Wildfire Amenity Migrants (*Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center, Texas A&M University, August 2025 – Present*)
- Disaster Risk and Cultural Heritage Project (*Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center, Texas A&M University, August 2025 – Present*)
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Resilience Project (*Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center, Texas A&M University, August 2025 – Present*)
- Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) Mapping Initiative (*Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center, Texas A&M University, August 2025 – Present*)
- Stakeholder Interdependencies in Post-Disaster Relocation Under High Uncertainty in Puerto Rico, USA (August 2021-April 2024)
- Vulnerability Assessment of Earthquake Risk at Ward Level in Rangpur City Corporation and Selected Pourashavas, Bangladesh (October 2019 – December 2021)
- Assessment of Seismic Exposure, Structural and Socio-Economic Vulnerability of Ward-14 in Mymensingh Municipality, Bangladesh (April-September 2017)

STUDENT MENTORSHIP AND SUPERVISION

Co-Supervisor and Mentor, Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center, Texas A&M University (2025 – Present)

Research Supervisor, Department of City & Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah (2024 – 2025)

- Co-supervised an undergraduate student on a wildfire-planning research project.
- The student received the Spring 2025 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Award under joint supervision.

Mentor to International Graduate Applicants (2022 – Present)

- Provided individualized guidance to international students preparing PhD applications, focusing on academic positioning, research alignment, and writing clarity.

Undergraduate Mentor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (2017)

- Supervised undergraduate thesis teams on disaster management and resilience planning.
- Provided instruction on quantitative data analysis, research design, and presentation development.

AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES

- Student Member, *Associate of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)*, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025
- Reviewer, *Computational Urban Science*, 2024
- Volunteer, *Associate of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Annual Conference*, 2024
- Student Advisory Committee (SAC) Member, *Department of City & Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah*, 2022
- Graduate Member, *American Association of Geographers (AAG)*, 2022, 2024