

TASNIM ISABA, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Associate
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Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning
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EDUCATION

2025	PhD , City & Metropolitan Planning, <i>University of Utah</i> CGPA: 4.00 out of 4.00 Advisor: Dr. Divya Chandrasekhar Dissertation Topic: <i>Integrating Land Use Strategies in Wildfire Recovery Planning in the Western United States</i>
2021	Masters in Urban and Regional Planning , Department of Urban and Regional Planning, <i>Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology</i> Thesis Topic: <i>A Network-Based Study on the Organizational Involvement and Community Perception in Hurricane Preparedness of Selected Coastal Areas of Bangladesh</i> (Advisor: Dr. Ishrat Islam).
2017	Bachelor in Urban and Regional Planning , Department of Urban and Regional Planning, <i>Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology</i> Thesis Topic: <i>A Spatial Analysis of Government Budget Allocations and its Alignment with National Policies and the Sixth Five-Year Plan (2011–2015) of Bangladesh</i> (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

<u>Academic Appointments</u>	
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), <i>Texas A&M University</i> , College Station, TX
Supervisor: Dr. Michelle Meyer, Director, HRRC	
Key Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <i>Lincoln Institute of Land Policy</i> 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 <i>Heritage and Hazards</i> 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, <i>University of Utah</i> , Salt Lake City, UT
Supervisor: Dr. Divya Chandrasekhar, University of Utah	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <i>Florida International University</i> and the <i>University of Puerto Rico</i>.• Research Team Management: Supervised student research teams in data collection and content analysis.	
October 2022- Current	Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-PI
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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, <i>Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology</i> , Dhaka, Bangladesh
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contributed to disaster mitigation and transportation planning projects supported by national and international agencies, including the <i>Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief</i>, <i>Bangladesh Meteorological Department</i>, and the <i>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i>.	
February-November 2017	Research Assistant , Department of Civil Engineering, <i>Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology</i> , Dhaka, Bangladesh
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 projectsCollaborated 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," Lincoln Institute of Land Policy- Heirs Property & Disaster Preparedness (\$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 Wildfire Ready Quick Response Research- Natural Hazards Center 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, " Land Use Based Wildfire Adaptation in Unincorporated Communities ," 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