

Jocelyn West

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology
Graduate Research Assistant, Natural Hazards Center
University of Colorado Boulder
jocelyn.west@colorado.edu

Education

- In Progress Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology, University of Colorado Boulder (*expected 2026*)
Dissertation: “The Social Side of Landslides: Contextualizing Vulnerability to Compound Hazards in Puerto Rico After Hurricane Maria”
Specialty Areas: Environmental Sociology, Racial and Ethnic Inequality
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (GRFP)
- 2022 M.A. in Sociology, University of Colorado Boulder
Thesis: “Comparing Social Vulnerability and Population Loss in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria”
- 2013 Bachelor of Arts in Geological Science and Education Studies (History and Policy)
Brown University, Providence, RI

Current Affiliations

- 2019–Present Graduate Research Assistant/Affiliate, Natural Hazards Center, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado Boulder

Professional Experience

- 2024–2025 Research Social Scientist, Geologic Hazards Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Golden, CO
- 2017-2019 Disaster Risk Management Consultant, World Bank Group, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, Washington, DC
- 2017 Disaster Response Volunteer, All Hands and Hearts, Aransas Pass, TX. Sept-Oct.
- 2017 Community Manager, Vizzuality (Web Development & Design), Washington, DC
- 2016 Education Program Manager, Crees Foundation, Cusco, Peru
- 2015-2016 Communications Assistant, Center for Global Development, Washington, DC
- 2013-2014 Research Assistant (Natural Hazards), Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2024 Austin, J., Evans, C. M., **West, J.**, Champeau, H., Peek, L., & Adams, R. M. (2024). Defining and Practicing Reciprocity in Hazards and Disaster Research. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 23, 16094069241309279.
- 2023 West, Jocelyn. (2023). Social vulnerability and population loss in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. *Population and Environment*, 45(2), 8. doi.org/10.1007/s11111-023-00418-3
- 2023 West, J., Rodríguez-Cruz, L. A., & Hughes, K. S. (2023). Steep Risks: Assessing Social Vulnerability to Landslides in Rural Puerto Rico. *Natural Hazards Center Public Health Report Series*, 34. University of Colorado Boulder. <https://hazards.colorado.edu/public-health-disaster-research/steep-risks>
- 2021 West J, Davis L, Lugo BendeZú R, Álvarez YD, Hughes KS, Godt J, Peek L. (2021). Principles for Collaborative Risk Communication: Reducing Landslide Losses in Puerto Rico, *Journal of Emergency Management*. [doi:10.5055/jem.0547](https://doi.org/10.5055/jem.0547)
- 2021 West, Jocelyn. (2020). Review of *Governing Affect: Neoliberalism and Disaster Reconstruction* by Roberto Barrios. *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*. Vol. 38, No. 3. pp. 398-400. <http://ijmed.org/articles/798/download/>

Fellowships and Grants

- 2022-23 Research award for project “Assessing social vulnerability to landslides in rural Puerto Rico.” Funded by Natural Hazards Center and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (\$49,768)
- 2021-24 Awarded Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. (\$138,000 over 3 years)
- 2021 Small Research Grant. Funded by the Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado Boulder. (\$650)
- 2021 Racial/Ethnic Inequalities Research Award (RIRA). Funded by the Department of Sociology, University of Colorado Boulder. (\$1,500)
- 2021 Summer Research Award. Funded by the Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado Boulder. (\$750)
- 2021 Third-Year Paper Research Award. Funded by the Department of Sociology, University of Colorado Boulder. (\$1,500)
- 2020 Seed Grant. Funded by the CU Population Center, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado Boulder. (\$2,000)
- 2020 Summer Research Award. Funded by the Department of Sociology, University of Colorado Boulder. (\$2,500)

- 2012-13 Royce Fellowship for Sport and Society, Brown University. (\$4,000)
- 2010-11 Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award, Brown University. (\$3,000)

Guidebook

- 2020 Contributing Author. *Landslide Guide for Residents of Puerto Rico*. U.S. Geological Survey, University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez, Natural Hazards Center. Published by Natural Hazards Center, Boulder, CO: <https://hazards.colorado.edu/puertorico>

Online Training Module

- 2021 West, J., Champeau, H., Austin, J., Evans, C.M., Adams, R.M., Peek, L. *Reciprocity in Hazards and Disaster Research*. CONVERGE Training Module, Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder.

Research Presentations

- 2024 West, J. M., McBride, S. K., Drakes, O., & Ebanks, D. V. (2024, December). Human Dimensions of Landslides Triggered by 2024 Hurricane Helene. In AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts (Vol. 2024, pp. NH11D-06).
- 2023 “Assessing Social Vulnerability to Landslides in Puerto Rico.” Natural Hazards Workshop Researchers Meeting. July 2023.
- 2021 “Does Social Vulnerability Predict Disaster Losses? Testing a Social Vulnerability Index for Puerto Rico.” Sociology of Disasters and Crises, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. August 2021.
- 2021 “Principles for Collaborative Risk Communication: Reducing Landslide Losses in Puerto Rico.” Researchers Meeting, International Sociological Association Research Committee on Disasters (ISA-RC39). July 15, 2021.
- 2021 “Landslides and Environmental Justice.” Invited presentation to the U.S. Interagency Coordinating Committee on Landslide Hazards. May 26, 2021.
- 2020 West, Jocelyn and Lindsay Davis. “Collaborative Risk Communication for Landslides in Puerto Rico” December 18, 2020. Presentation to U.S. Geological Survey, Risk Community of Practice.
- 2020 “Collaborative Risk Communication in Puerto Rico.” Panel presentation. 45th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Broomfield, CO. July 2020.

- 2020 West, Jocelyn and Lindsay Davis. Impact 360 Webinar with Disaster Practitioners. July 1, 2020.
- 2020 “Collaborative Risk Communication: Landslide Guide for Residents of Puerto Rico.” Making Mitigation Work Webinar Series, presented by FEMA and the Natural Hazards Center. June 2020. hazards.colorado.edu/training/webinars/landslide-guide-for-residents-of-puerto-rico
- 2020 West, Jocelyn and Lindsay Davis. “Landslide Guide for Residents of Puerto Rico.” April 28, 2020. Presentation to U.S. Geological Survey, Natural Hazards Mission Area and Risk Community of Practice.
- 2020 Davis, Lindsay and Jocelyn West. “Partnership to Reduce Landslide Hazards in Puerto Rico.” March 17, 2020. Presentation to Natural Hazards Center, Boulder, CO.
- 2019 Facilitated “Understanding and Using Risk Data,” presented by Stuart Fraser as part of the VizRisk Challenge. World Bank, Mapbox, and Data Visualization Society.

Abstracts and Posters Presented at Professional Meetings

- 2024 Loos, Sabine, et al. “Accounting for social equity in the disaster risk modeling framework.” 18th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering. July 2024.
- 2022 West, Jocelyn. “Social dimensions of landslides in Puerto Rico.” Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop. July 2022.
- 2020 Álvarez, Yahaira D., Raquel Lugo Bendeزú, and Jocelyn West. “Strategies for Landslide Risk Communication in Puerto Rico.” 45th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Broomfield, CO. July 2020.
- 2019 Álvarez, Yahaira D., Raquel Lugo Bendeزú, and Jocelyn West. “Strategies for Landslide Risk Communication in Puerto Rico.” RISE Conference, University at Albany, Albany, NY.
- 2013 West, Jocelyn, Karen M. Fischer, and Julia MacDougall. “Seismic Anisotropy and Mantle Deformation beneath the Hindu Kush-Pamir Mountains and the Tadjik Basin.” American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Activities at Professional Meetings

- 2025 Session recorder for the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop
- 2024 Co-convener: Loos, S., Soden, R., West, J. M., & Paul, N. (2024, December). Elevating Equity: Shifting Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment for a Just Future. In AGU24. Washington, DC.

- 2021-2022 Selected and co-managed team of 10 volunteers for the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop and Researchers Meeting. Served as point of contact for 12 sessions. Organized and moderated the Career Kickstarter training session.
- 2021 3-day workshop for the U.S. Interagency Coordinating Committee on Landslide Hazards. Facilitated five breakout sessions. Recorded notes for the full workshop to inform the strategy to be delivered to Congress in January 2022.
- 2020 Managed team of eight student volunteers and served as a session co-host for the 45th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop. July 10-14, 2020.
- 2019 Co-facilitated workshop “Communicating Disaster Risk: From Assessments to Informed Decision-Making.” Joint meeting: NASA & World Bank, Washington, DC.
- 2018 Co-facilitated workshop for 50 scientists: “Communicating Disaster Risk: From Assessments to Informed Decision-Making.” American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2018, Washington, DC.
- 2018 Co-facilitated planning session: “Understanding Risk (UR) Community - Toward 2020.” American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2018, Washington, DC.
- 2018 Led communications for the 2018 Understanding Risk Forum, Mexico City, Mexico.

Blog Posts

- 2023 “Connecting Inequity to Post-Disaster Population Change.” September 2023. *Natural Hazards Center News*, Boulder, Colorado.
- 2022 “Life-saving Landslide Risk Communication in Puerto Rico.” October 2022. *Natural Hazards Center News*, University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2020 “By a Landslide: New Guide Answers Puerto Rico’s Call for Landslide Info.” February 2020. Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2019 Created website and content for the World Bank’s VizRisk Challenge, including Case Studies, What Is Risk, and Data Visualization Guidance.
- 2019 “Visualizing risk: Announcing the winners of the 2019 VizRisk Challenge.” *World Bank Data*. August 2019.
- 2019 “Harnessing creativity for change: The art of resilience.” *World Bank Voices*. Apr 2019
- 2018 “The rise of local mapping communities.” *World Bank Sustainable Cities*. Nov 2018.
- 2018 “How Afghanistan uses GeoNode to build resilience.” *The Open Data for Resilience Initiative*, World Bank. March 2018.

Journal Article Reviews

Ad-hoc *Population and Environment*
 Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences
 Risk Analysis

Grant Proposal Reviewer

2021-2022 Special Call for Quick Response Research in U.S. Territories
 Special Call: Weather-Ready Research Instrument and Data Publication

Teaching

Spring 2013 Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Brown University
 “Face of the Earth: Introduction to Geology”

Departmental Service

2023-2024 Served as Graduate Student Mentor, Department of Sociology, University of
 Colorado Boulder
2021-2022 Graduate Committee Representative, Department of Sociology
2020-2022 Co-founded Non-Academic Careers Group for graduate students
2020-2021 Diversity Committee Representative, Department of Sociology

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association (ASA), Member

American Geophysical Union, Member

[NSF Collaborative Center for Landslide Geohazards](#), Social Science Advisor and Stakeholder Group
Member (2022-2024)

Member, Working Group on Equitable Disaster Risk Assessments, World Bank (2023-24)