

Sayma Khajehei, MARCH, MCRP, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

2019- 2023	Ph.D. of Metropolitan Planning, Policy, and Design , University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, USA Study emphasis: Affordable Housing, Resilient Community, Disaster Recovery Ph.D. Dissertation: Post-Disaster Public Housing Recovery: The Implication of Institutional Actors
2017 - 2019	Master of Community and Regional Planning , Iowa State University, Ames, IA, USA GIS Certificate , Iowa State University, Ames, IA, USA
2011- 2013	Master of Reconstruction after Disaster , University of Shahid Beheshti, Tehran, Iran
2006- 2011	Bachelor of Architecture , University of Shiraz, Shiraz, Iran

POSITIONS of RESPONSIBILITY

08/2023-Present	Assistant Professor at Towson University ❖ Department of Geography and Environmental Planning
06/2022-08/2023	Instructor/ Co-instructor at the University of Utah ❖ Department of City and Metropolitan Planning
08/2020-06/2022	Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Utah
05/2021-08/2021	Planning Intern at San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) ❖ Office of Race, Equity, and Inclusion
06/2021-08/2021	Co-instructor at the University of Utah
08/2019 – 05/2020	Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Utah
08/2018 - 05/2019	Graduate Teaching Assistant at Iowa State University
05/2017 - 06/2019	GIS intern at the GIS facility of Iowa State University
08/2017 - 05/2018	Graduate Research Assistant at Iowa State University
06/2015 - 07/2017	Reconstruction Researcher in the Department of Reconstruction and Rural Housing, Central Branch, Housing Foundation of Iran (HFIR), Tehran, Iran
09/2014- 06/2017	Instructor at the University of Applied Sciences and Technology, Tehran, Iran
09/2013 - 06/2015	Architect in FARNA Consulting Engineers, Tehran, Iran

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor	Towson University: GEOG 251- Introduction to Urban Planning GEOG 481- Environmental Impact Analysis, GEOG 405/553- Comprehensive Planning, GEOG 402/607- Resilient communities University of Utah: CMP 4450/6450- GIS for Planning Excel Basic Booth Camp
Co-Instructor	University of Utah: CMP 6010- Community and Regional Analysis CMP 4450/6450- GIS for Planning (2021)
Guest Lecturer	University of Utah: CMP 6140- Planning for Disasters and Environmental Change; CMP-4020- Field Studies in Urban Ecology II
Teaching Assistant	University of Utah: CMP 3100- Planning Theory and Practice Iowa State University: CRP 484/584- Sustainable Community CRP 293- Environmental Planning

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Khajehei, S., & Chandrasekhar, D.** (2024). Effect of near-miss events on pre-disaster recovery planning for public housing. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 115, 105063.
- Khajehei, S., Hamideh, S.** (2023). Post-Disaster Recovery Challenges of Public Housing Residents: Lumberton, North Carolina after Hurricane Matthew. *Urban Affairs Review*, 60(1), 232-271.
- Chandrasekhar, D., García, I., & **Khajehei, S.** (2021). Recovery Capacity of Small Nonprofits in Post-2017 Hurricane Puerto Rico. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 88(2), 206-219.
- Fallahi, A., **Khajehei, S.** (2015). A Housing Reconstruction Experience after the Earthquake: Town of Qir in Iran, 1972 earthquake, *Journal of Housing and Rural Environment*, 34(150), 33-52. (In Farsi)
- Bashiri, M., **Khajehei, S.** (2013). Seismic Vulnerability Reduction and Fire Risk Mitigation in Dormitories, Case Study: Dormitories for Married Students of Shahid Beheshti University. *Journal of Emergency Management*, 2(1), 15-25. (in Farsi)
- Shomali, N., **Khajehei, S.** (2013). Seismic risk reduction planning of Bam neighborhood from the view of urban planning, *Disaster Prevention and Management Quarterly (DPMK)*, 3(2), 178-187. (in Farsi)

In-Press

Khajehei, S., Impact of Disaster Mitigation Projects on Low- and Moderate-Income Homeownership in New York City after the 2012 Hurricane Sandy, *Natural Hazards Review*.

Under Review:

Khajehei, S., Chandrasekhar, D., García, I., Colón Rivera, E., Recovering Public Housing Residents after Concurrent Disasters: Community-Based Organizations' Role, *Journal of Planning and Education Research*.

Prepared:

Khajehei, S., Chandrasekhar, D., Public Housing Recovery Governance: A Retrospective Analysis of Five Case Studies

PEER-REVIEWED REPORTS

- Khajehei, S.**, Colón Rivera, E., Chandrasekhar, D., & García, I. (2022). Community-Based Organizations in Public Housing Resident Recovery in Puerto Rico. *Natural Hazards Center Public Health Grant Report Series*, 20. Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder. Available at: <https://hazards.colorado.edu/public-health-disaster-research/community-based-organizations-in-public-housing-resident-recovery-in-puerto-rico>
- Khajehei, S.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning for Public Housing in Salt Lake County, Utah. *Natural Hazards Center Mitigation Matters Grant Report Series*, 6. Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder. Available at: <https://hazards.colorado.edu/https://hazards.colorado.edu/quick-response-report/pre-disaster-recovery-planning-for-public-housing-in-salt-lake-county-utah>

GRANTS & AWARDS & HONORS

2025-2026	Lead PI , Faculty Development & Research Committee Grants, Towson University, Enhancing Disaster Resilience in Baltimore County Through Improved Interagency Collaboration, (\$5909)
2024	Diversity & Inclusion Faculty Fellowship (DIFF), Towson University, (\$2000)
2023	Teaching Assistant Fellowship , University of Utah, (\$24000)
2023	Lead PI with Divya Chandrasekhar, "Public Sector Planning for Post-disaster Public Housing Recovery in 'Near Experience' Communities", Quick Response Research Grant : FEMA Region 8 Call, Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado-Boulder with the support of the National Science Foundation and Federal Emergency Management Agency, (\$4000)
2021-2022	Lead PI with Elizabeth Colon Rivera, Divya Chandrasekhar, and Ivis Garcia. "Role of Community-Based Organizations in Public Housing Resident Recovery after Concurrent Disasters". Public Health Disaster Research Award Grant Supported by the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder with the support of the National Science Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (\$48,000)
2021-2022	Climate Justice UC3 Fellowship for the 2021-2022 Academic Year, University of Utah, (\$5000)
2019-2020	Global Change and Sustainability Center (GCSC) Graduate Fellowship for the 2019-2020 Academic Year, University of Utah, (\$9000)
2019 - 2020	Lead PI with Divya Chandrasekhar, "Pre-disaster Recovery Planning for Public Housing in Salt Lake County, Utah", Mitigation Matters Research Grant , Natural Hazards Center, the University of Colorado-Boulder with the support of the National Science Foundation and Federal Emergency Management Agency, (\$2500)
2019	The Planners of Color Interest Group (POCIG) Student Travel Award , 2019 ACSP Annual Conference, Clemson University, Greenville, South Carolina, (\$500)
2018-2019	Property Rights Research Scholarship , College of Design, Iowa State University, (\$1000)
2018	Student Travel Award , "What's Next for Buffalo Niagara?" workshop, 2018 ACSP Annual Conference, SUNY at Buffalo, (\$750)

RELEVANT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

08/2020 – 06/2021	A colleague in the research project entitled " Effectiveness of multi-hazard response planning for concurrent disasters (Case study: COVID-19 and post-earthquake response in the Salt Lake City Metro Region)," University of Utah, USA.
08/2019 – 06/2021	A colleague in the research project entitled "Building Community Networks to Promote Disaster Recovery in Puerto Rico," University of Utah, USA.
08/2018 – 08/2019	A colleague in the research project entitled "Hurricane Matthew Public Housing Recovery Study for Lumberton, NC," the Center of Excellence for Risk-Based Community Resilience Planning at CSU- Funded by NIST.
01/18/2018 - 08/09/2019	A member of waves 2 and 3 of the longitudinal field study on Lumberton, NC, following Hurricanes Matthew and Florence, the Center of Excellence for Risk-Based Community Resilience Planning at CSU- Funded by NIST.
08/2017 - 05/2017	Research Assistant (RA), Iowa State University, Supervisor: Dr. Sara Hamideh
10/05/2017 - 10/09/2017	Field-based research "Hurricane Harvey"-Rockport-Texas, Iowa State University
06/2015 - 12/2016	A colleague in the project entitled "Documentation of Bam Reconstruction Process after the 2003 Earthquake" for Housing Foundation of Iran (HFIR), Tehran, Iran –Published.

WEBINARS & GUEST SPEAKER

November 2022	Khajehei, S. , Community-Based Organizations in Public Housing Resident Recovery in Puerto Rico, Planners of Puerto Rico
August 2022	Khajehei, S. , Community-Based Organizations in Public Housing Resident Recovery in Puerto Rico. <i>Natural Hazards Center Public Health Grant Report Series, 20</i> . Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder. Available at: https://hazards.colorado.edu/research/public-health-disaster/webinar-2
August 2021	Khajehei, S. Chandrasekhar, D., Recovery from Disaster: Local Community Roles, Response and Recovery Training, Emergency Management Institute, Utah Division of Emergency Management, Taylorsville, UT.
August 2021	Khajehei, S. , Pre-disaster Recovery Planning for Public Housing in Salt Lake County, <i>Mitigation Matters Reports, MM6</i> , Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center, Available at https://hazards.colorado.edu/training/webinars/mitigation-messaging-and-planning-research-from-the-mitigation-matters-award-program

CONFERENCES PRESENTATIONS

- Khajehei, S.**, Chandrasekhar, D., García, I., Colón Rivera, E., The Role of Community-Based Organizations in Recovery of Public Housing Residents Amidst Concurrent Disasters: Case Study of Puerto Rico, Accepted as an oral presentation for the *2025 AAG Annual Meetings*, March 23-28, 2025.
- Khajehei, S.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Pre-Disaster Public Housing Recovery Planning: ‘Near Experience’ Communities, Accepted as an oral presentation for the *2024 ACSP Annual Conference*, November 5-7, 2024.
- Khajehei, S.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Public Housing Recovery Governance: A Retrospective Analysis of Five Case Studies, Accepted as an oral presentation for the *2024 AAG Annual Meetings*, April 16-20, 2024.
- Khajehei, S.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Evolving Institutional Actors in Post-Disaster Public Housing Recovery: A Retrospective Study, Accepted as an oral presentation for the *2023 ACSP Annual Conference*, October 18-21, 2023.
- Khajehei, S.**, Impact of disaster mitigation projects on low- and moderate-income homeownership in New York City after the 2012 Hurricane Sandy, Accepted as an oral presentation for the *2022 ACSP Annual Conference*, November 3-5, 2022.
- Khajehei, S.**, Colón Rivera, E., Chandrasekhar, D., & García, I., Community-Based Organizations in Public Housing Resident Recovery in Puerto Rico. Accepted as an oral presentation for *IRCD Researchers Meeting at 47th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop*, July 2022.
- Khajehei, S.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Impact of disaster mitigation programs on low- and mid-income homeownership in coastal regions- Case study: NYC after Hurricane Sandy, 2012, Accepted as a poster presentation for the *2021 ACSP Annual Conference*, November 21-23, 2021.
- Khajehei, S.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Pre-planning for Post-disaster Rehousing of Public Housing Residents (Case-study: Salt Lake County), Accepted as an oral presentation for the *2020 ACSP Annual Conference*, November 5-8, 2020.
- Khajehei, S.**, Chandrasekhar, D., Pre-planning for Post-disaster Rehousing of Public Housing Residents (Case-study: Salt Lake County), Accepted as an oral presentation for *IRCD Researchers Meeting at 45th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop*, July 2020.
- Khajehei, S.**, Hamideh, S., Recovery Challenges of Public Housing residents after Disasters: Lumberton, North Carolina after Hurricane Matthew, Accepted as an oral presentation for the *2019 ACSP Annual Conference*, October 24-27, 2019, Clemson University.
- Khajehei, S.**, Hamideh, S., Recovery Challenges of Public Housing residents after Disasters: Lumberton, North Carolina after Hurricane Matthew, Accepted as an oral presentation for *IRCD Researchers Meeting at 44th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop*, July 2019, Broomfield, CO.
- Khajehei, S.**, Hamideh, S., Public Housing after Disasters: Recovery Resources and Policies following Hurricane Matthew in Lumberton, North Carolina, Accepted as a poster presentation for the *44th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop*, July 2019, Broomfield, CO
- Khajehei, S.**, Hamideh, S., Recovery Challenges of Public Housing Residents after Disasters: Lumberton, North Carolina after Hurricane Matthew, Accepted as an oral presentation for the *6th Annual Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference*, April 10, 2019, Iowa State University.
- Khajehei, S.**, Hamideh, S., Disparities between Public Housing Recovery & Other Residential Units after Disasters Case Study: Lumberton Housing Recovery after Hurricane Matthew, 2016, Accepted as a poster presentation for the *2018 ACSP Annual Conference*, October 25-28, 2018, SUNY at Buffalo.
- Khajehei, S.**, Hamideh, S., Social Vulnerability, and Public Housing Recovery: Lumberton, NC, after Hurricane Matthew, Accepted as a poster presentation for the *43rd Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop*, July 2018, Broomfield, CO.

SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS

Grant Review	Mitigation Matters Research Award Program, Natural Hazards Center, the University of Colorado-Boulder, December 2023.
Manuscript Review	Journal of Natural Hazards Review, 2023 to present. Journal of Planning and Education Research, 2024 to present

GENERAL IMPACT & MEDIA COVERAGE

March 2023	Featuring “Pre-disaster Recovery Planning for Public Housing in Salt Lake County” research on a live panel about “How Turkey’s hasty rebuild could set the nation up for another disaster”, NPR/WBUR’s On Point program, https://www.wbur.org/radio/programs/onpoint/archive/2023/03/22
August 2021	Case Study Documents Pre-Disaster Planning Challenges for Public Housing Recovery, National Low Income Housing Coalition. Available at: https://nlihc.org/resource/case-study-documents-pre-disaster-planning-challenges-public-housing-recovery
August 2021	Training Course for Emergency Managers, Recovery from disaster: Local Community Roles, Response and Recovery Training, Emergency Management Institute, Utah Division of Emergency Management, Taylorsville, Utah,

WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

July 2024	The Journal of Planning Education and Research (JPER) Writing Workshop for New Scholars, Tufts University, Medford, MA.
July 2018 to 2024	43rd to 49th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop and Researchers Meeting, Broomfield, CO.
October 24, 2018	"What's Next for Buffalo Niagara?" workshop, 2018 ACSP Annual Conference, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY.
01/31/2018	Planning Information Exchange (PIE) Webinar "Flood Hazard Mitigation in Historic Districts," APA, USA.
31/07/2016	Natural Hazard Risk Management in Megacities, held by Natural Disaster Research Institute (NDRI) and UNESCO Chair on Natural Disasters Management, Housing Foundation of Iran (HFIR), Tehran, Iran.

SERVICES AS COMMITTEE MEMBER

2024-Present	Faculty Representative on the Executive Committee of the American Planning Association – Maryland Chapter (APA Maryland).
2024-Present	College of Liberal Arts DEI committee, representing the Department of Geography and Environmental Planning, Towson University.
2023	Search Committee for a Tenure Track Assistant Professor Position in Planning, Department of City and Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah
2021-2022	Ph.D. Admission Committee, Department of City and Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah
2020-2021	Student Advisory Committee, Department of City and Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah
ACSP 2019	Student Member of Global Planning Education Committee, GPEIG, 2019 ACSP Annual Conference

SKILLS

Computer:

Arc GIS, Arc GIS Pro, Stata, ATLAS.ti, NVivo, SPSS, Microsoft Office, Tableau
HTML, JavaScript, QGIS, GeoJSON
Auto CAD, Photoshop, Illustrator, Google Sketch-up, 3Ds Max(basic)

Qualitative Research:

Interview, Survey, Focus Group discussions, Document Analysis, Observational
methods, and Fieldnotes.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEERS

2018-2019	Chief of Staff in Community and Regional Planning Graduate Student Club, Iowa State University Student Organization
2018	Student Volunteer, 43 rd Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, July 2018, Broomfield, CO
2018	Representing the Community and Regional Planning Department in Open House Student Panel, College of Design, Iowa State University.
2012-2013	Instructing residents of university apartments to use exit plans in crisis, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran
2011-2013	Representing dormitory students (Communication link between University and Students), Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran

LANGUAGES

- **Persian** (native language)
- **English:** (professional proficiency)