

**Ratna Okhai**  
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## **EDUCATION**

***PHD IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS***, School of Public Administration, University Central Florida, Orlando,  
Florida **May 2023**

***FIELD:*** Public Policy and Governance

***DISSERTATION:*** *Interorganizational Networks and Coordination in Emergency Management: Policy and Practice in Response to Disasters*. A study

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Articles:

Moore, P. and **Okhai, R.** (2024). Embedding social equity in disaster response: Simulation case study. *Journal of Public Affairs Education*.

Abukhalaf, A. H. I., **Okhai, R.**, Naser, A. Y., von Meding, J., Cohen, S. L., Mehdipour, H., & Abusal, D.

**Okhai, R.** & Bukalova, D. (*submitted*). *Where Are All The Women? Leadership in Public Administration and Policy*

**Okhai, R.** (*submitted*). *Assessing Social Media Based Crisis Communication of Local Agencies During Hurricane Irma.*

Entress, R., **Okhai, R.** & Knox, C. C. (*revise and resubmit*). *Hurricane Evacuation and Administrative Burdens: Special Needs Shelter Policies During Hurricane Irma.*

Bukalova, D. & **Okhai, R.** (*in progress*). *Leadership Considerations and Gender: Local Government Leaders and Competence Perceptions.*

### **Conference Papers and Presentations:**

**Okhai, R.** & Kapucu, N. (2024, April). *The Role of Multi-Level Network Governance in Implementing Resilience Plans and Policies.* International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) Annual Conference. (Tampere, Finland).

**Okhai, R.** ó panel convener (2024, April). *World in Disasters: Resilient Communities, Adaptable Practices and Future Needs.* American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Annual Conference. (Minneapolis, MN).

**Okhai, R.** & Kapucu, N. (2023, November). *Resilience Polices for Regional Coordination in Response to Disasters.* Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Conference. (Atlanta, GA).

**Okhai, R.** & Bukalova, D. (2023, September). *Where Are All The Women? Leadership in Public Administration and Policy.* International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Annual Conference. (Austin, TX).

**Okhai, R.** (2023, June). *Interorganizational Networks and coordination in Emergency Management: Policyelp0000ikrdil R*



Cross-Sector Partnerships and the University of Central Florida Downtown Community Engaged Research Efforts, Graduate Research Assistant

- Reached out to faculty and compiled data on those working on downtown community engaged research
- Created mock-ups of completed projects for possible website feature, including aligned UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Organized faculty directory, including relevant headshots, associated projects and any other resources provided

**Research Interests:**

Network Governance, Emergency and Crisis Management, Local Government, Smart Cities, Public Policy in Practice, Gender and Leadership

**Skills and Competencies:**

*METHODOLOGY COMPETENCY:* MAXQDA (Qualitative Data Analysis), SAS and SPSS (Statistical Analysis), EndNote (Citation Analysis), Prezi (Virtual Presentation), UCINET (Network Analysis), Dedoose (Qualitative Data Analysis)

*COMPUTER COMPETENCY:* Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Teams), Apple Operating System, Windows Operating System, Zoom Video Conferencing

*LANGUAGE SKILLS:* Gujarati (native), English (fluent), Hindi (fluent), Spanish (conversational)

**TEACHING**

**Graduate Courses:**

PAD 6060 Public Organizational Theory Spring 2024

**Undergraduate Courses:**

PAD 3003 Introduction to Public and Community Service (Online) Fall 2023

PAD 4720 Research Methods in Public Administration (Research-Intensive Designation) Fall 2022

PAD 4395 Disaster Response and Recovery (Online) Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Summer 2023

PAD 4390 Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness Fall 2021

**CERTIFICATES**

*University of South Florida – Online Instruction Certification*

September 2023

**SERVICE**

**University Service:**

*University of Central Florida*

- UCF International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) Student Chapter 2020 ó 2023
- Served as the Vice President and now President for the student chapter, during which time we seamlessly transitioned our speakers to Zoom, and successfully received \$500 from Student Government to sponsor the networking social at the Public Administration Research Conference (PARC)

*University of South Florida*

- USF Bobby Green ICMA Student Chapter 2014 ó 2016
- Served as the Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, and finally the President for the student chapter, during which time we secured an annual \$1,000 donation from the City of Auburndale, raised over \$500 through 50/50 raffles during the annual FCCMA conferences, and organized ICMA conference attendance of up to 9 student members

**Professional & Community Service:**

*American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)*

2019 – Present

- Serving on the communications team for the Section on Emergency Management (SECM) (2023 ó Present)
- Served on the communications team for the Section on Complexities and Network Studies (SCNS) (2022 ó 2023) \
- Served as conference volunteer for the 2022 annual conference in Jacksonville

*International City/County Management Association (ICMA)*

2014 – Present

- Served on the conference planning committee for the 2023 conference in Austin, TX, 2022-2023
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- Secured a competitive 2-year fellowship with the City of Fort Lauderdale, 2016 ó 2018

*Florida City and County Managers Association (FCCMA)*

2014 – Present

- Serving on a two-year term on the Conference Planning Committee (2023 ó

## **MANUSCRIPT REVIEW**

*International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*  
*International Journal of Public Administration*  
*Journal of Emergency Management*  
*Natural Hazards Review*  
*Public Integrity*  
*Public Management Review*  
*Review of Public Personnel Administration*  
*Urban Governance*

## **HONORS, AWARDS, & RECOGNITIONS (AWARDED)**

*ASPA Founders' Fellowship Award*, American Society for Public Administration, 2023 (ASPA presentation and conference attendance support)

*Emerging Leaders Scholarship*, Florida City and County Management Association, Annual Conference, 2023 (fully funded conference attendance)

*The Section on Professional and Organizational Development Scholarship*, American Society for Public Administration, Annual Conference, 2023 (\$250 monetary award)

*Public Management Research Association (PMRA) Academic Writing Workshop*, Bogota, Colombia, 2023 (fully funded for conference including travel for conference including 8N740.3 397.27 Tm0 g0 G{ )TJETQq0.0

