Alexander Mitchell Rezk

PhD Student

Anthropology and Environmental Policy

University of Maine

Thus far in my research, I have been most interested in examining the ways in which climate adaptation is being helped or hindered by the current policy apparatus that exists in many places, both domestic and international. Particularly, I have been invested in unpacking how administrative conceptualizations of vulnerability determine the type and urgency of action taken by municipal and state governments here in the US in regard to resilience policy initiatives. For my Master’s research *Capturing the Resilience Dividend: Post-Hurricane Sandy Insights from Brooklyn’s Sea Gate Community*, I independently conducted human-subjects based research into the narrative reality of resilience policy on the ground for homeowners displaced and flooded in the wake of Hurricane Sandy -- nearly five years on. Going forwards, I am interested in deepening my examination of the core questions that emerge from such study, i.e.: how does the possibility of emerging and unforeseen vulnerability resultant from new geographic and environmental factors undermine resilient adaptation? How are governments undermining their own efforts by working towards market ends fundamentally at odds with resilience policy? Are perceived buffers to vulnerability slowing progress towards shoring up potentially and currently vulnerable populations? These are but a few points, and many more remain, but in honing my research focus here I am also interested in examining and interacting with these questions within Maine, and beyond.

**Contact Information:**

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**Education:**

The University of Maine, Orono, ME. 2017-Present. Degree-in-Process: PhD Anthropology & Environmental Policy.

Clark University, Worcester, MA. 2015-2017. Degree: MA International Development and Social Change

Worcester State University. Worcester, MA. 2013-2015. Degree: BS Sociology, Environmental Sociology focus.

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Xaverian High School, Brooklyn, NY. 2003-2007

Drew University, Madison, NJ. 2007-2010. Major: Anthropology/Religious Studies.

Minor: Music.

CUNY Kingsborough, Brooklyn, NY. 2011-2013. Major: Anthropology.

**Current Employment:**

Research Assistant: Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, The University of Maine. August 2018-Present.

Teaching Assistant, Forensic Anthropology, University of Maine, Spring 2018

**Awards & Accolades:**

Clark University Merit Fellowship Award

Golden Key Honors Society

WSU Dean’s List Fall 2013- Spring 2015

W.E.B. DuBois Award for Sociology WSU

Invited to apply to Omicron Delta Kappa WSU

1st Chair Woodwinds 2004-2007 (Xaverian)

Mary Ellen and Gerald Ritter Foundation Award for Music 2004 & 2005 (Xaverian)

Director’s Award for Music 2006 & 2007 (Xaverian)

Louis Armstrong National Jazz Award Recipient 2006 & 2007 (Xaverian)

National Honor Society (Xaverian)

International Baccalaureate Program (Xaverian)

Talent Quest Participant 2005, 2006 (Xaverian)

Student Performer Exchange Delegate w/ Inuyama City, Japan 2005, 2007 (Xaverian)

Drew University Merit Based Scholarship Award

Invited to apply to The National Society of Leadership and Success: Sigma Alpha Phi CUNY Kingsborough

**Student Organization Activities:**

Worcester State Sociology Student Association 2013-2015

Drew University Pagan Society, Co-founder & Co-President 2007-2010

**Conference Presentations:**

2018 Annual American Anthropological Association Conference. “Adaptation Otherwise” Panel Co-Chair.

2018 Annual ARNOVA Conference. Communities and Grassroots in Post-Disaster Reconstruction: Comparative Responses from Puerto Rico, New York City, and Sri Lanka.

2018 Annual Conference of Society for Applied Anthropology - **“**Living with Hurricanes” Panel.

UMASS Amherst Undergraduate Research Conference Panel Presenter:

“Hurricane Sandy and the Urgency of Ecological Disaster: A Sociological Analysis of Ecological Crises and Alternative Practices for the Coming Era”

UMASS Amherst Undergraduate Research Conference Panel Presenter:

“Reclaiming the Land: Conservation Movements and the Fight for Our Natural Spaces”

**Research:**

*Capturing the Resilience Dividend: Post-Hurricane Sandy Insights from Brooklyn’s Sea Gate Community*

Rezk, Alexander M., "Capturing the Resilience Dividend: Post Hurricane Sandy Insights from Brooklyn's Sea Gate Community" (2017). International Development, Community and Environment (IDCE). 115. <http://commons.clarku.edu/idce_masters_papers/115>

Participated in ongoing research project in Haiti during late Spring 2017, assessing the effects of Hurricane Matthew upon the viability of traditional agricultural lands, and determining root causes of environmental degradation due to erosion and flood waters leading to displacement in rural villages East of Port Au Prince.

**Research Interests:**

Resilience Studies, Environmental Governance, Global Climate Policy, Disaster & Risk Management, Humans and the environment, Human Geography, Sustainability, Refugee and Migration Studies, Displacement, Land and Species Conservation, Resource Management, Disaster Infrastructure, Economic Policy, Energy Policy, Religion, Environmental Law and Politics, Global Climate Change.

**Areas of Intense Past Study:**

Biological Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Religious Anthropology, Pan-Indo-European Religious Studies, Alternative Religious Movements, New Religious Movements, Neolithic-Early Medieval History, Classical History, Art History, Music History, Ethics, Environmental Politics, Sociology, Environmental Sociology, Environmental Law, Social Theory, International Development, International Affairs.

**Traits & Skills:**

Excellent Communication Skills, Excellent Writing Skills, Leadership Experience, Student Government Experience, Analytical, Good Teamwork Skills, Creative Thinker.

Successful IRB experience, self-guided human-subjects based research skills, interview skills, qualitative data gathering, field experience both domestic and international working with human-interface based research.

Extensive experience with Microsoft Office Suite programs (i.e. Word, Excel, Powerpoint), Quantitative research experience, Extensive experience with statistical software (i.e. SPSS), Qualitative Coding Experience, Project Design knowledge.

**Hobbies & Extracurricular Activities:**

Environmental Activism, Musical Performance, Multi-instrumentalist, Archaeology, Animal Rescue, Cultural Studies, Ornithology, Hiking, Museums, Learning languages: currently Gaelic, Italian, French, Catalan, Greek. Woodworking, Personal Research endeavors.