

Omur Damla Kuru

Postdoctoral Fellow in City and Metropolitan Planning

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Research Interests

Environmental Planning & Policymaking, Disaster Planning, Climate Change Adaptation & Population Mobility, Housing

Education

2017–2022 **PhD in Public Affairs**, *Florida International University*, Miami, FL, USA.

Supervisors N. Emel GANAPATI

Description Living on the Front Line: Community and Government Responses to Sea Level Rise in U.S. Vulnerable Communities.

Funding This research was supported by the **University of Colorado's Natural Hazards Center – Quick Response Grant Program (funded through the National Science Foundation, grant number CMMI1333610), Florida International University's Graduate School – Doctoral Evidence Acquisition (DEA) Fellowship, and Dissertation Year Fellowship (DYF)**

2008–2015 **Masters in Urban Design**, *Izmir Institute of Technology*, Izmir, Turkey.

Supervisors Nicel SAYGIN

Description Place Making - Examination of Practices in Turkey: A review of Public Place and Place-Making, Privacy and Publicness Concepts in Turkish and Islamic Cultures and Place-Making Practice in Turkey. Examination of Practices in Turkey with Respect to Actors, Process, and Product Components.

2003–2008 **Bachelor in City and Regional Planning**, *Izmir Institute of Technology*, Izmir, Turkey.

Supervisors Erkal SERIM

Description Urban Preservation Project of "Damlacık District", Kemeralti Historical Center, İzmir. Urban Preservation project in Damlacık District, a Historical Residential Area in the Traditional City Center of Izmir.

Positions Held

Research

Jul'24 - **Postdoctoral Fellow**, *University of Utah, Department of City and Metropolitan Planning & NSF Wired Global Center.*

Sep'23 - **Visiting Scholar**, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning.*

Jan'23 - **Postdoctoral Research Associate**, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning.*
Sep'23

- Aug'17 - **Research & Teaching Assistant**, *Florida International University, Department of*
 Nov'22 *Public Policy and Administration.*
- Aug'07 - **Research Intern**, *Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Master Plan Bureau*, Analytical
 Oct'07 Investigation of Bornova District, Izmir and revise of Master Plans in 1/5.000 scale.
- Aug'06 - **Research Intern**, *Izmir Institute of Technology, Analytical Investigation of Aliğa*,
 Sep'06 *Izmir*, Analysis of land use, built environment, demographic structure of Aliğa, Izmir.
 The analysis is digitized by GIS (Geographic Information System) and data is used for
 planning projects in different scales (1/25.000; 1/5.000; 1/1.000).
- Jul'05- **Research Intern**, *Izmir Institute of Technology*, Relief Study of the historical building
 Sep'05 stock in Bolvadin, Afyon: Building surveying and measured drawings of historical and
 traditional buildings in Bolvadin, Afyon.
- Sep'05 - **Research Intern**, *Izmir Institute of Technology, Topographical Surveying*, Compos-
 Aug'05 ing topographical map of IYTE campus by measuring topographical data. Using
 leveling instruments is learned and the data acquired by measurements is used in the
 composition of maps.

Industry

- Dec'15 - **Senior Real Estate Appraisal Consultancy Expert**, *Form Real Estate Appraisal*
 Jul'16 *Consultancy*, Istanbul, Turkey, Expertise, Supervising on various scales of projects.
- Aug'14 - **Senior Real Estate Appraisal Consultancy Expert**, *EVA Real Estate Appraisal*
 Aug'15 *Consultancy*, Izmir, Turkey, Expertise, Supervising on various scales of projects.
- Jun'09 - **Real Estate Appraisal Consultancy Expert**, *Vakif Real Estate Inc.*, Izmir,
 Aug'14 Turkey, Expertise on various scales of projects. Surveying and consultancy on South
 Marmara and Aegean region of Turkey.

Publications

Journal Articles

Kuru, O.D., Ganapati, N.E. & Marr, M. (2023).

Perceptions of Local Leaders Regarding Postdisaster Relocation of Residents in the Face of Rising Seas.
Housing Policy Debate, 1–22

Doi [10.1080/10511482.2022.2077800](https://doi.org/10.1080/10511482.2022.2077800)

Journal Articles: Under Revision

Kuru, O.D., Shome, P., Infield, E.M., Renski H., Hodos, E.

Receiving Communities During COVID-19: Lessons for Climate Migration. **Under Revision.**

Shome, P., **Kuru, O.D.**, Infield, E.M.

Understanding US Internal Climate Migration: Research to Date and Implications for Planners. **Under Revision.**

Journal Articles: In Progress

Chandrasekhar, D., **Kuru, O. D.**, Garcia, I., Ganapati, N. E., Olshansky, R., Padilla, M., Matiz, A.
 Influence of Social Networks on Household Recovery Perception in Post-Hurricane Puerto Rico.

Kuru, O. D., & Ganapati, N. E.

Rising Seas, Towering Challenges: A review of the Barriers and Opportunities to Sea Level Rise Adaptation.

Kuru, O. D., South, J., Ganapati, N. E., Kalesnikaite, V., Baker, K.

To Support or Not to Support Managed Retreat: Understanding Stakeholder Policy Positions at State and Local Levels through Cultural Theory.

Kuru, O. D., Ganapati, N. E.

The Factors that Affect Local Governments' Responses to Sea Level Rise: A Case Study of Monroe County, Florida

Kuru, O. D., Ganapati, N. E., Neshkova, M.

When the Game is Over: Considering Retreat in Response to Rising Seas.

Book Chapters

Kuru, O. D. (2024). Rising Tides, Surging Policy Agenda. In Fiorino, D. J., Eisenstadt, T. A., Ahluwalia, M. K. (Eds.). *Elgar Encyclopedia of Climate Policy* (pp. 123-128). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Technical Reports

Infield, E., Welch, P., **Kuru, O. D.**, Cotter, A., Renski, H. (August, 2024).

Insights for Receiving Communities in Planning Equitable and Positive Outcomes Under Climate Migration. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA.

[Insights for Receiving Communities in Planning Equitable and Positive Outcomes Under Climate Migration](#)

Kuru, O. D. (2018).

Relocation, Repopulation, and Rising Seas - Monroe County, Florida, Following Hurricane Irma.

Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder.

[URL: Relocation, Repopulation, and Rising Seas Monroe County, Florida, Following Hurricane Irma](#)

Other Publications

Kuru, O. D. (2021).

Managing the Known-Unknowns: A Review on Public Service's Responses to Emergencies, Crises, and Environmental Threats.

PA Times Online.

[URL: Managing the Known-Unknowns: A Review on Public Service's Responses to Emergencies, Crises and Environmental Threats](#)

Teaching

Graduate Level Courses

Spring 2025 **CMP 6140: Planning for Disasters and Environmental Change**, *University of Utah, Department of City and Metropolitan Planning*, Instructor of the graduate-level course—taught in combination with the undergraduate course CMP 4140, that introduces students to the underlying concepts, analytical techniques and practices in disaster management and provide them with hands-on experience.

Winter 2024 **REGIONPL 590X: Case Studies in Urban and Rural Climate Adaptation**, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning*, Graduate-level course—developed and taught one lecture as a guest-lecturer on climate migration, managed and unmanaged retreat—with examples—as a response to climate change impacts.

Spring 2023 **LANDARCH/REGIONPL 635: Research Issues**, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning*, Graduate-level course—developed and taught one lecture as a guest-lecturer on conducting focus groups, interviews, and obtaining human subjects review approval.

Undergraduate Level Courses

Spring 2025 **CMP 4020: Field Studies in Urban Ecology II**, *University of Utah, Department of City and Metropolitan Planning*, Instructor of the second of two hands-on courses in research skills used for urban analysis. Students learn how to measure and communicate complex, interdependent relationships within social, environmental and economic systems. This course focuses on qualitative methodological approaches in urban research; practice how to apply the various methodologies to develop and implement a research study..

Spring 2023 **SUSTCOMM 297G: Applied Research Methods for Policy and Management**, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning*, Undergraduate level course—developed and taught one lecture as a guest-lecturer on climate/environmental justice, geographic and social vulnerability to climate change, presented my research on housing affordability and climate impacts in Monroe County, Florida (Kuru et al. 2022) and organized an in-class activity to discuss vulnerabilities on UMass, Amherst campus.

Spring 2020 **PAD 4723: Applied Research Methods for Policy and Management**, *Florida International University, Department of Public Policy and Administration*, One of the core undergraduate-level courses— developed and taught one lecture as a guest-lecturer (covered the main differences between qualitative and quantitative research methods and guided students to brainstorm on potential research questions for their research proposal project).

Spring 2020 **PAD 3800: Managing Global Cities**, *Florida International University, Department of Public Policy and Administration*, A required undergraduate-level class — guest lectured and provided feedback on group project presentations.

Fall 2019 **PAD 3800: Managing Global Cities**, *Florida International University, Department of Public Policy and Administration*, A required undergraduate-level class — guest lectured.

Mentoring

Fall 2024 - **Research Advising**, *University of Utah, Department of City and Metropolitan Planning*, Advising three graduate students and one undergraduate student in the Disaster Planning Lab.

Spring-Summer 2023 **Research Advising**, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning*, Advising graduate students for research project: Climate Migration in Northeastern U.S..

Fall 2021 **PAD 4934: Integrative Seminar in Public Administration** , *Florida International University, Department of Public Policy and Administration*, Advising 12 mentees for their Capstone Project.

Invited Talks, Presentations, Seminars

- Mar'25 **Receiving Communities in Rural Northeast: Lessons for Climate Migration**, CA+P 2025 Research Symposium, College of Architecture, University of Utah, Mar 4, 2025.
- Jul'24 **Transformational Change through Domestic Climate Migration**, Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) Annual Congress, Paris, France, Jul 8-12, 2024 (Poster Presentation Co-author/Designer).
- Jul'24 **Rising Seas, Towering Challenges: A Review of the Barriers and Opportunities to Sea Level Rise Adaptation**, Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) Annual Congress, Paris, France, Jul 9, 2024 (Virtual Presentation).
- May'24 **Preparing Receiving Regions for a Just and Sustainable Climate Migration: Systems and Scenarios for New England**, National Planning Conference, Session Number: NPC2418544 (Virtual Presentation), May 9, 2024.
- Mar'24 **Climate Migration Workshop**, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Cambridge, Massachusetts, March 19-21 2024 (Workshop Organizer/Panel Discussant).
- Nov'23 **Talking COVID, Learning for Climate Migration**, Northern New England Planning Conference, New Castle, New Hampshire, November 7 2023.
- Jun'23 **Preparing Receiving Regions for a Just and Sustainable Climate Migration: Systems and Scenarios for New England**, National Science Foundation Sustainable Regional Systems (SRS) Awardee Conference, Alexandria, VA, June 8, 2023.
- Apr'23 **Community and Government Responses to the Wicked Problem of Sea Level Rise**, Presenter: N. E. Ganapati Co-Author: O. D. Kuru at FEMA Vanguard Executive Crisis Leadership Fellowship Program, Miami, April 5, 2023.
- Mar'23 **The Factors that Affect Local Governments' Responses to Sea Level Rise: A Case Study of Monroe County, Florida**, ASPA (American Society for Public Administration) 2023 Annual Conference (Virtual presentation).
- Mar'23 **Perceptions of Local Leaders Regarding Postdisaster Relocation of Residents in the Face of Rising Seas**, American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP), Climate Migration, and Managed Retreat Panel (Virtual presentation).
- Mar'22 **Perceptions of Local Leaders Regarding Post-Disaster Relocation of Residents in the Face of Rising Seas**, ASPA (American Society for Public Administration) 2022 Annual Conference, Jacksonville FL, USA.
- Jul'21 **Relocation in the Face of Rising Seas: The Florida Keys Post-Hurricane Irma**, The 46th Annual Natural Hazards Research & Applications Workshop (Virtual Poster Presentation).
- Jul'21 **Post-disaster Relocation in the Face of Rising Seas: The Florida Keys after Hurricane Irma**, Senior Fellows and Friends (Virtual Presentation), <https://seniorfellowsandfriends.org/events/> .
- Apr'21 **Post-disaster Relocation in the Face of Rising Seas: The Florida Keys after Hurricane Irma**, ASPA (American Society for Public Administration) 2021 Annual Conference Founders' Fellow Panel (Virtual Presentation).

- Apr'21 **To Respond or Not to Respond? A Review of the Literature on How Public Sector Organizations Address Sea Level Rise in the United States**, ASPA (American Society for Public Administration) 2021 Annual Conference (Virtual Presentation).
- Jun'20 **Conducting Systematic Literature Reviews**, Florida International University Public Policy and Administration (Webinar Organization/Presentation).
- Feb'20 **Back to "the New Normal" in the Face of Rising Seas: Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Mitigation in Post-Disaster Recovery Context in the U.S.**, IAARC Event: Let's Talk Research, Florida International University Moss School of Construction, Infrastructure and Sustainability, Florida, USA.
- Mar'19 **Back to "the New Normal" in the Face of Rising Seas: Post-Hurricane Irma Relocation and Repopulation in Monroe County**, ASPA 2019 Annual Conference Washington DC, USA.
- Nov'18 **To Respond or Not to Respond?**, Sustainability and Development Conference, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.
- Sep'14 **"Place-Making" as a Tool for Vital Public Spaces: A Review of Public Space with respect to "Spatial Organization" and User Participation through "Place Making" and Examination of Practices in Turkey**, Pro Walk / Pro Bike / Pro Place Conference Pittsburg, USA.
- Jul'10 **A Review of Place Making with respect to the Interaction of Design and Public Use in Case Study of Sultanahmet District, Istanbul**, COAC International Workshop Architecture, Education and Society Barcelona, Spain.

Awards, Grants, and Honors

- Nov'21 DYF Fellowship:Tuition, insurance, 16600USD stipend *Given by FIU Graduate School, 2021*
- Jul'21 Travel/Voluntership Award – Registration Fee *Given by FIU School of International and Public Affairs, Natural Hazards Center Workshop 2021, Virtual Attendance*
- May'21 DEA Fellowship:Tuition, insurance, 8300USD stipend *Given by FIU Graduate School, 2021*
- Feb'21 ASPA 2021 Founders' Fellowship *Given by American Society for Public Administration, 2021*
- Aug'20 DEA Fellowship:Tuition, insurance, 8300USD stipend *Given by FIU Graduate School, 2020*
- May'20 Public Adm., P. Policy, and P. Affairs Scholarship *Given by ICPSR University of Michigan, 2020 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research*
- Aug'19 Travel/Voluntership Award – Covering All Expenses *Given by ASPA and FIU, 2019 Annual Conference March 2019 Washington DC*
- May'19 NASPAA Emergency Management Poster Competition Finalist *Given by Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA)*

Nov'18 Travel Award – Covering All Expenses *Given by FIU School of International and Public Affairs, Sustainability and Development Conference Ann Harbor Michigan'18*

Aug'18 Quick Response Grant – 2000USD *Given by Natural Hazard Center, and used in the fieldwork in Monroe County Florida Aug'18*

Service

Jul'19 **Student Volunteer**, 44. Annual Natural Hazards and Applications Workshop, Colorado, USA.

Jun'19 **Committee Member**, Global Planning Educators Interest Group Logo Competition, USA.

Mar'19 **Student Volunteer**, ASPA 2019 Annual Conference, Washington DC, USA.

Certificates

May'13 ExpropriationExpertise *Expropriation Expertise Education by Turkey Real Estate Appraisal Consultants Union, Istanbul'13*

Aug'12 Capital Markets Board of Turkey *Real Estate Appraisal Licence No: 402525*

Languages

Turkish	Native speaker	
English	Advanced	<i>Read Written Spoken</i>
French	Intermediate	<i>Read Written Spoken</i>

Computer Skills

Mainstream NVivo, Stata, SPSS, AutoCad, GIS, QGIS, ArchiCAD, Photoshop, 3D Max

Functional MS Office, Open Office

References

○ Available on Request