

SUMMARY

Applied researcher with more than seven years of experience collaborating with policymakers, working in mixed academic and stakeholder team environments, performing mixed methods research, and designing survey and interview instruments for in-person and digital use. Experienced with written and presented deliverables including executive summaries, briefings for elected officials and other policymakers, funding and project reports, academic publications, and general audience presentations. *Master's in Global Health, current Global Health PhD candidate.*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

01/2021 - current. Graduate researcher, **Heat Safety for Non-Traditional Outdoor Workers**, Healthy Urban Environments Initiative, Arizona State University.

- Review and synthesize recommendations, findings, and best practices from more than 30 existing heat safety training courses for a variety of specialized audiences.
- Design and deliver accessible heat safety print materials for non-traditional outdoor workers (e.g., delivery drivers, parking lot attendants, etc.) that address unique and specific needs.

05/2020 – current. Graduate organizer, **Arizona Extreme Heat Working Group**, Maricopa Association of Governments and Healthy Urban Environments Initiative, Arizona State University.

- Convene more than 150 federal, state, and local government, scientific, and community-based partners to address knowledge needs for protecting residents in extreme heat during COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in innovative heat sheltering practices that served more than 500 people in 2020.
- Administer mailing list and interactive website (EngagementHQ), create and present training materials, interface with policymakers, media, and other inquiries, and recruit guest speakers with relevant expertise.

07/2016 – current. Graduate student research assistant, **School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning**, Arizona State University.

- Lead qualitative researcher on **3Heat Project** (NSF Hazards SEES #1520803), a study of the health, infrastructural, and social effects of widescale power outage and blackout in three cities across the United States. Designed household-level surveys and resident and stakeholder interview protocols, trained research colleagues and community partners for data collection, oversaw data management, managed transcription team, performed qualitative analysis, reported to funders and participants, and prepared scientific manuscripts for submission (*see publications, below.*)
- Research support at request of Commissioner Sandra Kennedy, **Arizona Corporation Commission**. Investigated, analyzed, and prepared presentations using primary and secondary data on heat illness and deaths among Arizona residents and economic costs associated with extreme heat to provide decision-making support for revision of electric utility disconnection rules (currently under public comment.)
- Qualitative researcher for **Pew Charitable Health Impacts Project, HeatReady Program, and Vitalyst Health Foundation Pilot Program** in partnership with the Cities of Tempe, Phoenix, and Maricopa County Association of Governments. Designed and assisted in administering research instruments to assess heat impacts and costs to community partners, residents, and other stakeholders, and analyzed data for reports to funders, city, and policy partners. Program and policy outcomes deriving from this work include City of Tempe's development of Resilience Hubs program, creation of the City of Phoenix Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, and the convening of the Arizona Extreme Heat Working Group.
- Qualitative researcher for **Urban Water Innovation Network**. Contributed qualitative interview data and content analysis to large-scale assessment of water system resilience in the Southwest leading to the development of assessments and indicators for water resilience.

05/2014 – 01/2015. Graduate researcher, **Emergency Management Perspectives on Weather Training**, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Arizona State University.

- Designed survey instruments, digitally recruited participants, and collected and analyzed mixed-methods data on efficacy and perceptions of meteorological product trainings for emergency managers. Contributed to executive summaries and reports for NOAA and participants. Prepared and presented results at scientific conferences.

08/2014 – 12/2014. Graduate researcher, **Obesity Solutions**, Arizona State University.

- Collected, managed, and analyzed interview and quantitative data relating to patients' pre-and-post bariatric surgery experiences in individual, group, and digital settings. Contributed qualitative results to reports for philanthropic donors and prepared scientific manuscripts (*see publications, below.*)

10/2013-05/2014. Graduate researcher, **School of Human Evolution and Social Change**, Arizona State University.

- Lead researcher on **Household Emergency Preparedness Assessment** in partnership with the American Red Cross, Grand Canyon Chapter. Designed quantitative survey of household preparedness, trained community partners in data collection, and analyzed data for final report for Red Cross partners.
- Assistant researcher on **Crisis Standards of Care** in partnership with Arizona Department of Health Services. Collected and analyzed data from health professional and other stakeholder review meetings to guide creation and revision of healthcare standards under resource-scare conditions, leading to adoption of standards in 2015.

EDUCATION

2015 – 2021: Ph.D. program, Global Health, Arizona State University

Dissertation: *Off the Grid in the Valley of the Sun: Extreme Heat and Blackout in Phoenix, AZ*

Anticipated completion date: Fall 2021

2013 – 2015: M.A. Global Health, Arizona State University

Thesis: *Bouncing Back: Methods for Measuring Community Resilience*

2006 – 2011: B.A. Sociology, Austin Peay State University

SELECTED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

2021. Watkins, L., Wright, M. **Kurtz, L.C.**, Chakalian, P. Mallen, E., Harlan, S., Hondula, D. "A comparison of two vulnerability indices to household experiences with extreme heat in Phoenix, AZ". *Applied Geography*, doi.org: 10.1016/j.apgeog.2021.102430

2020. Chakalian, P., **Kurtz, L.C.**, Harlan, S., White, D., Gronlund, C., Hondula, M. "Exploring the social, psychological, and behavioral mechanisms of heat vulnerability in the city of Phoenix, AZ". *Journal of Extreme Events*, doi: 10.1142/S2345737620500062

2019. Chakalian, P., **Kurtz, L.C.**, Hondula, D.M. "After the lights go out: Household resilience to electrical grid failure following Hurricane Irma." *Natural Hazards Review*, 20(4), 05019001.

2017. Bolin, R., **Kurtz, L.C.** "Race, class, ethnicity, and disaster vulnerability". In *The Handbook of Disaster Research* (pp. 181 – 203), 2nd ed., eds. Donner, W., Trainer, J., Rodriguez, H. (Springer).

2017. **Kurtz, L.C.**, Trainer, S., Beresford, M., Brewis, A., Wutich, A. "Blogs as elusive ethnographic texts: Methodological and ethical challenges in qualitative online research." *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 16(1), doi:10.1177/1609406917705796.

2015. Gerbrant, R., **Kurtz, L.C.** "Keeping up appearances: Working-class feminists speak out about the success model in academia". In *Letting Go: Feminist Social Justice Insights and Activism*, eds. King, D., Valentine, K. (Vanderbilt University Press).

PRESENTATIONS

2019. **Kurtz, L.C.**, Chakalian, P. "Household vulnerability and adaptive capacity during Hurricane Irma-related power failures". Annual Meeting, Emergency Management Interest Group, National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, June 3 – 4, San Juan, PR. [invited presentation]

2018. Chakalian, P., **Kurtz, L.C.**, "After the lights go out: Household resilience to electrical grid failure following Hurricane Irma". Annual Meeting, Infrastructure Resilience Division, American Society for Civil Engineering, July 11 – 14, Reston, VA. [invited presentation]

2018. **Kurtz, L.C.**, Hondula, D.M., Harlan, S.L. "Gender and heat: A missing dimension of vulnerability?" Annual Meeting, American Association of Geographers, April 10 – 14, New Orleans, LA.

2017. Chakalian, P., **Kurtz, L.C.**, "New vulnerabilities in power-on vs. power-off extreme heat events". Annual Meeting, American Association of Geographers, April 5 – 9, Boston, MA.

2017. **Kurtz, L.C.**, Chakalin, P., "Hotter than hell: Extreme heat and the shifting landscapes of vulnerability". Annual Meeting, Society for Applied Anthropology, March 29 – April 1, Santa Fe, NM.

2016. **Kurtz, L.C.**, Kennedy, E., “Fire, floods and uncertainty: The nexus of disaster management practice and scientific research”. Annual Meeting, Society for Applied Anthropology, March 29 – April 1, Vancouver, Canada.

SELECTED SERVICE & MENTORSHIP

SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM

2018 – 2021. Medico-legal death investigation intern, **Maricopa County Office of the Medical Examiner.**

- Work with state agencies, international consulates, and private and public safety detectives to document circumstances of death.
- Investigate available data to assist in legally identifying unidentified deceased persons inform next of kin for more than 1000 cases over three years.

2018 – 2020. Member & organizer, **Arizona Science Policy Network.**

- Researched and prepared materials on extreme heat and environmental hazards for legislators and assisted in facilitating ‘Science Day on the Hill’ activities.
- Received more than 20 hours of training on science policy outreach, including policy briefing workshops, state and federal advocacy training, and networking skills.

2018 – 2020. Member. **Environmental Policy Workgroup**, sponsored by Rep. Mitzi Epstein.

- Performed secondary data analysis, interpreted scientific results, and assisted in advising on environmental outcomes of proposed legislation in response to legislators’ needs.
- Connected representatives with existing research and practice groups, including the Arizona Extreme Heat Work Group, to address constituent concerns.

2015 – 2018. Science programming organizer. **Square Egg Productions/Phoenix Comic-Con/Fan Fusion.**

- Selected topics, recruited speakers, created presentation materials, and hosted more than 30 science programming events for 20,000+ attendees during yearly week-long conventions.
- Assisted in meeting requirements to ensure science programming met requirements for continuing education units (CEUs) for Arizona educators.

MENTORSHIP

2015 – 2019. Graduate supervisor of undergraduate and early-stage graduate students through **National Science Foundation, Urban Water Innovation Network, & School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning.**

- Trained and supervised nine undergraduate and two graduate students on primary and secondary data analysis, including descriptive statistics, structural qualitative coding, transcription, and preparation of presentation and report materials.

SELECTED SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS

2021. **Kurtz, L.C.** “Qualitative methods and questions of disaster”. York University & Public Safety Canada – Emergency Management Research Seminar. Feb. 2. [digital]

2020. **Kurtz, L.C.**, McBride, S.K., “COVID-19 & multi-hazard events: Considerations for survey work”. Natural Hazards & NSF CONVERGE Program – COVID-19 & Surveys Working Group. Nov. 18. [digital]

2019. **Kurtz, L.C.**, Kay, B., Caseo, P. “Health Impact Project, Tempe”. For Green Infrastructure in All Hazard Planning, City of Phoenix, City of Tempe, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Dec. 10 – 11, Tempe, AZ.

2019. **Kurtz, L.C.**, “Heat adaptation research panel #1”, Heat Water & Air Workshop, Healthy Urban Environments Initiative, Jan. 29, Arizona State University.

2018. **Kurtz, L.C.**, “Heat vulnerability in Phoenix, AZ”. For Resilient Phoenix – Community Resilience Ambassador Program, May 4, Phoenix, AZ.

2018. **Kurtz, L.C.** “Combined heat wave and power outage in Phoenix, AZ: An exercise of a multihazard event.” National Weather Service Forecast Office, Oct. 14, Phoenix, AZ

2017. **Kurtz, L.C.**, “Vulnerability to extreme heat and power outage scenario”. Disaster Social Work: Resilience and Crisis Management in the Context of Welfare States. University of Iceland, the Icelandic Association of Social Workers, and the Nordic Welfare Watch, Reykjavik, Iceland.

2016. **Kurtz, L.C.**, “Disaster, vulnerability, and disaster relief”. For GlobeMed, Arizona State University, November 17, Phoenix, AZ.

MEDIA

2021. Holmes, Courtney. “Why was the Arizona heat so deadly in 2020?”, June 2. *ABC15*.

<https://www.abc15.com/weather/impact-earth/why-was-the-arizona-heat-so-deadly-in-2020>

2021. Killjoy, Margaret. “Disaster studies and elite panic”, May 3. *Live Like the World is Dying* [podcast].

<https://www.liveliketheworldisdying.com/2021/05/03/s1e28-liza-kurtz-on-disaster-studies-and-elite-panic/>

2020. Gawthrop, Elizabeth. “Climate casualties rising with temperatures”, June 16. *The Center for Public Integrity*.

<https://publicintegrity.org/environment/hidden-epidemics/heat-deaths-climate-change-arizona/>

2020. Gilger, Lauren. “Experts: Rising heat deaths a symptom of other social problems”, Feb. 6. *KJZZ – The Show*.

<https://kjzz.org/content/1430606/experts-rising-heat-related-deaths-symptom-other-social-problems>

2019. Goldstein, Steve. “Heat-related deaths a public health issue for Arizona”, June 19. *KJZZ – The Show*.

<https://kjzz.org/content/1013451/heat-related-deaths-public-health-issue-arizona>

2019. Bourque, Scott. “Heat-relief shelters are helpful, but their hours of operation limit effectiveness”. *Cronkite News – AZ PBS*.

<https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/2019/08/30/heat-shelters/>

SELECTED GRANTS & AWARDS

2021. Natural Hazards Center – Weather-Ready Data Publication Award. Competitive award based on methodology and research instrument design. \$1250.

2021. Arizona State University – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate College Student Leader. Competitive honorary award for leadership and innovation.

2020 – 2021. Arizona State University – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Completion Fellowship.

Competitive fellowship awarded based on intellectual merit and broader impact to support final year of dissertation. \$18,000.

2018. American Association of Geographers – Climate Specialty Group Student Paper Award. Competitive award for best student paper and presentation. Awarded 1st place for “Gender and Heat: A Missing Dimension of Vulnerability?” Presented at AAG Annual Meeting, 2018. \$200.

2018. Arizona State University – School of Human Evolution and Social Change Graduate Research Award.

Competitive internal grant funding award to support critical infrastructure educational course. \$700.

2018. Arizona State University – Student Leader Award. Internal award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Recognized as a student leader in School of Human Evolution and Social Change.

2017. Natural Hazards Center – Quick Response Grant. Competitive external grant funding awarded for disaster research in the immediate aftermath of natural hazards. Awarded for proposal “Understanding Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity to Large-Scale Power Failure in the U.S” [Chakalian, P., Kurtz, L.C., Hondula, D.M.] \$1950.

2017. Arizona State University – Institute of Social Science Research Grant. Competitive internal grant funding awarded for pilot research in the social sciences. Awarded for “Real-Time Indoor Temperature Monitoring to Prevent Heat-Related Illness”. Kurtz, L.C., Hondula, D.M. \$7200.

2015. Arizona State University – Pilot Research Grant. Competitive internal grant funding awarded for pilot dissertation research and fieldwork. Awarded for “Resilience Professionals: Disaster Resilience in Policy and Practice.” \$3800.

2013 – 2016. Arizona State University – School of Human Evolution and Social Change Graduate Research & Teaching Fellowship. Four-year competitive fellowship awarded to support research & teaching activities of recipients. Approx. \$150,000.