

Allison Deese, PhD

Researcher and practitioner with a decade of experience translating empirical evidence into practical guidance for community and public-sector partners, stakeholder engagement, and supporting climate mitigation and resilience initiatives.

EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Dissertation, Sociology

Boston, MA — *Northeastern University*

SEP 2025 – AUG 2026

- Examined how major disruptions shape community resilience and the capacities community-based organizations (CBOs) use to sustain operations.
- Ran a pre-registered mixed-methods study: a 3,133-county × 3-wave panel plus interviews and surveys with 80 organizational leaders across 35 states.
- Found that county-level social capital remained stable under recurrent disasters, while organizational responses varied by threat type and operational condition.
- Developed a threat-informed resilience framework from 326 coded threat-response episodes across 50 organizations and a web-based diagnostic tool for practitioners.

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow

Boston, MA — *Global Resilience Institute, Northeastern University*

JAN 2025 – AUG 2025

- First-authored \$400K NSF Science of Organizations proposal.
- Co-developed a tool translating NOAA's National Water Model into flood-risk guidance for non-technical decision-makers in Vermont and Missouri.
- Designed the data collection and analysis protocol for a community resilience assessment in the USVI to identify community interventions.

Graduate Research Assistant

Boston, MA — *Northeastern University*

AUG 2020 – DEC 2024

- Led Gulf Coast fieldwork, interviewing government, nonprofit, and business leaders on community-level climate resilience (FEB 2023 – DEC 2024).
- Co-designed and analyzed an NSF-funded study of organizational resilience during crisis; conducted 46 interviews and coded the full dataset.
- Contributed to two peer-reviewed manuscripts (MAY 2021 – SEP 2023).

Coastal Resources Manager

Marinduque, PH — *Peace Corps Philippines*

JUN 2018 – MAR 2020

- Led collaborations with international NGOs and the Department of Science and Technology to strengthen coastal monitoring and hazard risk reduction.
- Created locally driven climate and disaster resilience programs in partnership with provincial government agencies and schools.

Regional Preparedness Coordinator

Oakland, CA — *American Red Cross, AmeriCorps*

AUG 2017 – JUN 2018

- Designed disaster education programs across 13 schools, training 1,500+ students.
- Disaster responder during NorCal Tubbs Wildfire and Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

Boston, Massachusetts

[Allison.deese.org](https://allison.deese.org)

[LinkedIn](#)

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SKILLS

Software: R, Python, ArcGIS, ATLAS.ti, AI-assisted research pipelines (Claude Code, Codex, Cursor, Linear)

Methods: Survey design, statistical and network analysis, GIS, qualitative interviews and coding, data visualization

PUBLICATIONS

Anchoring Resilience: How Threats Shape the Capacity of Community-Based Organizations
(ProQuest Dissertations, [2026](#))

Gender Equity in Higher Education During Disruptive Events
(peer-reviewed, co-authored, [2026](#))

Incorporating Gender into Institutional Crisis Response
(peer-reviewed, co-authored, [2025](#))

Locating Gendered Resistance: Conflict, Disaster, and Feminist Leadership in Sri Lanka
(peer-reviewed, authored, [2016](#))

AWARDS

T32 Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, 2022-2025

Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, 2014-2016

Udall Scholarship, 2015

EDUCATION

Northeastern University,
Boston, MA – *PhD, Sociology*
(2020-2026)

Pitzer College, Claremont, CA –
Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Policy
(2012-2016)