

Josh Ayers

PROFILE

A creative and highly motivated researcher, technical specialist, and manager with excellent interpersonal and communication skills with a heart to serve the most vulnerable and those impacted by disasters globally. Possesses a strong technical background in engineering, construction, disaster risk reduction (DRR), resilience, and climate change adaptation (CCA) and an ability to unite these talents with humanitarian aid and development.

QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- **Georgia Institute of Technology**, Atlanta, Georgia
Ph.D. Student (current)
- **Oxford Brookes University**, Oxford, England
Masters of Development & Emergency Practice
 - Research Projects
 - Dissertation: Resilience, Social Capital, & the Church, *Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar*
 - Palestinian Resilience to Occupation, *Hebron, Israel*

Curriculum

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| ▪ Advocacy | ▪ Human Rights |
| ▪ Armed Conflict & Violence | ▪ Monitoring & Evaluation |
| ▪ Business Ethics & Human Development | ▪ Needs Assessment |
| ▪ Climate Change Adaptation | ▪ Poverty Reduction & Development Approaches |
| ▪ Conflict Prevention, Analysis & Resolution | ▪ Program Design |
| ▪ Disaster Management Cycle | ▪ Refugees |
| ▪ Donor Funding | ▪ Resilience |
| ▪ Empowerment | ▪ Shelter After Disaster |
| ▪ Gender in Development | ▪ Partnerships for Development |
| ▪ Globalization | ▪ Vulnerability & Capacity |

- **Georgia Institute of Technology**, Atlanta, Georgia
Bachelor of Science in Building Construction, Magna Cum Laude
- **Miami-Dade Fire Academy**, Miami, Florida
Certified Firefighter & First Responder, with Honors
- **California Safety Assessment Program**
Post-Earthquake and Post-Flood Structural Safety Assessment Certification
- **Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) – Samaritan’s Purse**, Boone, North Carolina
Certification as DART Team Member
- **Build Change & Degenkolb**, Seattle, Washington
Seismic Evaluation & Retrofit

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Georgia Institute of Technology , Atlanta, GA	
• Graduate Research Assistant	2021-Present
• PhD Student	2021-Present
Food for the Hungry (FH) , Washington, DC	
• Director of Risk & Resilience	2019-2021
• <i>Sr. Risk & Resilience Advisor</i>	2016-2019
• <i>Sr. Emergency Response & Disaster Risk Reduction Officer</i>	2015-2016
Christian & Missionary Alliance of Canada	2014-2016
• <i>Consultancy – Program management of reconstruction projects in Haiti.</i>	
Tearfund UK	2014
• <i>Consultancy – Desk review of proposals for permanent shelter projects located in Haiti.</i>	
Engineering Ministries International (EMI) , Atenas, Costa Rica	2009 - 2013
• <i>DRR & Disaster Response Coordinator & Staff Construction Manager, Latin America Region</i>	
Nehemiah Reconstruction, LLC , Atlanta, Georgia	2007-2008
• <i>Project Manager for multiple reconstruction projects</i>	
Smith, Bailey & Associates, Inc. , Atlanta, Georgia	2006-2007
• <i>Project Manager for multiple post-disaster reconstruction projects</i>	
Centex Corporation (now Balfour Beatty PLC) , Miami, Florida	2005-2006
• <i>Project Engineer for a \$98 million high-rise commercial project</i>	
RaceTrac Petroleum (while attending university) , Atlanta, Georgia	2004
• <i>Project Engineer</i>	
Ra-Lin & Associates (while attending university) , Carrollton, Georgia	2003
• <i>Estimator/Project Engineer</i>	

PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming: “People and Nature on the Move: Addressing Environmental Change at the Conservation-Migration Interface”, IUCN CEESP Report on Migration, Environmental Change and Conflict. *Contributing author.*
- “Early Warning for Early Action: Toward more behaviorally-informed Early Warning Systems”, 2020. USAID Resilience, Evaluation, Analysis, and Learning (REAL) Consortium. *Co-lead and contributing author.*
- *Creating Shared Resilience*, 2020. David Boan and Josh Ayers. Langham Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-78368-791-6
- “A Call to Commitment and Partnership: A World Evangelical Alliance Brief on the Evangelical Community and Humanitarian Development”, A Report to the World Humanitarian Summit Global Consultation in Geneva in 2015 and the Summit in Istanbul, 2016. *Contributing author.*
- “FH Disaster Risk Reduction Guidelines”, 2011. *Contributor/Consultant.*
- “FH Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Toolkit”, 2011. *Contributor/Consultant.*

- “Incan Architecture Meets 21st Century: Designing in Culturally Significant Zones”, 2011. Association of Christian Design Professionals (ACDP).
- “Design & Reality in Disaster Relief Situations: Planning IDP Camps in Haiti”, 2010. Association of Christian Design Professionals (ACDP).

LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

- InterAction DRR Working Group, *co-chair*.
- Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), *Advisory Committee member*.
- IUCN CEESP Task Force on Environmental Change and Migration, *current member and contributing author*.
- InterAction Task Team on Forecast-based Financing, *co-lead*.
- Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities (JLIFLC): Religions, Humanitarianism, and Development Research Reading Group, *member*.
- Professional Mentor to Undergraduates, Oxford Brookes University. *Ongoing*.
- The Climate Change, Urban Risk Management and Sustainability Forum - Sustainability & Livelihoods Research Organization (SULIVER), 2019, New York. *Panel moderator*.
- The Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) Roundtable to inform FOLU’s “Global Report on Transforming Food and Land Use Systems”, 2019.
- Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) Roundtable on Strategies for Building Climate Change Resilience in Smallholder Agricultural Systems, 2019.
- USAID/Feed the Future (FTF) Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD): Resilience Measurement and Analysis Panel – “Leveraging University Capacity in Resilience Measurement: Research, Networks, and Training the Next Generation”, 2018. *Panelist*.
- 8th International Conference on Building Resilience (ICBR) – “Risk and Resilience in Practice: Vulnerabilities, Displaced People, Local Communities and Heritages”, 2018.
- Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR), 2017 and 2019.
- Big Ideas Student Innovation Judge, Food Systems Category, University of California, Berkeley Blum Center.
- Association of Christian Design Professionals (ACDP)
- Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), Samaritan’s Purse
- Association of General Contractors (AGC) Design-Build Competition

KEY SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

Fluency in English and Spanish.

Microsoft Office Suite, Microsoft Power BI, Smartsheets, Endnote, RefWorks, EasyBib, Asana, AutoCAD, SketchUp, BlackBoard Collaborate, Timberline, Primavera, Remote Desktop Server, MapSource & GPS, Adobe Acrobat and PhotoShop, Maple 6.0, Basic Java.