**RUTHNANDE KESSA**

Tennessee State University

Department of Public Administration

College of Public Service

Nashville, Tennessee 37203

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Email: [rkessa@tnstate.edu](mailto:rkessa@tnstate.edu)

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

May 2024 PhD Public Affairs

University of Central Florida

Doctoral Program in Public Affairs

Track: Public Administration

December 214 Master of Public Administration

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Department of Public Administration

December 2012 Bachelor’s in Environmental Studies and Policy

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Department of Environmental Study

May 2007 Associate Degree in Applied Science: Water Management

Fox Valley Technical College

**ACCADEMIC POSITION**

Assistant Professor (tenure-earning) Tennessee State University (2024-Present)

Department of Public Administration

College of Public Service

**RESEARCH INTERESTS AND FOCI**

* Natural Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness
* Risk Analysis
* Nonprofit and NGO management
* Intergovernmental relations
* Collaborative governance
* Social equity and inclusion

**ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

**Teaching Experience| Tennessee State University**

* PADM 6950: Introduction to Nonprofit Organizations (Fall, 2024)
* PAD 6210: Seminar in Public Administration (Fall, 2024)

**Teaching Experience | University of Central Florida**

* Primary Instructor: PAD 3040 – Ethics and Value in Public Administration (Summer 2024)
* Primary Instructor: PAD 4390 – Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness (Fall 2022-Spring 2024)
* Teaching Assistant: PAD 6335 Graduate Teaching Assistant – Strategic Planning (Summer 2023)
* Guest Lecture: Strategic Planning (PAD 6335) (Summer 2023)
* Teaching Assistant/Technical Assistant: Capacity Building- Graduate Teacher Assistant (Summer 2021-2023)
* Technical Assistant (teaching assistant): Financial management (Fall 2023)

**Research Experience | University of Central Florida**

* Research assistant: NSF grant: Collaborative Research: Assessing the impact of lead agency cross-functional authority on city sustainability outcomes, Fall 2020 to Spring 2022
* Junior Researcher: Collaborative research proposal, "Forging Panethnic Allegiances: Hispanic Caribbean Communities in Three Gateway Cities—Miami, New York City, and Orlando," Fall 2022 to Summer 2023

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

* State of Florida: Human Services Program Specialist | Community Affairs: Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Orlando, Florida, November 2015 to February 2021
* Internship | Office of Public Health: Winnebago County, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, June 2014 to September 2014
* Consultant | United States Agency for International Development/Sun Mountain International, Haiti, August 2009 to August 2010
* Coordinator | United States Agency for International Developments/Organization of American States, Haiti, March 2008 to July 2009

**PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

1. **Kessa, R.**, Sadiq, A. A., & Yeo, J. (2021). The importance of vertical and horizontal collaboration: United States’ response to COVID-19 pandemic. Chinese Public Administration Review, 12(1), 61-71.
2. Sadiq, A. A., & **Kessa, R.** (2020). US procurement in the age of COVID-19: challenges, intergovernmental collaboration, and recommendations for improvement. *American Review of Public Administration*, 50(6-7), 635-641.

**WORK IN PROGRESS**

1. **Kessa, R.** Exploring the influence of cross-functional collaboration on sustainability initiatives in local government settings. This study aims to highlight how different departments can work together to promote sustainability and will be submitted to the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*.
2. **Kessa, R.** Exploring Hurricane Risk Communication to Latino Individuals with Developmental Disabilities in Central Florida: A Qualitative Study
3. **Kessa, R.** Navigating Caregiving Challenges and Family Burden for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities During Hurricanes: A Qualitative Exploratory Study.

**UNDER REVIEW**

1. **Kessa, R**., Sokolowski, S., Krigsman, A., Ilesanmi, I., Concha, M., Lee, Y. J., (2024). Exploring the benefits of graduate students providing technical assistance to non-new nonprofits organizations in terms of capacity building/service learning. This paper is being submitted to the *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership*.
2. **Kessa, R.**, Sadiq, A. (2024) Exploring Hurricane Risk Communication to Latino Individuals with Developmental Disabilities in Central Florida: A Qualitative Study. *Journal of Public Integrity*

**PRESENTATIONS/CONFERENCES**

1. **Kessa, R**. Understanding Risk Perceptions of Hispanic/Latino Families with Developmental Disabilities based on Culture. *American Society for Public Administration virtual, April 2023.*
2. **Kessa, R**. Understand the influence of culture on decision making of Hispanic/Latino families with individuals with developmental disabilities during natural disasters. *Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA), Atlanta, GA, September 2023.*
3. **Kessa, R**., Sokolowski, S., Krigsman, A., Ilesanmi, I. Exploring the benefits and drawbacks of Graduate students providing technical assistance to new nonprofit organizations through capacity building/Service learning. *ARNOVA, Orlando, Florida, November 2023.*
4. **Kessa, R.** Communicating Risk to Hispanic/Latino Individuals with Developmental Disabilities: Insights from Emergency Managers in Central Florida. *American Society for Public Administration virtual, April 2024.*
5. **Kessa, R.** Navigating Caregiving Challenges and Family Burden for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities During Hurricanes: A Qualitative Exploratory Study. *Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA), Memphis, TN, September 2024.*
6. Brow, J., Mannaa, R., Sokolowski, S., **Kessa, R.,** Ilesanmi, I., Capacity Building Seminar as a Service-Learning Experience. *Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA), Memphis, TN, September 2024.*

**ACADEMIC AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

* College of Communication Innovation and Education (CCIE) Doctoral Student Travel Funding ($1,350) Initiative for Spring 2024
* Golden Key, Spring 2023
* ASPA Founder’s Fellowship, Spring 2023 to Spring 2024
* Crossing Latinidades/Mellon Fellowship, Fall 2022 to Summer 2023
* Crossing Latinidades Summer Institute Fellowship, Summer 2022
* Pi Alpha Alpha, Spring 2022
* Public Administration Excellence Award for outstanding performance during graduate studies (GPA 4.00) from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Wisconsin
* Top of Dean’s list at Fox Valley Technical College, Spring 2006
* Member of Phi Theta Kappa at Fox Valley Technical College, Spring 2006

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

* Ad Hoc Student Academic Appeals Committee at the University of Central Florida
* Graduate Vice-President for Central Florida ASPA
* ASPA Section on Emergency and Crisis Management (SECM) Webinar Committee Member

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

* American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
* Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
* ASPA Section on Emergency and Crisis Management (SECM)
* Ad Hoc Student Academic Appeals Committee at the University of Central Florida

**SKILLS**

GIS, SAS, SPSS, Dedouse, NVivo and Microsoft office

**LANGUAGES**

Haitian Creole, French, basic Spanish, and English