

Samantha Penta

Assistant Professor

College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity

University at Albany, State University of New York

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RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS

Disasters and Crises, Crisis and Emergency Management, Humanitarian Relief, Humanitarian Logistics, Organizational Responses to Disasters, Collective Behavior, Convergence, Disaster Policy, Qualitative Research Methods, Decision-Making, Medical Sociology and Sociology of Health, Public Health, Environmental Sociology, Environmental Justice

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology 2017

University of Delaware—Newark, DE

Dissertation: *Figuring Out the Fixing: Understanding the Underlying Processes for Designing and Implementing Crisis Medical Relief Efforts*. Professor Tricia Wachtendorf, Committee Chair.

Comprehensive Exam Areas: Disasters and the Environment, Sociology of Health

Master of Arts in Sociology 2014

University of Delaware—Newark, DE

Thesis: *The Value of Preparedness: Organizational Culture and Emergency Preparedness in Delaware Nursing Homes*. Professor Tricia Wachtendorf, Committee Chair.

Honors Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and History 2011

Cum Laude with Distinction, Phi Beta Kappa

University of Delaware—Newark, DE

Concentrations: Emergency and Environmental Management and United States History

Winter Session Study Abroad in Ghana, January 2009

Thesis: *Masculinity on the Hudson: Gendered Representations of the Flight 1549 Response*. Professor Tricia Wachtendorf, Committee Chair.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:

Penta, Samantha, Tricia Wachtendorf, Mary M. Nelan. 2020. "Disaster Relief as Social Action: A Weberian Look at Post-Disaster Donation Behavior." *Sociological Forum* 35(1):145-166.

- Behlendorf, Brandon, Amira Jadoon, and **Samantha Penta**. 2020 “Rivalry and Recovery: The Social Consequences of Climatic Hazards in Rural India.” *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 46.
- Nelan, Mary M., **Samantha Penta**, Tricia Wachtendorf. 2019. “Paved with Good Intentions: A Social Construction Approach to Alignment in Disaster Donations.” *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 37(2):174-196.
- Penta, Samantha**, Samantha Phillips, Amber Silver, and Emily Barrett. 2019 “Beyond Internships: Experiential Learning as a Tool for Emergency Management Education.” *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 37(1):35-43.
- Nelan, Mary, Tricia Wachtendorf, and **Samantha Penta**. 2018. “Agility in Disaster Relief: A Social Construction Approach.” *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy*, 9(2):132-150.
- DeYoung, Sarah, **Samantha Penta**. 2017. “Issue Attention and Group Mobilization for Caste Rights Following the 2015 Gorkha, Nepal, Earthquake.” *Earthquake Spectra* 33(S1):S403-S414.
- Penta, Samantha**, Valerie Marlowe, Kimberly Gill, and James Kendra. 2017. “Of Earthquakes and Epidemics: Examining the Applicability of the All-Hazards Approach in Public Health Emergencies.” *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy* 8(1):48-67.
- Penta, Samantha**, Sarah DeYoung, Daryl Yoder-Bontrager, Manoj Suji. 2016. “Trauma, Victims, Time, Changing Organizations and the Nepal 2015 Earthquake.” *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 34(3):345-375.
- DeYoung, Sarah, Tricia Wachtendorf, Ashley Farmer, and **Samantha Penta**. 2016. “NOAA Radios and Neighborhood Networks: Demographic Factors for Channel Preference for Hurricane Evacuation Information” *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management* 24(4): 275-285.

Book Chapters:

- Wachtendorf, Tricia, **Samantha Penta**, and Mary Nelan. 2015. “When Push Comes to Shove: The Framing of Need in Disaster Relief Efforts.” *Learning from Calamities – Interpretative Patterns and Practices of Communication on Disasters and Catastrophes*. (Eds. Heike Egner, Marén Schorch and Martin Voss). Routledge.

Technical Reports and Conference Proceedings:

- Penta, Samantha**. Decisions Beyond Treatment: Creating the Operational Context for Crisis Medical Care. *Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Urban Disaster Reduction*, GNS Science, Wellington, New Zealand, 2016.

Penta, Samantha, Jennifer Lazo. Is Anybody Out There?: Delivering Aid in an Urban Environment Post-Sandy. *Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Urban Disaster Reduction*, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, Boulder, CO, USA, 2014.

Wachtendorf, Tricia and **Samantha Penta**. 2014. Protective Action in Immediate Fuse Events: A Consideration of the Literature Technical Report. GeoHazards International.

Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware. 2012. “Delaware Long-Term Care Facility Emergency Operations Planning Guidance: Preparing for Tomorrow, Today.” (Contributing Author)

Kendra, James, **Samantha Penta**, Lauren Clay, James Goetschius, Jennifer Lazo, Eva Wilson, Austin Barlow, Benigno Aguirre, Tricia Wachtendorf. 2012. “Nursing Home and Assisted Living Communities: Challenges in Emergency Preparedness.” Report to the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services Division of Long Term Care Residents Protection. Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware.

Theses:

Penta, Samantha. 2017. “Figuring Out the Fixing: Understanding the Underlying Processes for Designing and Implementing Crisis Medical Relief Efforts.” Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Sociology, University of Delaware.

Penta, Samantha. 2014. “The Value of Preparedness: Organizational Culture and Emergency Preparedness in Delaware Nursing Homes.” Masters Thesis, Department of Sociology, University of Delaware.

Penta, Samantha. 2011. “Masculinity on the Hudson: Gendered Representations of the Flight 1549 Response.” Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Department of Sociology, University of Delaware.

Publications in Preparation:

Nelan, Mary M., **Samantha Penta**, Tricia Wachtendorf, and José Holguín-Veras. “The Point of No Return: The Social Construction of Adaptability in Disaster Relief.” Revising for Resubmission at *Natural Hazards Review*.

Marlowe, Valerie, **Samantha Penta**, Kimberly Gill, and James Kendra. “Flooding and Frustration: The Policy Origins of the All-Hazards Model in the United States.” In preparation for submission to *Policy and Society*.

Penta, Samantha “The Influence of Professional Training in Decision-Making and Interprofessional Collaboration: A Qualitative Study.” In preparation for submission to *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*.

Penta, Samantha “Carving Space and Staking Claims: Defining Crisis Relief” In preparation for submission to *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*.

Penta, Samantha “Is one of These Things Different from the Other?: Comparing Characteristics of the Decision-Making Setting in Natural Disasters and Large Scale Epidemics.” In preparation for submission to the *Journal of Crisis and Contingencies Management*.

Penta, Samantha “Figuring Out Where to Start: Developing Situational Awareness in Crisis Events.”

Penta, Samantha “Matching and Aligning as Mechanisms of Decision-Making”

Penta, Samantha “Decision Legacies and Ripple Effects: Planning and Implementing International Crisis Medical Relief Efforts.”

Penta, Samantha, Mary M. Nelan, Tricia Wachtendorf. “‘If You Have a Giving Heart’: The Framing of Post-Disaster Need and Donations.”

Nelan, Mary M., Tricia Wachtendorf, **Samantha Penta.** “Collectors and Opportunists: Anti-Social Behavior in Disaster Donations.”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Wachtendorf, Tricia, **Samantha Penta**, and Mary Nelan. (2019) Post-disaster materiel convergence: A social construction approach. Presented at the Sociological Association of Aotearoa New Zealand Conference, Auckland, NZ. December 4th.

Penta, Samantha. 2019. “More Than the Sum of Its Parts: Facilitating Collaboration in Crisis Relief.” Panel Presentation at RISE 2019, November 19, Albany, New York.

Penta, Samantha. 2019. “Seeing ‘Eye to Eye’?: Shared Problem Definitions in Health and Medical Relief Efforts.” Paper presented at the International Researchers Committee on Disasters/Natural hazards Center Researchers Meeting, July 18, Broomfield, CO.

Penta, Samantha, Samantha Phillips, Amber Silver, and Emily Barrett. 2019 “Beyond Internships: Experiential Learning as a Tool for Emergency Management Education”. Paper presented at the International Researchers Committee on Disasters/Natural hazards Center Researchers Meeting, July 18, Broomfield, CO.

Penta, Samantha. 2019. “Interdisciplinary Emergency Response: Bridging Differences in Planning Crisis Medical Relief.” Poster Presented at the Natural Hazards Workshop, July 14, Broomfield, CO.

Penta, Samantha. 2018. “Implementation of Medical Relief during Crises.” Paper presented at the University and Agency Partnership Initiative’s 11th Annual Homeland Defense & Security Education Summit, October 13, Albany, New York.

- Nelan, Mary, Tricia Wachtendorf, and **Samantha Penta**. 2018. "Paved with Good Intentions: A Social Construction Approach to Alignment in Disaster Donations." Paper presented at The Third Northern European Conference on Emergency and Disaster Studies, March 21-23, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Nelan, Mary, Tricia Wachtendorf, and **Samantha Penta**. 2017. "The Value of Agility in Disaster Relief: A Social Construction Approach." Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 14, Montreal, QC, Canada.
- Penta, Samantha**. 2017. "Figuring Out Where to Start: Developing Situational Awareness in Crisis Events." Poster Presented at the Natural Hazards Workshop, July 9 & 10, Broomfield, CO.
- Nelan, Mary, Tricia Wachtendorf, and **Samantha Penta**. 2017. "The Social Construction of Donations: Agility, Adaptability, and Alignment as Success Determinants in Relief Supply Chains." Poster Presented at the Natural Hazards Workshop, July 9 & 10, Broomfield, CO.
- Penta, Samantha**. 2016. "Decisions Beyond Treatment: Creating the Operational Context for Crisis Medical Care." Paper Presented at the 4th International Conference on Urban Disaster Reduction, October 17, Wellington, New Zealand.
- Penta, Samantha**, Valerie Marlowe, Kimberly Gill, and James Kendra. 2016. "Of Earthquakes and Epidemics: Examining the Applicability of All-Hazards in Contemporary Emergency Management." Poster Presented at the Natural Hazards Workshop, July 10 & 11, Broomfield, CO.
- Marlowe, Valerie, **Samantha Penta**, Kimberly Gill, and James Kendra. 2016. "Flooding and Frustration: The Policy Origins of the All-Hazards Model in the United States." Poster presented at the Natural Hazards Workshop, July 10 & 11, Broomfield, CO.
- Penta, Samantha**, Mary Nelan, Tricia Wachtendorf. 2015. "Why We Give: Reasons for Contributing to Disaster Relief." Roundtable Presentation at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August 21, Chicago, IL.
- Penta, Samantha** and Jennifer Lazo. 2015. "Going the Extra Staircase: Hurricane Sandy and Aid Delivery in an Urban Environment." Poster Presented at the Natural Hazards Workshop, July 19 & 20, Broomfield, CO.
- Penta, Samantha**, Mary Nelan, and Tricia Wachtendorf. 2015. "The Thought That Counts: Motivations for Giving to Disaster Relief." Paper presented at the Production and Operations Management Society Annual POM Conference, May 10, Washington, D.C.
- Penta, Samantha**, Miguel Jaller, Juanita Rilling, and Jeronimo Venegas. 2014. "Material Convergence", Invited Panel Participant and Discussant, NSF Workshop on Multi-

Disciplinary Research on Disaster Response Logistics, December 1, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA.

Penta, Samantha and Jennifer Lazo. 2014. "Is There Anybody Out There?: Delivering Aid in an Urban Environment Post-Sandy." Paper Presented at the 3rd International Conference on Urban Disaster Reduction, September 30, Boulder, CO.

Wachtendorf, Tricia and **Samantha Penta**. "Protective Action in Immediate Fuse Events: A Consideration of the Literature." 2014. International Workshop on Protective Actions to Take During Earthquakes, August 30, Istanbul, Turkey.

Penta, Samantha, Mary Nelan, and Tricia Wachtendorf. "Disaster Relief as Social Action: A Weberian Look at Post-Disaster Donation Behavior." 2014. Roundtable presentation at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 17, San Francisco, CA.

Penta, Samantha, Mary M. Nelan, and Tricia Wachtendorf. 2014. "'If You Have a Giving Heart': The Framing of Post-Disaster Need and Donations." Paper presented at the XVIII International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology, July 18, Yokohama, Japan.

Nelan, Mary M., **Samantha Penta**, and Tricia Wachtendorf. 2014. "No Time Like the Present: Lessons Learned on Timeliness of Disaster Donations." Paper presented at the XVIII International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology, July 15, Yokohama, Japan.

Penta, Samantha and Mary Nelan. 2014. "Collaborative CDI-Type II: Cyber Enabled Discovery System for Advanced Multidisciplinary Study of Humanitarian Logistics for Disaster Response." Poster presented at the Disaster Research Center 50th Anniversary Workshop, April 30, Newark, DE.

Penta, Samantha, Tricia Wachtendorf, and James Kendra. 2013. "The Value of Preparedness: Organizational Culture of Preparedness in Delaware Nursing Homes." Paper presented at the International Researchers Committee on Disasters/Natural hazards Center Researchers Meeting, July 17, Broomfield, CO.

Penta, Samantha. 2013. "Nursing Home Vulnerability in Hurricane Irene." Paper presented at the Center for Global Partnership (CGP) Project 3ICUDR—U.S. Field Study Workshop, July 12, Boulder, CO.

Penta, Samantha. 2013. "Organizational Culture and Emergency Preparedness in Delaware Long Term Care Facilities." Paper presented at the Sociology & Criminal Justice Graduate Student Conference, April 12, Newark, DE.

Penta, Samantha. 2012. "Gendered Portrayals in the Media Coverage of the Miracle on the Hudson." Paper presented at the Sociology & Criminal Justice Graduate Student Conference, April 13, Newark, DE.

Penta, Samantha and Tricia Wachtendorf. 2012. "What do I do When the Storm Comes In?: Information-Seeking in Hurricane Evacuation and Sheltering." Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, February 25, New York City, NY.

Penta, Samantha and Tricia Wachtendorf. 2011. "Miracle on the Hudson and the Making of Masculinity: Gender and the Social Construction of Disaster." Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August 21, Las Vegas, NV.

Penta, Samantha. 2011. "Masculinity on the Hudson: Gendered Media Representations of the Flight 1549 Response." Paper presented at the Geis Student Research on Women Conference, April 9, Newark, DE.

Wachtendorf, Tricia and **Samantha Penta.** 2010. "Masculinity on the Hudson: Gendered Portrayals of the U.S. Airways Flight 1549 Response." Paper presented at the International Researchers Committee on Disasters/Natural hazards Center Researchers Meeting, July 14, Broomfield, CO.

Wachtendorf, Tricia and **Samantha Penta.** 2010. "Masculinity on the Hudson: Gendered Representations of the Flight 1549 Response." Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 20, Boston, MA.

INVITED TALKS

Penta, Samantha. 2019. "More than the Sum of Its Parts: Facilitating Collaboration in Crisis Relief." Invited Panelist at the RISE 2019 Conference, November 19, Albany, NY.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Penta, Samantha. **Experiential Education Mini-Grant.** Center for Experiential Education, University at Albany. (Awarded: December 16, 2018).

Penta, Samantha, and Emily Barrett. **Chancellor's Grant for Innovative Study Abroad Programs.** "Crisis and Public Health" in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. (Awarded: April 30, 2018)

University of Delaware Office of Professional and Graduate Education **Graduate University Fellows Award.** Fellowship to fully fund dissertation research during the 2016/2017 academic year (September 2016-May 2017). (Awarded: March 10, 2016)

QUICK RESPONSE FIELD RESEARCH

Tropical Storm Erika (August 28-30, 2015)

Member of the Disaster Research Center team deployed for quick response field research in Tallahassee, Florida in anticipation of Tropical Storm Erika, formed August 25, 2015.

Funding from the National Science Foundation.

Nepal Earthquake (May 26-June 10, 2015)

Member of the Disaster Research Center team deployed for quick response field research in Kathmandu, Nepal and surrounding area following the April 25, 2015 7.8 magnitude earthquake.

Funding from the Disaster Research Center and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Oklahoma City Area Tornadoes (May 26-June 2, 2013)

Member of the Disaster Research Center team deployed for quick response field research in Oklahoma City and surrounding area following the May 19 and 20, 2013 tornadoes.

Funding from the National Science Foundation.

Superstorm Sandy (November 10, 16, 2012)

Member of the Disaster Research Center team deployed for quick response field research in New York City following Hurricane Sandy.

Funding from the Disaster Research Center.

TEACHING

Instructor—University at Albany—Albany, NY

CEHC344 Emergency Preparedness Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020

CEHC310 Research Seminar in Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security & Cybersecurity Fall 2019, Spring 2020

CEHC399 Special Topics in Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity: Crisis and Public Health Fall 2018

CEHC398 Field Experience in Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity: Crisis and Public Health in Puerto Rico Post-Maria Winter 2018-19

INF466 Independent Research in Informatics Spring 2019

SELECTED GUEST LECTURES

“Crisis Risk Communication.” HSPH343 Mass Media and Health Behavior, February 26, 2019, University at Albany.

“Disaster Response.” Sociologia Ambiental (Environmental Sociology), February 19, 2019, University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez.

- “Crisis Risk Communication.” HSPH343 Mass Media and Health Behavior, February 27, 2018, University at Albany.
- “Disaster Field Research Methods.” CEHC393 Simulation. January 11, 2018, University at Albany.
- “Figuring Out the Fixing: Understanding the Underlying Processes for Designing and Implementing Crisis Medical Relief Efforts.” Disaster Science and Management Seminar April 3, 2017, University of Delaware.
- “Short Term Recovery” April 3, 2017. Political Science 5383: Disaster Recovery, Oklahoma State University.
- “Giving to Disaster Relief: Motivations and Social Factors.” March 21, 2017. Engineering Class: ISE6900 Humanitarian Logistics, Industrial, and Systems, Ohio University.
- “Research Design—Thesis and Dissertation.” September 29, 2016. Political Science 5103 Research Design, Oklahoma State University.
- “Giving to Disaster Relief: Motivations and Social Factors.” April 8, 2016. Engineering Class: ISE6900 Humanitarian Logistics, Industrial, and Systems, Ohio University.
- “Field Research Methods.” March 22, 2016. Political Science 6013 Qualitative Methods for Fire and Emergency Management, Oklahoma State University.
- “Policy Outcomes—Environmental Justice.” November 18, 2015. Sociology 209 Social Problems, University of Delaware.
- “Elderly and Health.” (Course Unit) March 23, 25, 2015. Sociology 471 Disasters, Vulnerability, and Development, University of Delaware.
- “Differential Exposure to Hazards and Decreasing Vulnerability.” January 28, 2015. LDEV650 Class, Relief, and Development for Disaster and Complex Humanitarian Emergencies, Eastern University.

HONORS

University at Albany

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| College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cyber Security Experiential Education Impact Award | 2019 |
| Outstanding Achievement in Experiential Education: Interdisciplinary Collaboration | 2019 |
| Nominated for the Torch Faculty/Student Engagement Award | 2018 |

University of Delaware

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, University of Delaware

2011

SERVICE**To the College:**

Member CEHC Graduate Committee	September 2018-Present
Faculty Advisor University at Albany IAEM Student Chapter	September 2017-Present
Member CEHC Undergraduate Committee	October 2017-May 2018
Member CEHC Policy Review Committee	October 2017-May 2018; September 2019- Present
Fukushima Ambassador's Program University at Albany Faculty Lead	September 2017-January 2018

To the University:

Expert Resource in University at Albany Panel on Corona Virus	March 4, 2010
University at Albany & University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez Partnership Development Team	January 2018-Present
Co-developed UAlbany Interdisciplinary Studies Program with School of Social Welfare for Undergraduate Student	January 2018

To the Profession:

Journal Reviewer, <i>Risk, Hazards, & Crisis in Public Policy</i> <i>International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters</i> <i>Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness</i> <i>Natural Hazards Review</i> <i>Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management</i> <i>Disasters</i>	
Supported Poster Presentation Organization for RISE 2019	2019
Invited Panelist 20 th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium	June 6, 2018
Invited Participant FEMA Higher Education Cultures of Preparedness Focused Workshop	May 22-23, 2018
Session Organizer, International Sociological Association, World Congress of Sociology	September, 2017-July 2018
Invited Speaker and Panelist, William Averette Anderson Fund Graduate Fellows Fall Workshop	November 12, 2016
Editorial Support Staff, <i>International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters</i> Special Issue on the Nepal Earthquake	2015-2016
Invited Panel Participant and Discussant, National Science Foundation Workshop on Multi- Disciplinary Research on Disaster Response Logistics	December 1, 2014
Student Representative IAEM USA Universities and Colleges Caucus	October 2012-September 2013

To the Community:

Volunteer, Home repair in Puerto Rico with Asociación Mayagüezana de Personas con Impedimentos, Inc. (AMPI)	January 11, 14, 2019
Newark Community Day, Providing information on emergency preparedness	September 20, 2015
Volunteer, All Hands Volunteers, Staten Island Sandy Recovery	May 10, 2014
Newark Community Day, Providing information on emergency preparedness	September 21, 2014

Media Interviews and Articles:

Interview appeared in CBS6 News WRGB Albany news story: “Social Media increases coronavirus fears, experts recommend preparedness, not panic.” By Lynsey Smith, March 4, 2020.

Interview featured in Mashable: “Amazon is a coronavirus mess as sellers sling merch, overpriced masks.” By Tim Marcin, February 28, 2020

Interview “Donations and Emergency Response, with Samantha Penta.” for the UAlbany News Podcast, March 22, 2019.

Penta, Samantha. “Why Puerto Rico is getting the brunt of ‘donor fatigue’” *The Conversation* November 14, 2017

Interview appeared in “Morning Dose” Television program discussing Donor Fatigue after Hurricane Harvey October 6, 2017

AFFILIATIONS

International Association of Emergency Managers