

Christopher T. Emrich, Ph.D.

Boardman Endowed Professor of Environmental Science and Public Administration

School of Public Administration | National Center for Integrated Coastal Research

University of Central Florida | Orlando, Florida

christopher.emrich@ucf.edu

Research Areas

Hazards and Disaster Science

Social Vulnerability and Community Resilience

Disaster Recovery and Equity

Risk Assessment and Geospatial Analytics

Climate and Coastal Resilience

Career Highlights

- Professor, University of Central Florida (2022–Present)
- Founding Member, National Center for Integrated Coastal Research
- Interim Director, UCF Coastal (2023–2025)
- Associate Director, Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, University of South Carolina
- FEMA GIS Unit Leader and disaster recovery specialist
- Principal Investigator and Co-PI on more than \$13 million in external funding

Scholarly Impact

- 14,000+ Google Scholar citations
- 64 peer-reviewed journal articles
- 2 books and 10 book chapters
- Contributions to National Academies reports
- Publications spanning geography, public administration, public health, and environmental science

Selected Honors

- UCF Research Incentive Award (2026, 2021)
- UCF Luminary Award (2021)
- Editor's Choice, The Gerontologist (2017)
- Outstanding Service to the State of South Carolina (2016)

Scientific Leadership

- Science Director and Interim Director, UCF Coastal
- Director and PI, UCF Gulf Scholars Program
- Builder of interdisciplinary collaborations among hazards researchers, engineers, public health scientists, planners, and emergency managers
- Leadership spanning academia and emergency management practice

Major Contributions

- Advancing understanding of social vulnerability and disaster resilience
- Research on disaster inequities and long-term recovery
- Hazard loss accounting and risk assessment
- Integration of social science into climate adaptation and resilience practice
- Development of open-access tools including HazardAware and vulnerabilitymap.org

Mentorship and Community Building

- Mentored graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and junior faculty
- Fostered interdisciplinary research teams
- Created experiential learning opportunities through the Gulf Scholars Program
- Supported translation of hazards research into practice

Selected Publications

Razzaghi Asl et al. (2026), Applied Geography
Zhou, Emrich & Gall (2025), Annals of the AAG
Ali et al. (2025), Nature Natural Hazards
Emrich, Aksha & Zhou (2022), IJDRR
Derakhshan, Emrich & Cutter (2022), PLOS ONE
Cutter, Ash & Emrich (2014), Global Environmental Change
Emrich & Cutter (2011), Weather, Climate, and Society