

## **BIL COMMUNITY FLOODING SOCIAL SCIENCE LIAISONS**

NOAA's National Sea Grant and Weather Program Office, awarded \$1.5 million to the Maryland and Puerto Rico Sea Grant programs to hire community flooding social science liaisons who will use social, economic and behavioral research with the community-based capabilities of the Sea Grant network to produce flood inundation mapping services for Maryland and Puerto Rico emergency responders, water managers and the public.

### **PUERTO RICO**

#### **Catalyzing Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion-Centered Solutions for the Culturally Appropriate Use of Flood Inundations Mapping Service**

Project Leads: Manuel Valdés Pizzini & Ariam L. Torres-Cordero

Grant Amount: \$749,307

Communities in Puerto Rico, especially underserved areas, face increasing flood risks due to extreme weather, sea level rise, and social inequality. The Interdisciplinary Center for Coastal Studies at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, the School of Planning at UPR-Río Piedras, and Puerto Rico Sea Grant are collaborating to create a framework that will help communities better understand and adapt to flooding. The initiative focuses on developing equitable solutions for flood mapping and improving community resilience through education and culturally appropriate strategies. By leveraging existing partnerships and expanding networks, this project aims to increase adaptive capacity across the island.

Currently, this project is supported by Dr. Ariam Torres-Cordero and Dr. Carlos Carrero Morales, along with two graduate students. This team has a diverse background in planning, economy, sociology, history and business administration, and are working to finalize the team and work plan in the coming months.

**MARYLAND****Operationalizing Flood Inundation Mapping in Maryland Through a Social Science Approach**

Project Leads: Fredrika Moser & William G. Hubbard

Grant Amount: \$749,211

This project aims to integrate flood inundation mapping tools into local community planning in Maryland by enhancing communication networks and applying social, economic and behavioral sciences. An extension faculty member position was proposed to liaise closely with communities, ensuring effective use of flood inundation mapping tools through education and research. This project will also develop an evaluation framework for flood inundation mapping tools, incorporating feedback loops with Sea Grant and the National Weather Service to improve community resilience to flooding.

Erin Crowley-Champoux is an anthropologist working on the Flood Inundation Mapping project. Her prior research has examined human-environmental interactions, especially as they pertain to agricultural strategies and food. Most recently, she has completed a project that brought together archaeologists, food scientists, and farmers to understand past food insecurity and developed strategies for modern sustainable food storage methods, using our understanding of the past to benefit current farming communities. Erin is excited to bring her experience with community engagement and community service as well as her training in the social sciences and scholarship in human-environmental relationships to University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension.

**CONTACTS**

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