

ORGANIZATION ROLE

AR Coordinator and Outreach Specialist

PROJECT ROLE / FOCUS AREAS

Project management

Strategic planning

Report Writing

Data Analysis

EDUCATION

Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy, Tulane University, 2023-2025

MA, Human Geography, University of Otago, 2021

BA, Geography & English Composition, University of Otago, 2021

BA, Environmental Studies, University of Vermont, 2019

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator (ADAC)
In Progress

ALEXIS PATELL, MA

Applied Research Coordinator and Outreach Specialist

Alexis Patell is an Applied Research Coordinator and Outreach Specialist who supports the Chief Scientist at The Water Institute, as well as divisional leadership as needed. She also supports all aspects of the Community Resilience Catalyst (Catalyst) Program, which rapidly deploys resources to address community resilience challenges in under-resourced and marginalized communities.

Her responsibilities reflect an expansive background that includes project management, data analysis, stakeholder partnerships, and social science outreach. Her most recent research focuses on improving hurricane emergency response and preparedness for people with disabilities.

Her research experience also includes assessing water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions in remote Pacific Island nations such as Kiribati and Vanuatu, examining how water access can reinforce rigid social hierarchies. Throughout her career, she has led meaningful social outreach initiatives, workshops, and training, developing a strong foundation in community engagement, facilitation, and collaborative problem-solving.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026–Present: Applied Research Coordinator and Outreach Specialist, The Water Institute

2025: Free Pantry Manager, Common Ground Relief

2024–2025: Client Preparedness Coordinator, SBP (Formerly St. Bernard Project)

2022: Research Coordinator, University of Otago

2021–2022: Disability Support Professional, CCS Disability Action

2021-2022: Academic Accessibility Tutor, University of Otago

2019: Ornithological Research Intern, Alexander von Humboldt Institute

2019: Cultural Sustainability Intern, Le Mole Sul Farfa

SELECTED PROJECTS

Community Resilience Catalyst (Catalyst) Program. *The Community Resilience Center. (Ongoing).* The Community Resilience Catalyst (Catalyst) program provides education and technical support to select Gulf Coast communities working to advance local resilience. The program focuses on three core objectives: education, technical assistance, and evaluation. Alexis supports all aspects of the Catalyst program, contributing to coordination, community engagement, and program implementation.

Free Pantry Revitalization. *Common Ground Relief. (2025).* This project involved a comprehensive overhaul of operations at a local Free Pantry. Alexis managed the revitalization effort by developing new operational practices, coordinating a facility deep clean, and establishing a dedicated volunteer workspace. She also secured partnerships and oversaw the donation and installation of two new refrigerators to expand food storage capacity.

Disability in the Face of Disaster. *Tulane University. (Ongoing).* As a visiting scholar at Tulane University in New Orleans, Alexis conducted a needs assessment examining the experiences of people with disabilities during hurricane season. The project analyzed barriers to preparedness and response, and the resulting research is currently in the publication process.

WASH Conditions in PICs. *University of Otago. (2021-2022).* As a research coordinator at the University of Otago, Alexis contributed to research on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in Kiribati and Vanuatu. She conducted interviews with 20 Pacifica stakeholders and translated experiential insights into a report identifying key barriers to reliable access to clean water.

Uneven Landscapes of Neoliberalism in New Zealand. *University of Otago. (2021).* For her capstone project in Geography and English Composition, Alexis examined how the transition toward neoliberal economic policies affected social capital and community resilience in rural New Zealand.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Patell, A. M., Hill, D. (2022). Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Problems and Solutions in Kiribati and Vanuatu.
- Patell, A. M., Morris, C., & Fasi, M. (2022). Pacific Labor Mobility Schemes as Development Cooperation.
- Anderson, B., Berg, T., Dunford, R., Hume, J., Patell, A. M., Thompson, P. (2021). Uneven Landscapes of Neoliberalism.