

Full name: Oronde Oliver Drakes  
Current University: The University of Iowa  
Current Program of Study: Ph.D. Geography

**Bio:**

Originally from Guyana, I'm an atypical West Indian, more in love with forests, savannahs, and their people, than the beach. Interest in the underlying factors influencing the outcomes of hazard events has led to the pursuit of a PhD in geography. My research focuses on natural hazards and disasters with particular interest in approaches for integrating at risk indigenous and other un- and underrepresented populations into community and regional vulnerability and risk reduction management structures. My work includes integrated risk and hazard assessments as well as participatory vulnerability assessments and volunteered geographic data. This combines both quantitative and qualitative research in an effort to provide actionable vulnerability assessments to local and regional disaster management and planning practitioners, especially in data poor areas.