



Bridging EM Practice and Education through Dialogue: How Conflict Strengthens Diversity for Our Future

June 7th from 11:30am-12:30pm ET

Presented by: **Susamma Seeley**, CEM, Ph.D. Student, Disaster Science & Management, University of Delaware

Presentation Abstract: As a CEM specializing in disaster humanitarian management, I entered a disaster science PhD program to understand and embrace the complexity of the world and to become the best emergency management professional I could be. Along the way, I learned many lessons about how our practice has evolved and what we should consider doing differently when we communicate and interact with others. Despite the many decades of experience with hazards and disasters of all types, we seem to be making the same mistakes, repeatedly. Perhaps it is time to look inward to assess how we can move forward as a profession and how education, awareness, and an understanding of how intersectionality and power plays a role in this growth. In this session, we will explore the tool of dialogue and how it enables conflict and diversity of thought to be strengths instead of obstacles. We will discuss how introspection and insight are the keys to forging new connections and nuanced understanding. This is especially important as we all struggle to find new ways to think about problems and build new relationships to serve our communities.

Speaker Bio: Ms. Seeley is a CEM and disaster science and management doctoral student at University of Delaware studying how and when state-level decision makers use discretion in the administration of the Community

Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery and how that may affect implementation across entitlement communities. As a former chairperson of both the NYC VOAD and the Missouri VOAD, she specializes in disaster humanitarian management and is a U.S. Army Veteran. Ms. Seeley has also completed the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative at Harvard University (Cohort IV). She has been a member of IAEM for over ten years and was the IAEM-USA Conference Committee Chairperson from 2012 to 2016.