Cassidy K. Buhler, Ph.D.

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Professional Appointments

2024 – Present **Postdoctoral Associate** Boulder, CO
Environmental Data Science Innovation & Impact Lab (ESIIL)
University of Colorado, Boulder

Education

2024 **Ph.D. Operations Research** Philadelphia, PA
Computational Data Science Minor
Drexel University
Thesis: Advances in Optimization with Applications to Biodiversity Conservation

2019 **B.S. Mathematics** Salt Lake City, UT
Statistics Emphasis
University of Utah

Papers

C. K. Buhler, H. Y. Benson, and D. F. Shanno, "Regularized step directions in nonlinear conjugate gradient methods," *Mathematical Programming Computation*, vol. 16, pp. 629–664, 2024, ISSN: 1867-2957. DOI: 10.1007/s12532-024-00265-9.

C. K. Buhler and H. Y. Benson, "Decision-making for land conservation: A derivative-free optimization framework with nonlinear inputs," in *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, vol. 38, 2024, pp. 21 932–21 939. DOI: 10.1609/aaai.v38i20.30195.

C. K. Buhler and H. Y. Benson, "Optimal land conservation decisions for multiple species," in *Proceedings of the 52nd Northeast Decision Science Institute Annual Conference*, vol. 52, Washington, D.C., 2023, pp. 808–816.

C. K. Buhler and H. Y. Benson, "Efficient solution of portfolio optimization problems via dimension reduction and sparsification," *arXiv preprint arXiv:2306.12639*, DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2306.12639.

C. K. Buhler, R. S. Terry, K. G. Link, and F. R. Adler, "Do mechanisms matter? Comparing cancer treatment strategies across mathematical models and outcome objectives," *Mathematical Biosciences and Engineering*, vol. 18, no. 5, pp. 6305–6327, 2021, ISSN: 1551-0018. DOI: 10.3934/mbe.2021315.

Software

California 30x30 Planning & Assessment Prototype
https://huggingface.co/spaces/boettiger-lab/ca-30x30
10.5281/zenodo.14933818 (2025)

Derivative-Free Optimization for Land Conservation
https://github.com/cassiebuhler/conservation-dfo
10.5281/zenodo.13742960 (2024)

Software (continued)

Conmin-CG: Hybrid Cubic Regularization of Conjugate Gradient Methods

https://github.com/cassiebuhler/ConminCG

10.5281/zenodo.13315592 (2024)

Working Groups

2025 – Present **Maka Sitomniya: Preserving Mother Earth by Asserting Lakota Sovereignty in Earth Data Science**
Environmental Data Science Innovation & Impact Lab (ESIIL) Working Group

2024 – Present **California 30x30 Biodiversity Assessment**
California Biodiversity Network (CBN) Working Group

Fellowships & Research Experience

2024 – Present **Postdoctoral Fellowship (NSF Award Number: 2153040)** Boulder, CO
Environmental Data Science Innovation & Impact Lab (ESIIL)
University of Colorado, Boulder

2019 – 2024 **Doctoral Research Fellow** Philadelphia, PA
Decision Sciences & MIS Department
Drexel University

2019 – 2021 **Research Assistant** Salt Lake City, UT
Adler Lab - Mathematics Department
University of Utah

2018 – 2019 **Undergraduate Research Assistant** Salt Lake City, UT
Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)
University of Utah

2018 **Computer Scientist (Internship)** Hill AFB, UT
309th Software Engineering Group
United States Air Force

Teaching Experience

2019 – 2024 **Instructor** Philadelphia, PA
Decision Sciences & MIS Department
Drexel University

Course	Level	Quarter(s)	Tool(s)
BSAN 360: Programming for Data Analytics	U	Winter 2022	R
Ph.D. Programming Bootcamp	PhD	Summer 2021; Summer 2022	Python
MIS 200: Management Information Systems (Recitation Section)	U	Fall 2019; Fall 2020; Winter 2021	MS Access; Excel; HTML

**Undergraduate (U)*

2019 – 2024 **Teaching Assistant** Philadelphia, PA
Decision Sciences & MIS Department
Drexel University

Course	Level	Quarter(s)	Tool
BSAN 360: Programming for Data Analytics	U	Spring 2021	R
BSAN 601: Business Analytics for Managers	MS; MBA	Spring 2024	Excel
MIS 612: Aligning Information Systems & Business Strategies	EMBA; MBA	Fall 2023	-

Teaching Experience (continued)

Teaching Assistant (Continued)

Course	Level	Quarter(s)	Tool
MIS 625: Management of IT Operations	MBA	Fall 2023	-
OPM 200: Operations Management	U	Spring 2020; Fall 2021; Spring 2023	Excel
OPM 341: Supply Chain Management	U	Spring 2021; Spring 2022; Fall 2022	Excel
OPM 344: Revenue Management	U	Fall 2022	Excel
OPR 320: Linear Models for Decision Making	U	Summer 2020; Spring 2021	Excel
STAT 201: Intro to Business Statistics	U	Winter 2020; Spring 2020; Fall 2021; Summer 2022; Spring 2023; Winter 2024	Excel
STAT 202: Business Statistics II	U	Summer 2021; Spring 2023	Excel
STAT 205: Statistical Inference I	U	Spring 2020; Fall 2021	Excel
STAT 206: Statistical Inference II	U	Summer 2021	Excel
STAT 510: Intro to Statistics for Business Analytics	MBA	Summer 2023; Winter 2024	Excel
STAT 642: Data Mining for Business Analytics	MS; PhD	Winter 2023	R

**Undergraduate (U)*

2018 – 2019 **Mathematics & Computer Lab Assistant** Salt Lake City, UT
T. Benny Rushing Mathematics Student Center
University of Utah

Presentations

2025 **NASA Biodiversity and Ecological Conservation Team Meeting** *Washington, DC.*
Poster: Leveraging NASA Data to Guide Biodiversity Conservation Investments with the Trust for Public Land

2024 **AGU Annual Meeting (AGU24)** *Washington, DC.*
Poster: Exploring innovation in biodiversity conservation decision-making through open science and generative AI

2024 **AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-24)** *Vancouver, BC, Canada.*
Poster: Decision-making for land conservation: A derivative-free optimization framework with nonlinear inputs.

2023 **MIT Sloan Rising Scholars Conference** *Cambridge, MA (Virtual)*
Talk: Decision-making for land conservation: A derivative-free optimization framework with nonlinear inputs.

2023 **INFORMS Annual Meeting** *Phoenix, AZ.*
Talk: Decision-making for land conservation: A derivative-free optimization framework with nonlinear inputs.

2023 **SIAM Conference on Optimization (OP23)** *Seattle, WA.*
Talk: Reserve design in biodiversity conservation.

2023 **NEDSI Annual Conference** *Washington, D.C.*
Talk: Optimal land conservation decisions for multiple species.

2021 **INFORMS Annual Meeting** *Anaheim, CA. (Virtual)*
Talk: Regularized step directions in conjugate gradient minimization for machine learning.

Presentations (continued)

2021 **SIAM Conference on Optimization (OP21)** *Virtual.*
Talk: Conjugate gradient methods for machine learning.

2020 **INFORMS Annual Meeting** *Virtual.*
Talk: Efficient solution of portfolio optimization problems via dimension reduction & sparsification.

Awards & Grants

2023 **Rising Scholar**
MIT Sloan School of Management

2023 **Graduate Student Travel Subsidy Award**
Drexel University

2023 **DEI & Environment and Sustainability Innovation Micro-Grant**
Drexel University

2023 **Teck-Kah Lim Graduate Student Travel Subsidy Award**
Drexel University

2023 **Student Travel Award**
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)

2022 **Teaching Assistant Excellence Award**
Drexel University

2021 **Teaching Assistant Excellence Award (Highly Commended)**
Drexel University

2021 **Student Travel Award**
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)

2019 **Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation**
University of Utah

Service

2025 **Panelist** *CU Boulder, Career Services*
Event: Femme in STEM

2024-Present **Science Pathways Researcher** *Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES)*
- Participating in the CIRES Science Pathways program to promote science engagement at Colorado institutions

2023 **Session Chair** *INFORMS Annual Meeting*
Session: Nonlinear Optimization in Machine Learning.

2023 **Session Organizer** *SIAM Conference on Optimization*
Session: Nonlinear Optimization and Applications.

2023 **Session Chair** *NEDSI Annual Conference*
Session: Land, Sand, and Plastic Management.

2022 **Panelist** *Drexel University*
Event: Graduate Teaching Assistance Orientation.

2019 **Mathematics Tutor (Volunteer)** *Utah Prison Education Project*
- Provided weekly tutoring sessions at the Utah State Prison.
- Supported students who are incarcerated and taking a Salt Lake Community College math course.