

# Elizabeth J. Tennant

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### Senior Research Associate:

05/2025 - present

*Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management, Cornell University*

*Core Faculty, Collaboration for International Development Economics Research*

*Faculty Fellow, Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability*

### Research Associate, Cornell University, Department of Economics:

2021 - 04/2025

### Postdoctoral Associate, Cornell University, Department of Economics:

2019 - 2021

## EDUCATION

*The University of Maryland, Ph.D. Policy Studies*

August 2019

*Princeton University, M.P.A. Economics and Public Policy*

2010

*Princeton University, Certificate in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy*

2010

*The College of William & Mary, B.S. Government & Environmental Geology (High Honors)*

2005

## PUBLICATIONS

Tennant, E., Ru, Y., Sheing, P., Matteson, D., Barrett, C.B. (2025). **Microlevel structural poverty maps for southern and eastern Africa.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 122(6) e2410350122. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2410350122> (In the Media: [Cornell Chronicle](#), [Additional outlets](#))

Tennant, E. and Gilmore, E. (2025). **Dynamics of organized violence in the wake of tropical cyclones.** *Journal of Peace Research*, 62(6), 1678-1693. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00223433241291927> (Accompanying Blog Post: [The New Security Beat](#))

Upton, J., Lentz, E., Tennant, E., and Michelson, H. (2025) **Shocks and rural food insecurity: Insights from high frequency data during the COVID-19 pandemic in Malawi.** *Journal of Rural Studies*, 120, 103879. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2025.103879>

Upton, J., Tennant, E., Fiorella, K. J., & Barrett, C. B. (2023). **COVID-19, Household Resilience, and Rural Food Systems: Evidence from Southern and Eastern Africa.** In C. Béné & S. Devereux (Eds.), *Resilience and Food Security in a Food Systems Context* (pp. 281–320). Springer International Publishing. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-23535-1\\_9](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-23535-1_9)

Barrett, C. B., Ghezzi-Kopel, K., Hoddinott, J., Homami, N., Tennant, E., Upton, J., Wu, T. (2021) **A Scoping Review of the Development Resilience Literature: Theory, Methods and Evidence.** *World Development*. 146, 105612. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105612>

Tennant, E. and Gilmore, E. (2020) **Government effectiveness and institutions as determinants of tropical cyclone mortality.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(46) 28692-28699. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2006213117>. (In the Media: [Cornell Chronicle](#), [Eos](#), [Scientista](#))

Gilmore, E., Risi, L.H., Tennant, E., Buhaug, H. (2018). **Bridging research and policy on climate change and conflict.** *Current Climate Change Reports*, 4(4), 313-319. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40641-018-0119-9>

Yarnall, L., Tennant, E., & Stites, R. (2016). **A framework for evaluating implementation of community college workforce education partnerships and programs.** *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 40(9), 750-766. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10668926.2015.1101405>

## WORKING PAPERS

Tennant, E.J., Michuda, A., Upton, J.B., Chamorro, A., Engstrom, R., Mann, M.L., Newhouse, D., Weber, M., Barrett, C.B. (2025) **Nowcasting Disruptions to Human Capital Formation: Evidence from High-Frequency Household and Geospatial Data in Rural Malawi.** *Policy Research Working Paper Series*, Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099819109032579290>. *Revise & Resubmit.* (Accompanying Blog Post: [The World Bank Data Blog](#))

Ru, Y., Tennant, E., Matteson, D., and Barrett, C.B. (2025). **Spatial Heterogeneity in Machine Learning-Based Poverty Mapping: Where Do Models Underperform?** *Asian Development Bank (ABD) Economics Working Paper Series*, No. 798. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5442634>. *Invited revision submitted.*

O'Hara, C.C., Baez Schon, M., Chaplin-Kramer, R., Cheng, S., Echeverri, A., Galford, G.L., Gould, R.K., Mancilla, C.L., Muldoon, M.C., Singh, G., Baltezar, P., Kuwayama, Y., Polasky, S., Rodewald, A.D., Sharp, R.P., Tennant, E.J., Zhao, J., Halpern, B.S. **A Systematic Map of Methods for Assessing Societal Benefits of Earth Science Information.** *Invited revision submitted.*

Tennant, E. **Poverty, institutions, and tropical cyclone deaths in the Philippines.**

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

Tennant, E. and Upton, J. **Resilience in the Polycrisis Era: Insights from four years of monthly food security measurement in Malawi.**

Tennant, E. **Policy experiments and extreme weather events.**

Tennant, E. **Conflict dynamics in the aftermath of large-scale extreme weather events.**

Schreiber, K., Blom, S., Tennant, E., Upton, J. **Water insecurity in southern Madagascar.**

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

**2025-2027.** "Mapping Structural Poverty, Ecosystem Services, and Climate Risks in East African Countries Using Remote Sensing and Machine Learning" Elizabeth Tennant, Christopher B. Barrett, Yun Yang. CCSS Accelerated Research Grant, (\$30k).

**2022-2025.** "Mapping poverty, natural hazards, and critical ecosystem services for equitable and sustainable development." Christopher B. Barrett, David S. Matteson, Rachel Neugarten, Stephan J. Schmidt, and **Elizabeth Tennant**. Sponsored by the *Academic Venture Fund (AVF)*, the Atkinson Center for Sustainability, Cornell University, (\$160k).

**2017-2018.** *The Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship*

**2013-2015.** *University of Maryland Dean's Fellowship*

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

*Collaborative International Food Policy Research for a Changing World, Ithaca, NY, September 29-30, 2025; Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, July 26-29, 2025; World Bank Conference: The Pulse of Progress, Washington, DC, December 17-18 2024; United Nations World Data Forum, Medellin, Colombia, November 12-15 2024; American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, Sept 5-8 2024; The European Network of Early Career Agricultural Economists (AgEconMeet), Invited Presentation, 8 March 2024; American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 11-15 December 2023; North American Meeting of the Peace Science Society (International), Saint Louis, MO, 9-11 November, 2023; Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 23-25 July 2023; Tata Cornell Institute 10th Anniversary Conference, Ithaca, NY, 10-12 May 2023; North American Meeting of the Peace Science Society (International), Denver, CO, 10-11 Nov 2022; Sustainability and Development Conference, University of Michigan [Virtual], 24-28 Jan 2022; Annual Convention, International Studies Association, Las Vegas, NV [Virtual], 6-9 Apr 2021; Fall Meeting, American Geophysical Union, Online Everywhere, 1-17 Dec 2020; North East Universities Development Consortium, Dartmouth College [Virtual], 6-7 Nov 2020; The Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University, 17 Dec 2019; Global Health Seminar, Department of Population Health, New York University, 21 May 2019; Junior Scholar Symposium: Climate Change and the Global South. 2019 Annual Convention, International Studies Association, Toronto, CA, 27-30 Mar 2019; Fall Meeting, American Geophysical Union, Washington, DC, 10-14 Dec 2018.*

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Review: *Annals of the American Association of Geographers; Climatic Change, Communications Earth & Environment; Economic Development and Cultural Change; Economics of Disasters and Climate Change; EPJ Data Science; Food Policy; Growth and Change; International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Peace Research; Nature Communications; Population and Development Review; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS); PNAS Nexus*

Co-mentor, [STARS\\*](#) Fellowship Program (\*Structural Transformation of Agriculture and Rural Spaces)

Member of the Research and Learning Technical Working Group for the *Rapid Feedback Monitoring System (RFMS)* [project](#).

Section Editor (with Elisabeth Gilmore) for a special issue of *Current Climate Change Reports* by SpringerLink: "Bridging Research & Policy on Climate Change and Conflict"

## PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Dept. International Development, Community & Environment, Clark University: 2018-2019

Research Associate

School of Public Policy, University of Maryland: 2013-2017

Research Assistant

SRI International (*an independent, nonprofit research center*): 2010-2016

Economic & Policy Analyst

United Nations Development Programme (*Dhaka, Bangladesh*): Summer 2009

Environment & Sustainable Development Intern	
United States Peace Corps ( <i>Taulabe, Honduras</i> ):	2006-2008
Municipal Development Volunteer	
Handex Environmental Consulting & Remediation:	2005-2006
Hydrologist	