

# Elizabeth J. Tennant

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## EDUCATION

*The University of Maryland*, Ph.D. Public Policy May 2019 (expected)  
*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

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management, Cornell University: 2018-present  
Visiting Fellow  
Department of International Development, Community & Environment, Clark University: 2018-present  
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*): 2009  
Environment & Sustainable Development Intern  
United States Peace Corps (*Taulabe, Honduras*): 2006–2009  
Municipal Development Volunteer  
Handex Environmental Consulting & Remediation: 2005–2006  
Hydrologist  
The National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates: 2004  
Research Intern  
Student Conservation Association (*Morristown National Park*): 2003  
Resource Management Volunteer

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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

## RESEARCH

### *Job Market Paper*

Tennant, E. **Socioeconomic determinants of tropical cyclone mortality.**

Death tolls from tropical cyclones can number in the thousands when human systems are overwhelmed. Yet most tropical cyclones do not result in death or disaster. What accounts for this extreme variation in impacts? And how can we prevent future mortality? In this paper I investigate the importance of governance, income and other development factors for cyclone mortality. Because tropical cyclone fatalities result from the localized interaction of the natural hazard and the human system, I construct a dataset that spatially interacts meteorological and socioeconomic data. This allows me to control for physical exposure at a high resolution and better isolate the relationships of interest. I find that national government effectiveness is associated with lower mortality from tropical cyclone events. I also find evidence that mortality is higher when storm exposure is concentrated over a subset of the population that is already less well off. These estimates are large, statistically significant and robust to alternative specifications.

### *Work in Progress*

**Modeling freshwater resource management policy: a coupled socio-economic and earth-systems approach** (with C. Gustafson (lead), Feng, K., Gilmore, E., Hubacek, K., Miralles-Wilhelm, F., Motesharrei, S. and Sun, L.)

**The state of the literature on individual and household resilience: a scoping review** (with C. Barrett (lead), Ghezzi-Kopel, K., Hoddinot, J. and Upton, J.)

### *Journal Publications*

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>

### *Conferences*

Tennant, E. (2018). **Identifying the Socioeconomic Determinants of Tropical Cyclone Vulnerability.** 2018 Fall Meeting, AGU, Washington, DC., 10-14 Dec.

(Accepted) Tennant, E. (2019). **Socioeconomic conditions and mortality from climate shocks: evidence from a global dataset of tropical cyclone events.** Junior Scholar Symposium: Climate Change and the Global South. 2019 Annual Convention, ISA, Toronto, CA., 27-30 Mar.

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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

**2013-2015** *Dean's Fellowship*

**2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014** *SRI International, Award for Outstanding Performance*

## SKILLS

*Computing:* R (proficient), Stata (basic), Python (basic)

*Languages:* English (native), Spanish (proficient)