

Elizabeth J. Tennant

Address · 475a Warren Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

✉ ejt58@cornell.edu 🌐 [liztennant](https://liztennant.github.io) 🌐 liztennant.github.io | Updated: February 3, 2026

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

Ru, Y., Tennant, E., Matteson, D., and Barrett, C.B. (2026). **Spatial heterogeneity in machine learning-based poverty mapping: Where do models underperform?** *Geography and Sustainability*. 7(2) 100413. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geosus.2026.100413> (*Asian Development Bank Economics Working Paper Series, No. 798*)

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

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](#))

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.** *Accepted at PNAS.*

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*

*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 (<i>an independent, nonprofit research center</i>): | 2010-2016 |
| Economic & Policy Analyst | |
| United Nations Development Programme (<i>Dhaka, Bangladesh</i>): | 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 | |