

DEVIN GILL BRANT, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability

Ph.D., Resource Policy & Behavior | August 2026

Dissertation: *The Actionability of Climate Knowledge: Local Governance, Climate Migration, and Flood Adaptation in the Great Lakes Region*

Research examined how local practitioners interpret and use co-produced climate knowledge to make adaptation decisions, with particular attention to institutional capacity, participation, and the development of actionable decision-support.

Graduate Student Lecturer, ENVIRON 321: Climate Change and Adaptation, Fall 2024 & 2025

Relevant Training: Statistical Methods; Introduction to Geospatial Visualizations; Philosophy of Social Science; Community-Based Participatory Research

University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment

M.S., Behavior, Education & Communication | Conservation Ecology | April 2017

GPA: 3.89

Academic Honors: William B. Stapp Environmental Education Award (2016); Finalist, Sea Grant Great Lakes Commission Fellowship (2017)

Relevant Training: Statistics for Policy Evaluation; Psychology of Environmental Stewardship; Negotiations & Mediation; Great Lakes Science & Management; Advanced Environmental Education; Limnology; Fluvial Ecosystems; Agro-ecosystems

University of Michigan

B.A., History | August 2011

B.A., Program in the Environment | August 2011

Academic Honors: 2007, 2008, 2010

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research, University of Michigan

Stakeholder Engagement Specialist | May 2017 – August 2021

- Designed and implemented stakeholder engagement activities to identify information needs and improve the usability and actionability of environmental research products.
- Collected and analyzed stakeholder data using surveys, semi-structured interviews, and focus groups.
- Designed and facilitated stakeholder meetings and focus groups to elicit users' needs, experiences, perceptions, and priorities related to environmental hazards and forecasting.
- Facilitated communication between researchers and practitioners to translate stakeholder knowledge and information needs into research products and decision-support tools.
- Assisted with user-interface design and development of research products to improve stakeholder usability and interpretation of scientific information.
- Supported development of the Lake Erie Experimental Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Tracker, Experimental Lake Erie Hypoxia Forecast, Experimental Saginaw Bay HAB Tracker, and Experimental Great Lakes Ice Forecast.
- Presented research and project findings at stakeholder meetings and professional conferences and communicated research through newsletters and media interviews.

University of Michigan

Doctoral Researcher, Resource Policy & Behavior | September 2021 – August 2026

- Investigated how local government practitioners interpret, evaluate, and use co-produced climate knowledge in adaptation decision-making.
- Conducted a qualitative case study examining the production and use of actionable climate knowledge in two Great Lakes communities.
- Designed and conducted semi-structured interviews and participatory workshops with practitioners and community participants.
- Analyzed qualitative data using systematic thematic coding and NVivo to identify patterns in practitioner perceptions, knowledge use, participation, institutional capacity, and decision-making.
- Investigated the role of a participatory GIS decision-support tool in broadening participation and integrating community observations with scientific and spatial information about environmental hazards.
- Collaborated with an interdisciplinary research team spanning environmental science, climate science, planning, geography, and social science.
- Translated research findings into scholarly publications, presentations, and practitioner-oriented decision-support products.

- Conducted quantitative survey research examining resident and municipal practitioner perspectives on climate migration and climate adaptation across the Great Lakes region.

Cooperative Institute for Limnology & Ecosystems Research, University of Michigan

Master's Student Fellow | February 2016 – April 2017

- Conducted social science research examining stakeholder needs and perceptions related to the HAB Tracker forecasting model used to predict harmful algal bloom conditions in western Lake Erie.
- Designed and facilitated focus groups with charter captains and recreational anglers using semi-structured interview protocols.
- Analyzed qualitative interview data using NVivo to identify emerging themes, variables, and stakeholder priorities.
- Led a three-person student team coordinating research activities and communicating project progress with the client organization.
- Developed recommendations for improving the forecasting model and its usefulness to stakeholders.

University of Michigan

Research Assistant | September 2015 – 2017

- Supported research evaluating environmental education and climate-change curriculum.
- Assisted with data collection and assessment of the *Climate Change & Michigan Forests* curriculum.
- Designed a Personal Climate Action Plan assignment and accompanying assessment for a climate-change-focused Massive Open Online Course.
- Organized and implemented a professional development workshop for primary school teachers.

Friends of the Shiawassee River

Executive Director | September 2013 – August 2015

- Developed partnerships among watershed organizations, community members, and local elected officials around water-quality improvement and environmental management.
- Managed a \$45,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant and secured an additional \$22,000 in grant funding.

- Coordinated citizen-science water-quality monitoring activities and community engagement.
- Served as organizational spokesperson and facilitated communication among community, governmental, and nonprofit partners.

Peace Corps

Environment Volunteer | March 2013 – June 2013

- Facilitated meetings of Village Natural Resource Committees addressing natural-resource management and deforestation.
- Supported community-based environmental management and co-management of natural resources surrounding Kasungu National Park.

Ecology Center

Environmental Health Organizer | September 2012 – February 2013

- Organized community outreach concerning environmental health, energy, and chemical regulation.
- Educated state and federal legislators on environmental health initiatives.
- Developed public-facing environmental communication materials.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service / AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps Volunteer | September 2011 – August 2012

- Supported cooperative invasive-species management involving governmental, agricultural, and community partners.
- Developed and delivered environmental education workshops for agricultural communities and the West Virginia Division of Highways.
- Communicated environmental management information through local publications and community outreach.

PUBLICATIONS

Gill, D., Jagannathan, K., Fujisaki-Manome, A., Field, V., Channell, K., & Lemos, M. C. (2024). Linking Boundary Organizations to Coproduce Actionable Knowledge: A Case Study of Ice Forecasting for Great Lakes Navigation. *Weather, Climate, and Society*, 16(4), 711-721.

Gill, D., Rowe M., and Joseph Joshi, S. (2018). Fishing in greener waters: Understanding the impact of harmful algal blooms on Lake Erie anglers and the potential for adoption of a forecast model. *Journal of Environmental Management*. 227: 248-255.

Lemos, M., Maillard, L., Herbert, N., Domingue, S. J., Jagannathan, K., Wong-Parodi, G., Goto, E. A., Gill, D., Van Berkel, D., Kalafatis, S., Jorns, J. L., Basaraba, A., & Harrison, T. (2025). *Scaling up actionable climate knowledge. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 122(50), e2515771122. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2515771122>

Van Berkel, D., Estabrook, T., Fox, N., Bejarano, R. A., Maillard, L., Gill, D., ... & Lemos, M. C. (2023). PPGISr: An R package for Public Participatory GIS. *SoftwareX*, 101389.

Lower, E., Sturtevant, R. and Gill, D. 2020. [Sharing Feedback, Sharing Screens: Videoconferencing as a Tool for Stakeholder-Driven Web Design](#). *Journal of Extension*.

Guo, T., D. Gill, T.H. Johengen and B.J. Cardinale. (2019). What determines the public's support for water quality regulations to mitigate agricultural runoff?. *Environmental Science and Policy*. (DOI:[10.1016/j.envsci.2019.09.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2019.09.008)). [[Altmetric Score](#)]

AWARDS & HONORS

- William B. Stapp Environmental Education Award, University of Michigan, 2017
- Finalist, Sea Grant Great Lakes Commission Fellowship, 2017
- Mary Beth Doyle Fund Fellow, Ecology Center, 2013
- University of Michigan Academic Honors, 2007, 2008, 2010

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Fund Development Chair, Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts, 2018 - Present
- Leave No Trace Trainer
- Project Learning Tree, Project WET, and Project WILD certifications

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical/Data Analysis: R, NVivo, Microsoft Excel

Geospatial: Participatory GIS / PPGIS

Software & Communication: Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Adobe Creative Suite

Data/Organizational Systems: Salesforce, Salsa, NationBuilder