

Nathan Jessee

114C Robinson Hall
University of Delaware

nathanaj@udel.edu

APPOINTMENTS

- 2024- present Assistant Professor, School of Marine Science and Policy
 University of Delaware
- 2021-2024 Environmental Fellow, High Meadows Environmental Institute
 Princeton University
- 2020-2021 Visiting Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies Program
 Tulane University

EDUCATION

- 2020 **Ph.D., Anthropology**
 Temple University
 Dissertation: "Reshaping Louisiana's Coastal Frontier: Tribal Community Resettlement and Climate Change Adaptation"
 Committee: Naomi Schiller, Damien Stankiewicz, Heather Levi, Wazhmah Osman, Julie Maldonado
- 2015 **Certificate, Teaching in Higher Education**
 Certificate, Documentary Film and Ethnographic Practice
 Temple University
- 2010 **MS., Urban Studies**
 University of New Orleans
- 2007 **BA., English and Philosophy**
 University of New Mexico

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Jessee, Nathan. *Resettlement: A Struggle for Cultural Survival on Louisiana's Coastal Frontier* (In progress).

Jerolleman, Alessandra (1), Elizabeth Marino (1), **Nathan Jessee (1)**, Liz Koslov (2), Chantel Comardelle (2), Melissa Villarreal (3), Daniel de Vries (4), and Simon Manda (5). (2024). *People or Property: Legal Contradictions, Climate Resettlement, and the View from Shifting Ground*. London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

DeCapua, C., Loughran, R.M., **Jessee, N.**, and E.C. Sargent. (*In Press*). Shifting Shores: Distribution of Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) from the 1800s to 2025. *Delaware Ornithologist*.

Barra, Monica Patrice, and **Nathan Jessee**. 2024. "Restoration as Transformative Reparative Practice: Traditional Knowledges, Indigenous and Black Land Stewardship, and Solidarity." *Environment and Society* 15, no. 1: 212-233.

Marino, Elizabeth, Jerolleman, Alessandra, **Jessee, Nathan**, Weyiouanna, Annie, Topkok, Meghan Sigvana, Keene, Eli, & Manda, Simon. 2022. Is the Longue Durée a Legal Argument?: Understanding Takings Doctrine in Climate Change and Settler Colonial Contexts in the United States. *Human Organization*, 81(4), 348-357.

Jessee, Nathan. 2022. Reshaping Louisiana's Coastal Frontier: Managed Retreat as Colonial Decontextualization. *Journal of Political Ecology*.

Jessee, Nathan, Kourtney Collum and R D. Schulerbrandt Gragg. 2015. Community Based Participatory Research: Challenging 'Lone Ethnographer' Anthropology in the Community and the Classroom. *Practicing Anthropology*. 37 (4).

Book Chapters

Richard Krajewski, Lorna Jarrett Blanchard, Maraya Ben-Joseph, Mây Nguyễn, Tuoi Nguyen, Bryan Parras, David Rico, M. Kalani Souza, Dezzi Synan, Kristina Peterson, Julie Maldonado, Alessandra Jerolleman and **Nathan Jessee**. 2022. The Underside of Epiphany: Wandering Wonderings. In *Justice, Equity, and Emergency Management*. Eds. Alessandra Jerolleman and William Waugh Jr. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing.

Jessee, Nathan. 2020. Community Resettlement in Louisiana: Learning from Histories of Horror and Hope. In Laska, S. (Ed.) *Louisiana's Response to Extreme Weather – A Test Case for Coastal Resilience*. Springer Publishing Company, NY

Web Publications

Jessee, Nathan. 2021. Tribal Leaders Raise 'Serious Concerns' About Plans to Turn Their Shrinking Louisiana Island Home Into a 'Sportsman's Paradise'. Desmog.
<https://www.desmog.com/2021/07/23/isle-de-jean-charles-tribe-louisiana-sportsmans-paradise/>

Jessee, Nathan. Elder Rosina Philippe, Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar, Theresa Dardar, Traditional Chief Albert Naquin, and Chantel Comardelle. 2020. "Resisting the Oblivion of Eco-Colonialism." *Anthropocene Curriculum*. <https://www.anthropocene-curriculum.org/contribution/resisting-the-oblivion-of-eco-colonialism>

Jessee, Nathan. 2016. "Hope for 'Just Resilience' on Earth Day." *EnviroSociety*. 22 April.
www.envirosociety.org/2016/04/hope-for-just-resilience-on-earth-day

Book and Film Reviews

Jessee, Nathan. 2018. Disaster Displacement and the Politics of Government-Sponsored Community Relocation in Indonesia: Fighting for Nothing to Happen. Directed by Nora Wildenauer, 2015, 48 minutes. Distributed by Visual Development. *Visual Anthropology Review*, 34(1), 104-105.

Jessee, Nathan. 2015. Picturing Atrocity: Photography in Crisis. Edited by Geoffrey Batchen, Mick Gidley, Nancy K. Miller, and Jay Prosser. London: Reaktion Books, 2012. *Visual Anthropology Review*, 31(2), 210-212.

Photography

"The Catch," "Storm Water," and "Fish Kill in *Our Knowledge is Power* exhibit. Curators: Chantel Comardelle and Dennis Davis. On exhibit at the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge; National

Center for Atmospheric Research; Paul Robeson Center for the Arts; and College of Earth, Ocean & Environment at University of Delaware.

Lowlander Team. 2018. National Climate Change Assessment. Southeast Chapter. Photo from Isle de Jean Charles Tribal Resettlement Workshop.

Contributing Author on the Following Reports

Naquin, Chief Albert., Comardelle, Chantel, Jerolleman, Alessandra, Lesen, Amy, Peterson, Kristina, Evans, Joseph, Tooher, Erin, Mansfield, James, Corum, Nathaniel, **Nathan Jessee**, Kunkel, Joseph, Bainbridge, S., Shao, A., Udvardi, M., Billiot Jr., Wenseslaus, Dardar, Tommy, Naquin. D  m  . 2019. Preserving Our Place. A Community Field Guide to Engagement, Resilience, and Resettlement: Community regeneration in the face of environmental and developmental pressures. Report generated for Gulf Research Program of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under award number 200008164.

Rising Voices Center for Indigenous and Earth Sciences, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Lowlander Center. 2021. Addressing Climate-Forced Displacement in the United States: A Just and Equitable Response. Accessible at <https://www.uusc.org/addressing-climate-forced-displacement-in-the-united-states-a-just-and-equitable-response>

TEACHING

University of Delaware, School of Marine Science and Policy

- Coastal Environmental Justice (Spring 2025, Spring 2026)
- Capstone in Marine Science and Policy (Co-taught Fall 2024, Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026)
- Introduction to Marine Policy (Spring 2026)
- Technical Writing in the Marine Sciences (Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026)
- Introduction to Ocean Science (Co-taught Fall 2024, Winter 2025, Fall 2025, Fall 2026)

Princeton University, Prison Teaching Initiative

- Climate, the Environment, and Justice (Spring 2024)

Princeton University, Environmental Studies Program

- Field Seminar in Regional Environmental Politics (Fall 2022)
- Freshman Seminar in Environmental and Climate Justice (Fall 2023)

Tulane University, Environmental Studies Program & English

- Introduction to Environmental Studies (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)
- Environmental Expository Writing (Fall 2020)
- Displacement and Environmental Change (Spring 2020)
- Media and Environment (Spring 2019)

Temple University, Adjunct Instructor, Department of Anthropology

- Human Ecology (Fall 2015, Spring 2016)
- Representing Race (Fall 2015, Fall 2016)

Temple University, Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology

- Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (Fall 2014, Spring 2015)
- Representing Race (Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

- Youth Cultures (Fall 2012, Spring 2013)

ADVISING

Graduate

- Zoë Ketola, Expected Graduation: May 2028, Ph.D. in Energy and Environmental Policy, Primary advisor: Nina David (Biden School of Public Policy and Administration) External committee member
- Caitlin Wilson, Graduation: May 2026, Ph.D. in Marine Policy, Primary advisor: James Rising (SMSP), Internal committee member.
- Gulrukh Kaker, Graduation: May 2026 Ph.D. in Disaster Science and Management, Primary advisor: Jennifer Trivedi (Anthropology). External committee member.

Undergraduate

- Keira Larsen, Environmental Science, Winter 2026 NASA Space Grant internship
- Lena Morefield, Environmental Science, Third Reader Undergraduate Thesis Third Reader
- Jonluke O'Cain, Marine Science, Undergraduate Thesis Third Reader
- Kylie Short, Environmental Engineering, Undergraduate Thesis Third Reader
- Ava Vrbas, Marine Science, Undergraduate Thesis Third Reader

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2022 Kavli Fellow. National Academy of Sciences and Kavli Frontiers of Science Foundation
 2020 Newcomb Tulane College Classroom Enhancement Grant \$400
 2020 Tulane University Center for Scholars Award, \$1,000
 2019 Temple University Graduate School, Dissertation Completion Grant, \$11,000
 2017 Temple University, Advanced Scholar Fellowship, \$17,000
 2017 Tulane University Center for the Gulf South, Global South Research Grant, \$2,400
 2017 Society for Applied Anthropology, Michael Cernea Involuntary Resettlement Award, \$500
 2017 National Academy of Sciences, Science Policy Fellowship (offer declined)
 2016 Wenner-Gren Foundation, Dissertation Grant, \$18,500
 2014 Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, \$500
 2013 National Science Foundation, Ethnographic Field School Fellow

SERVICE

University of Delaware Service

School Committees

2024- Undergraduate Committee, Member

Other School Service

2025- Blue Economy Search Committee, Member

2024, 2025 Guest at Aquatic Project meetings to support student engagement with ocean justice

Other College Service

2025- Presenter and student mentor for Climate Scholars Program

2025- Advance Marine Science-Environmental Science and Management 4+1 program by coordinating and facilitating meetings, creating course map, and editing policy documents

2024, 2025 Coast Day Volunteer and Presenter.

Princeton University Faculty Development

2023 Invited Panelist. Princeton University's McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Roundtable on Teaching Indigenous Studies

2023 Invited Workshop Co-Coordinator. Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. "Navigating Co-Production of Campus-as-Lab Initiatives" Workshop

Publication Reviewer

- *Climatic Change*
- *Journal of Coastal Management*
- *American Ethnologist*
- *Environmental Sociology*

RESEARCH, PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP, AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

2025-2026 Coordinator and co-curator. Our Knowledge is Power: The Cultures of Beauty and Survival in Isle de Jean Charles, LA and Shishmaref, AK, University of Delaware

2022-2023 Co-Interim coordinator. Environmental Humanities and Social Transformation Colloquium, Princeton University.

2022-2023 Co-Organizer. Fluid Futures Forum, Princeton University Environmental research forum.

2022-2024 Advisory Committee Member. Living with Water Climate Adaptation Project. Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions.

2021-2024 Co-Founding Facilitator. High Meadows Environmental Institute and Natives at Princeton's Indigenous x Environmental Studies Working Group

2021- Participant. Rising Voices Center for Indigenous and Earth Sciences. Relocation and Site Expansion Working Group

2019-2021 Co-founding Faculty. Critical Visualization and Media Lab. Tulane University. Environmental Studies program. The American Dream Denied art exhibit on environmental racism and a struggle for justice in New Orleans.

2019 Invited participant. The Anthropocene Campus, co-sponsored by Tulane University's Center for the Gulf South and the Max Planck Institute

2018 Steering Committee Member. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Healthy Places for Healthy People program, Isle de Jean Charles.

2016-2017 Resource Committee member, National Endowment for the Arts' Citizens Institute on Rural Design work with Isle de Jean Charles community leaders.

2015-2017	Member. Society for Applied Anthropology, Human Rights and Social Justice Committee
2015-2020	Doctoral Research alongside Jean Charles Choctaw Nation leaders. Studied development and disaster-forced displacement and political barriers to Tribal community resettlement.
2013	Participant & Researcher. National Science Foundation Community Based Participatory Research Field School. Worked with community leaders and University of Florida scholars to study health disparities and experiences of race and racism in Tallahassee, FL.
2010	Survey Representative and Researcher. Stratus Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster Project Data collection on social impact of 2010 BP Oil Disaster for United States federal litigation.
2009-2010	Research Assistant. Center for Hazards Assessment, Response, and Technology (CHART) at the University of New Orleans Participatory action research that examined how local government agencies, nonprofits, and businesses in New Orleans respond to layered disasters after the levee failures following Hurricane Katrina.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited

2026	Participant, Work in Progress workshop, Summer Institute in Environmental Humanities, Colby College, July 2026
2025	Roundtable on Hurricane Katrina. American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 21, 2025.
2025	Panel on coastal disasters and screening of <i>The Hallow Tree</i> (2022, Dir. Kira Ackerman). Ramapo College. November 5, 2025.
2024, 2025	Just Transitions and Climate Futures event. Princeton University.
2024	Invited book presentation. "People or Property: Legal Contradictions, Climate Resettlement, and the View from Shifting Ground" U.S. Geological Survey, Human Dimensions Community of Practice Working Group.
2023	Invited participation. "Coastal Socio-Environmental Tipping Points" symposium. Virginia Tech and Virginia Commonwealth University. VCU Rice Rivers Center
2023	"Displacement, Climate Change, and Struggles for Human Rights in the Mississippi River Delta" Princeton University
2022	"Community Relocation and Climate Justice" Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions' Living with Water Advisory Committee and Project Team Workshop

- 2021 “Advancing Tribal-driven Adaptation and Resettlement through Collaboration”
Loyola University of New Orleans
- 2020 “Racial Capitalism and Managed Retreat in the Mississippi River Delta”
University of South Carolina
- 2018 “Visual Media, Climate Change, and Activism in Coastal Louisiana.”
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Select Conference Papers

- 2025 Organizer and panel discussant. “Equitable community responses in a changing climate”
MR2025: Mobility, Adaptation, and Well Being in a Changing Climate. Columbia University. June 16, 2025.
- 2023 “By Deed or Neglect”: Development and Disaster Displacement, Indigenous Conservation, and Struggles for Housing Justice in the Mississippi River Delta"
Denver, CO. American Association of Geographers.
- 2022 “Collaborative Research for Equitable Climate Adaptation & Disaster Recovery in the Mississippi River Delta” Irvine, CA. 32nd US Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium. National Academy of Sciences
- 2020 “Dangers of Managed Retreat...By and For Whom?” Workshop. Co-facilitator with Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar, Elder Rosina Philippe, Theresa Dardar, Lesley Laukea, Julie Maldonado, Alessandra Jerolleman, Kristina Peterson. Virtual National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference.
- 2019 “Beyond to Stay or Move: The How and Why of Some Communities’ Decision-Making.”
New York, NY. At What Point Managed Retreat? Conference. The Earth Institute at Columbia.
- 2018 "Community Resettlement as an Act of Cultural Survival." Co-Presenter with Chantel Comardelle, Jean Charles Choctaw Nation. New Orleans, LA. American Association of Geographers.
- 2014 "Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR): Challenging Lone Ethnographer Anthropology.” Albuquerque, NM. Society for Applied Anthropology.