



## People on the Move in a Changing Climate (PEMOCC) Great Lakes Regional Workshop Panelist Biosketches

Rachel Havrelock: University of Illinois at Chicago



Rachel Havrelock is a professor in the Department of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), where she directs the UIC Freshwater Lab. The Freshwater Lab generates research and policy on transboundary water systems and climate change adaptation; trains a new generation of water leaders; and creates public-facing media like the Freshwater Stories and Backward River digital platforms.

Rachel's current work encompasses water recycling as a solution to flooding, the movement of species and pollutants, and Great Lakes water policy. She has held grants from the Mott Foundation, KBIH Family Foundation, McDougal Family Foundation, and Humanities Without Walls Initiative funded by the Mellon Foundation. Her 2015 Water After Borders summit brought binational water leaders

of the Great Lakes together with Middle Eastern counterparts and her 2017 Untrouble the Waters summit presented practical environmental justice visions for the Great Lakes region. An active voice in the media, Rachel has published in Foreign Affairs, Huffington Post, Chicago Tribune, Haaretz, The Chicago Reporter, Belt Magazine, the International Joint Commission newsletter and has been a return guest on WBEZ and WTTW Chicago Tonight.

Jennifer Hinojosa: Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College



Jennifer Hinojosa is the Research Director of Centro and holds a Master's of Science in Geographical Sciences from University of Maryland, College Park and MA in Geography from SUNY Binghamton University. Jennifer integrates social, demographic, and economic data with GIS mapping capabilities to address current and future challenges related to post-disaster in Puerto Rico.

## Isaac Gendler: California Public Utilities Commission



Isaac Gendler works by day as a Utilities Engineer for the California Public Utilities Commission and by night as a researcher on the interface between housing policy and climate adaptation. His interest in climate migration was spurred by witnessing the effects of the 2018 Paradise Fire while living in the San Francisco Bay Area. Isaac served as the Lead Quantitative Analyst for the Post COVID Pull Factor Methodologies project. Isaac's past research topics include the impact of the San Francisco Bay Area Housing Crisis on Regional Wildfire Hazard, Los Angeles Housing Policy, and the Effects of Cascading Electricity Failures on Interdependent Infrastructure Systems. Isaac has strong family connections to New York State and is proud to serve its residents.

## Ross Plattel: University of Calgary



Ross Plattel is an urban, civic, and educational technologist with a future minded focus. He is part of the academic research and discussion group at the University of Calgary focused on Smart Cities, and Civic Social Justice issues. Currently he works with the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education (CPLED) which is revolutionizing legal education through partnerships with law societies and legal practices throughout Canada. With The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) he has worked on the development, testing, and deployment of SAIT's first micro-credentials, and acted as a TA for short term digital solutioning innovation programs. Ross is the Organizational Development Manager for CivicTechYYC, organizing events monthly for the group who work together on urban-related technology projects. He is also a Project Administrator for IncluCity, a civic user testing group that facilitates inclusive usability testing for urban and technology projects. His research on the impacts of climate-induced human migration has been inspired by his passion for the environment and connection with nature, along with his desire to improve the lived human experience.

## Jerel Ezell: Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University



Dr. Jerel Ezell, PhD, MPH is a social epidemiologist and assistant professor at the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University. His research and teaching focuses on health disparities and social inequities in the industrial and post-industrial Midwest and Northeast. He is a current Fulbright Scholar and the Director of the Cornell Center for Cultural Humility. His present research focuses on health outcomes, infrastructure maintenance, and environmental sustainability interventions in Flint, Michigan.

## Susan Clark: University at Buffalo



Dr. Susan Clark is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environment and Sustainability. She is also the Director of the College of Arts and Science's Sustainability Leadership Master's Program. In these positions, Dr. Clark teaches classes on the topics of sustainability and resilience, mentors Sustainability graduate students, and leads externally funded projects on topics related to community resilience and climate change that have been funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, New York State, and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Clark is also heavily involved in community outreach. She currently is the Chair for

Erie County's Community Climate Change Task Force (C3TF) and takes a leadership role in OUTSTEPS Lower Great Lakes, which is a regional network of scholars, practitioners, and other stakeholders working together to increase the sustainability and resilience across the region in a collaborative, holistic, and inclusive manner.

## Kelly Leilani Main: Buy-In Community Planning



Kelly Leilani Main is the Executive Director and co-founder of Buy-In Community Planning, an organization providing equitable and accessible relocation services for communities on the frontlines of irreversible climate impacts. Kelly has worked as a planner, designer, and geospatial analyst at the intersection of climate adaptation planning and rights-driven relocation policy in contexts diverse as the Philippines, Turkey, Ghana, Uganda, Peru, Nepal, Lebanon, Palestine, and the US. Kelly has a Masters in City Planning from the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning and is currently a PhD student of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at UC Berkeley.

## Missy Stults: City of Ann Arbor



Dr. Missy Stults is the Sustainability and Innovations Director for the City of Ann Arbor. In this role, she works with all city operations, residents, businesses, the University of Michigan, nonprofits, and others to achieve a just transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030, as outlined in the A2ZERO Carbon Neutrality Plan. Prior to joining the City, Missy worked with cities and tribal communities around the nation to advance their climate and sustainability goals, including during her time as the Climate Director at ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and as a consultant to philanthropic organizations. Missy has a PhD in urban resilience from the University of

Michigan, a Masters in Climate and Society from Columbia University, and undergraduate degrees in Marine Biology and Environmental Science from the University of New England.

## Mindy Granley: City of Duluth



As Sustainability Officer at the City of Duluth, Mindy Granley is responsible for improvement of City policies, programs, and initiatives in support of local environmental, economic, and social systems. She works to incorporate sustainability into decision making, measure and communicate progress, and build partnerships for change. During her first two years at the City of Duluth, Mindy led creation of the City's first Climate Action Work Plan, pushed for adoption of new performance standards for City-owned buildings, established an interdepartmental Sustainability Advisory Team, and coordinated multiple grant projects with City and community partners.

Previously, Mindy served for 12 years as Sustainability Director at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), where she advanced operational improvements and integrated sustainability into the learning experience for all students. She championed campus projects and reduced energy and greenhouse gas emissions, all while connecting students to learning opportunities in the community. Before working at UMD, Mindy spent 6 years working on watershed management in the Lake Superior watershed at local, regional, and state levels. Mindy has a B.S. in Geology/Hydrogeology, an M.S. in Water Resources Science, and is a Certified Energy Manager.

## Ty Warner: Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission



Ty Warner serves as the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's fourth Executive Director in NIRPC's 50+ year history. He was Planning Director for Will County, Illinois, for many years before serving as Director of Planning for the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and as Principal Planner following that agency's merger into the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. He temporarily left the Chicago region to establish the Flint Hills Regional Council with the communities inclusive of Manhattan, Kansas (home to Kansas State University, Fort Riley Army Base, and the National Bio & Agro-Defense Facility) as the inaugural Executive Director of the first regional council to be formed in the U.S. in over twenty years.

Mr. Warner has a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Wheaton College and a Master of Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has served as adjunct faculty at UIC, teaching graduate level courses in public participation, and has served on the boards of the Calumet Collaborative and the Tri-State Alliance for Regional Development. The Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association awarded Mr. Warner their Distinguished Service Award for "exemplary commitment to the planning profession." He is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners and serves as a Vice Chair on the Executive Directors Council of the National Association of Regional Councils.



## Don Zelazny: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Great Lakes Program



Don Zelazny has served as the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Great Lakes Basin Programs Coordinator since 2000, directing the agency's support to the binational Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, including the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario lakewide partnerships and restoration of five NY Areas of Concern; coordinating inter-state agencies and intra-DEC program activities to implement the NY Great Lakes Action Agenda and support related Governor initiatives (i.e., Resilient NY Flood Mitigation, Lake Ontario Resilience and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) and the Community Climate Risk and Resiliency Act); and serving as the Governor's designee to the Great Lakes Commission, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body, and various International Joint Commission committees. Prior to joining DEC, he managed various emergency response and environmental resource management contracts with private consulting firms and is a retired Commander from the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. He has a B.S. in Conservation Biology and completed post-graduate courses in environmental management.

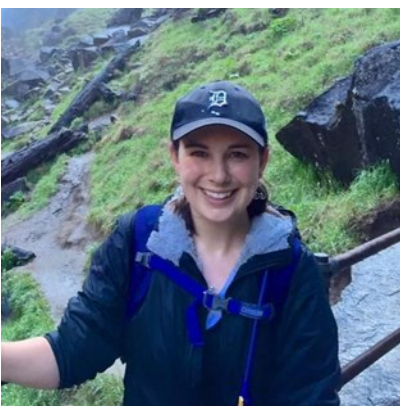
## Dan Walsh: East Middle School



Dan Walsh is an English as a Second Language teacher at East Middle School in Erie, PA. He has worked with refugee students and families for the past sixteen years. Dan obtained his Master of Education Degree from Edinboro University and has spent his career in the Erie School District.

## Annabelle Wilkinson: City of Grand Rapids

Annabelle Wilkinson is the Environmental and Climate Justice Specialist at the City of Grand Rapids. In this role, she supports the inclusion of climate change and climate/environmental justice across City of Grand



Rapids' planning. Over the next two years she will lead the co-creation of City of Grand Rapids Climate Action and Adaptation Plan alongside community. Prior to joining the City, Annabelle worked on state-wide urban planning projects across the sectors of housing, transportation, and climate adaptation while at Michigan State University and promoted coalition building and neighborhood revitalization with Habitat for Humanity. Annabelle has a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning and a Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

## Beth Gibbons: American Society of Adaptation Professionals



As ASAP's mission-driven leader, Beth strengthens ASAP as an emerging nonprofit organization. Beth nurtures relationships -including relationships with the ASAP Board of Directors and funders and partners in the field - always keeping her finger on the pulse of trends and opportunities to grow and strengthen the adaptation field. Beth strategically and mindfully leads ASAP toward future growth, while always keeping the mission close to heart. Beth loves connecting about adaptation and finding ways for members to make connections or advance their own careers. Her passion for the field is contagious and members should feel free to contact her, but always at the risk of finding themselves running out to start a new member group or host an event after being inspired.

## Kristen Olsen: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families