

ALLISON DEESE, PhD

Boston, MA

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[LinkedIn](#)

EDUCATION & TRAINING

2026	Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology Northeastern University, Boston, MA <i>Maternity leaves: Fall 2023; Fall 2024</i>
2021	Master of Arts, Sociology Northeastern University, Boston, MA
2016	Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Policy with honors Pitzer College, Claremont, CA
2014	Pitzer College in Nepal Program Kathmandu, Nepal

SKILLS

Software: Claude Code, Codex, Cursor, R, Python, ArcGIS, QGIS, ATLAS.ti

Methods: Qualitative interviews and coding, survey design, statistical analysis, network analysis, GIS

Languages: Tagalog/Filipino (conversational, proficient in reading and writing)

RESEARCH AREAS

- Organizational resilience (recurrent disruption, capacity building, planning)
- Cumulative disaster exposure (social capital, climate adaptation)
- Social movements (collective action in crisis)
- Mixed methods research design

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Gold, J. R., Deese, A., Nelson, L. K., & Zippel, K. (2026). [Gender equity in higher education during disruptive events: Communities of practice in the NSF ADVANCE Network](#). *Innovative Higher Education*.

Gold, J. R., Deese, A., Nelson, L. K., & Zippel, K. (2025). [Incorporating gender into institutional crisis response: The case of ADVANCE in 2020–2021](#). In A. Wroblewski & S. Barnard (Eds.), *Gender and higher education management in times of crisis* (Palgrave Studies in Gender and Education). Palgrave Macmillan.

Deese, A. (2016). [Locating gendered resistance: Interethnic conflict, environmental disaster, and feminist leadership in Sri Lanka](#). *European Scientific Journal, Special Edition*, 145-162.

FELLOWSHIPS

2022-2025	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) T-32 Training Program
2014-2016	Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

2024	Northeastern Department of Sociology, Fieldwork Fellowship
2021	Northeastern Department of Sociology Summer Research Grant, \$1,000
2020	Northeastern University Dean's Scholar Award (year-round funding for 5 years)
2018	AmeriCorps Grantee, \$5,000
2018	President's Gold Volunteer Service Award for Commitment to Disaster Services
2015	Morris K. Udall Undergraduate Scholarship, \$5,000
2014	Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to Nepal, \$5,000

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Conference Activity

2024	"Navigating Cumulative Disaster Exposure: A Sociological Approach to Assessing Organizational Resilience in Community-Based Organizations." Panel on Community Resilience Planning: What New Methods Reveal about the Formation and Transformation of a Field, Disaster Research Workshop: Innovating for an Imagined Disaster Future, Disaster Research Center , University of Delaware. May 2-4.
2022	"Gender Equity During Disruptive Events: Communities of Practice in the NSF ADVANCE Network." Panel on COVID-19 Impacts on Gendered Workplaces, American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. August 8. (first draft of paper and presentation written by me with revisions from Dr. Jessica Gold, and presented by Dr. Kathrin Zippel due to personal schedule conflict).
2022	"Repeat Crises and Communities of Practice: Cultivating Resilience in the Education Sector." Natural Hazards Center , Researchers Meeting. University of Colorado Boulder. Virtual. July 14.
2018	"One After Another: The Tyranny of Urgency in Disaster Response at Home and Abroad." Flash talk presented at the New Horizons in Conservation Conference, Washington, D.C. April 18.

- 2016 “Locating Gendered Resistance: Interethnic Conflict, Environmental Disaster, and Feminist Leadership in Sri Lanka.” Article presented at the [International Scientific Forum](#), Rome, Italy. April 23.
- 2016 “When Boulders Fall, Who Carries the Weight? Examining Adverse Impacts of Climate Change and Climate-Induced Disasters on Women in Rural Nepal.” Study abroad research presented at the [RES/CON: Disaster and Resilience Conference](#) Student Research Expo, New Orleans, LA. March 1-3.

RESEARCH

- 2025-2026 **Doctoral Dissertation, Sociology, Northeastern University**
Committee: Dr. Phil Brown (Chair), Dr. Daniel Aldrich, Dr. Stephen Flynn, Dr. Tricia Wachtendorf
- Examined how cumulative threat exposure shapes the communities in which community-based organizations (CBOs) are embedded and the organizational capacities they use to sustain their work.
 - Mixed methods design combining national county-level data on disaster exposure and social capital, in-depth interviews and surveys with 80 CBO leaders across 35 states.
 - Found that recurrent FEMA-declared disaster exposure produces little measurable within-county change in bonding, bridging, or linking social capital, indicating that community social capital is comparatively stable at the national scale
 - Developed the Organizational Resilience Threat-Informed Investment Framework
 - Introduced a four-category typology of organizational condition showing that continued operation can conceal capacity depletion
- 2025-2026 **Global Resilience Institute, Northeastern University, Pre-Doctoral Fellow**
PIs: Dr. Stephen Flynn and Dr. Kristin Raub
- First authored \$400K NSF Science of Organizations proposal (under review)
 - Assisted with co-development of a tool to make NOAA's National Water Model more accessible for community decision-makers in VT and MO
 - Led data collection and analysis of community resilience indicators for NOAA-funded project in the US Virgin Islands
- 2023-2024 **Research Assistant, NSF-funded project: Private Governance and Climate Change**
PIs: Dr. Sara Constantino and Dr. Alicia Cooperman
- Investigated individual-level responses to climate pressures along Gulf Coast
 - Coordinated fieldwork in Galveston and Brownsville, TX
 - Led qualitative data collection and analysis for multi-researcher team: conducted in-person interviews, managed intercoder agreement, and led data coding in ATLAS.ti

- 2021-2023 **Research Assistant, NSF-funded project: Innovation Networks: The Creation and Diffusion of Gender Equity Ideas in Universities**
PIs: Dr. Kathrin Zippel and Dr. Laura Nelson
- Contributed to study design and implementation examining how professional networks shape organizational change during crisis using a Communities of Practice framework
 - Conducted 46 interviews with university administrators and faculty; coded and analyzed full dataset in ATLAS.ti
 - Second author on two peer-reviewed publications

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018-2020 **Coastal Resources Manager, U.S. Peace Corps.** Marinduque, Philippines
 Joint appointment with Provincial Government Environmental and Natural Resources Office and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office
- Monitored the effects of the 2019 El Niño on coral bleaching across 4 MPAs
 - Facilitated submission of grant proposal with Dept. of Education to develop children's book on holistic disaster risk reduction and preparedness for elementary learners
 - Coordinated 3 one-week EcoArt Summer Camps to engage over 100 youth in conversations around local climate change, sustainable agriculture, and zero waste
- 2017-2018 **Regional Preparedness Coordinator, AmeriCorps.** Oakland, CA
- Designed and implemented youth disaster education program in 13 middle schools
 - Recruited and trained multi-lingual volunteers
 - Educated 1,500+ underserved students in disaster preparedness
 - Served 500+ hours as a disaster responder in the areas of mass care and casework
- 2015 **Geospatial Modeling Assistant, Conservation Science Partners.** Truckee, CA
- Conducted geospatial and remote sensing analysis using ArcGIS
 - Synthesized ecological and population models of invasive cheatgrass in Nevada
 - Collaborated in the creation of the Global Land Use Emergent Database

IMPACT PRODUCTS

[Cumulative Exposure Map](#) (2026): Built an interactive map visualizing county-level cumulative federal disaster exposure (2000–2024), allowing researchers, practitioners, and the public to explore how cumulative disaster burden shapes the communities in which local organizations operate.

[EcoArt Camp Pilot Program](#) (2019): Designed and implemented pilot environmental initiative to engage Filipino youth in local conservation, climate change, organic agriculture, and zero waste initiatives in the island province of Marinduque. The week-long camp was held in three remote coastal communities in the Philippines. Engaging 100+ students between the ages of 9-12 years old.

[Race to Preparedness](#) (2018): Red Cross Community Disaster Education focused only on elementary and high school. I developed the Race to Preparedness as a pilot curriculum to better engage middle school youth in disaster education. In the first two months of the program, 560 students were educated.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2026 **Teaching Assistant, SOCL: Sociology of Health and Illness.** Dr. Gabriel Santos, Northeastern University. Spring.
- Teaching Assistant, SOCL: Gender in a Changing Society.** Dr. Eileen Otis, Northeastern University. Spring.
- 2021 **Teaching Assistant, ANTH: Global Markets, Local Cultures.** Dr. Nina Sylvanus, Northeastern University. Spring.
- 2020 **Teaching Assistant, ANTH: Peoples and Cultures.** Dr. Alan Klein, Northeastern University. Fall.
- 2017 **Environmental Educator,** Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES). Aspen, CO. Summer.
- 2016-2017 **English Language Educator,** Teachers for Vietnam Fellowship. Can Tho, Vietnam.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- 2026-2028 **Climate Resilience Community Liaison,** Town of Swampscott (2 years)
Serving as one of five selected liaisons to translate between town staff and diverse community voices, facilitate trust in neighborhoods not typically engaged by town hall, and ensure resilience planning reflects lived experiences.
- 2017 **NorCal Wildfires Disaster Responder,** Santa Rosa, CA (200 hours)
Managed night shift at Red Cross Shelter for Tubbs Fire evacuees for 2 weeks.
Provided financial and mental health resources for additional 2 weeks as a caseworker.
- 2017 **Hurricane Harvey Disaster Responder,** Houston, TX (100 hours)
Conducted search-and-feed missions in impacted neighborhoods.
Served lunch and dinner to 300-400 people daily for 2 weeks from Response Vehicle.
- 2016-2017 **Volunteer English Language Educator.** Can Tho, Vietnam (1 year)
Taught English basics and conversational skills twice weekly at a rural high school.

LEADERSHIP

- Elected Representative, *Peace Corps Philippines-Volunteer Advisory Committee*, 2019-2020
- Founder and President, *Pitzer College Green Initiative Fund*, 2014-2016

GRADUATE METHODS COURSEWORK

2023 (Summer)	Data Science and Text Analysis (in R) through U Michigan ICPSR Program
2022 (Fall)	GIS for Urban/Regional Policy (in ArcGIS)
2022 (Spring)	Social Network Analysis (in R)
2021 (Spring)	Research Methods in Social Science
2020 (Fall)	Analyzing Complex Digital Data (in Python)
2020 (Fall)	Intro to Computational Statistics (in R)

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

2025-Present	Global Resilience Institute (Northeastern University)
2020-Present	Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute (Northeastern University)
2020-Present	Aldrich Resilience Lab