

J. Huntley Compton

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental Demography, Climate Mobility, Livelihood Adaptation, Resource Security, Rural Coastal Communities, Small Island Developing States, Disaster Recovery, Migration and Development

EDUCATION

In progress	Ph.D. The Pennsylvania State University (PSU), State College, PA. Dual Degree: Rural Sociology; Demography Advisor: Dr. Brian Thiede
2022	M.S. The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA. Degree: Sustainable International Development Advisor: Dr. Lawrence Simon Thesis: <i>Climate Mobility: A Catalyst for East Caribbean Development?</i>
2017	B.M.S. University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Omaha, NE. Degree: Multidisciplinary Studies; Political Science, History, Sociology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2026-present	Research Assistant, Spatial and Environmental Wellbeing Lab, Pennsylvania State University, Dr. Ryan Thombs, Dr. Paige Kelly State College, Pennsylvania
2024-present	Research Assistant, Pennsylvania State University, Dr. Brian Thiede State College, Pennsylvania
2024-2025	Research Assistant, Environmental Demography Network (EDeN) Lab, Pennsylvania State University, Dr. Guangqing Chi Contributing to the POLARIS Project (NSF #1927827) and RETRACE Project (NSF #2420587).
2023-2024	Master's Thesis, Brandeis University Waltham, Massachusetts Climate Mobility as a Development Catalyst for Caribbean Small Island Developing States.
2023-2024	Research Assistant, Center for Global Development and Sustainability Brandeis University

DISSERTATION RESEARCH IN DEVELOPMENT

2025-present Mobility under Coastal Constraint, Pennsylvania State University
Paper 1: Examines how coastal hazards and erosion reshape within-island population redistribution across Small Island Developing States.
Paper 2: Compares displacement and return regimes after Hurricane Maria in Dominica using IOM DTM data.
Paper 3: Analyzes how pre-event demographic trajectories shape household coping flexibility in coastal Dominica and Grenada.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023-2024 Guest Instructor, Climate Migration Workshop, The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University
Waltham, Massachusetts
2023-2024 Course Assistant, The Heller School for Social Policy and Management
Waltham, Massachusetts
Courses: Shifting Developing Paradigms; Development Aid; Introduction to Demography; Planning and Implementation; Contemporary Issues in African Development; Measurement of Income Inequality; Survey Design and Development.

SCHOLARSHIP

Manuscripts in Preparation

2024-present Educational Attainment and Climate Shocks Using MICS Microdata Evidence.
Manuscript in preparation, Pennsylvania State University.
Authors: J. Huntley Compton, Dr. Brian Thiede

Conference Papers

2025-present Perception Years, Climate Thresholds, and Community Memory in Alaska's Upper Copper River Basin.
Conference paper, Pennsylvania State University.
Authors: J. Huntley Compton, Dr. Guangqing Chi, Dr. Erika Gavenus

APPLIED AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024-2026 Sustainability and Resiliency Consultant, UNSDSN Black Cleveland Audit, Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC)
Cleveland, Ohio
2023-2024 Sustainable Development Intern, The Cleveland Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
2020-2022 Operations Manager, EZPOLITIX, LLC
Omaha, Nebraska
2019-2022 Business Development Consultant, The Asteroid House
Omaha, Nebraska
2019 Congressional Intern, Office of Congressman Don Bacon

Omaha, Nebraska

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024-2025	Bunton Waller Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University
2022-2023	Heller Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship, Brandeis University

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2024-present	Manuscript Reviewer, Population and Environment
2023-2024	Editorial Assistant, CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion
2023	Assistant Conference Coordinator, Sixth International Conference on the Unfinished Legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
2022-2023	Delta Scholars Week Co-Host (Brandeis Day), Brandeis University
2023-present	Graduate Association and Working Group Participation, Pennsylvania State University and University of Wisconsin Demography Graduate Association, Treasurer; Rural Sociology Graduate Association; Population and Environment Working Group; Heller Awards Committee.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association; Eastern Sociological Society; Population Association of America; Rural Sociological Society; Society for International Development (SID-US).

METHODS, SOFTWARE, AND TRAINING

Statistical software: Stata SE 18 (data cleaning, coding, and analysis).

GIS and mapping: QGIS, ArcGIS, Story Maps.

Methods: survey design and development; interdisciplinary research design; monitoring and evaluation; mixed-methods research.

Research ethics and training: CITI Responsible Conduct of Research; CITI Social and Behavioral Research; CITI International Research - SBR; CQ Equity and Inclusion Masterclass.