

EMILY C. MELVIN

PhD Candidate, Marine Science and Conservation
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EDUCATION

- 2023-Present **Duke University**
PhD (expected, May 2027), Marine Science and Conservation (Nicholas School of the Environment), Certificate in College Teaching
- 2020-2022 **The University of Southern Mississippi**
PhD Student, Coastal Sciences (School of Ocean Science and Engineering)
- 2020 **Duke University**
Master of Environmental Management (Concentration in Coastal Environmental Management), Certificate in International Development Policy
- 2008 **University of Minnesota Law School**
Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif
- 2003 **University of Wisconsin-Madison**
B.S., Zoology and Psychology

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2026 James B. Duke International Research Fellowship (**\$32,000**)
- 2025 Student Research Grant, Society of Wetland Scientists (**\$1,000**)
- 2025 Bass Instructional Fellowship: Instructor of Record (**\$15,750**)
- 2025 Summer Research Fellowship (**\$10,000**)
- 2025 Global Student Research Fund, Duke Office of Global Affairs (**\$2000**)
- 2024 Coastal and Marine Research Group Postgraduate Prize, Royal Geographical Society (**£100**)
- 2024 Ph.D Computational Fellowship Mentor, Duke Center for Computational Thinking (**\$8,500.00**)
- 2023 Global Student Research Fund, Duke University Office of Global Affairs (**\$1815**)
- 2023 Ph.D Computational Fellowship, Duke Center for Computational Thinking (**\$9,768.44**)
- 2023 Norbert P. Psuty Paper Merit Award, American Association of Geographers—Coastal and Marine Specialty Group (**\$300**)
- 2023 Conference Award for Pre-Candidacy Students, Duke University (**\$525**)
- 2020-2022 Graduate Fellowship in Coastal Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi (**full stipend and tuition**)
- 2022 Community Economies Institute scholarship to attend summer course (**\$500**)
- 2022 American Association of Geographers—Cultural and Political Ecology Student Research Grant (**\$1,000**)
- 2022 Coastal Sciences Student Travel Award, University of Southern Mississippi (**\$500**)
- 2021-2022 Nick Baron Memorial Marine Education Endowment, University of Southern Mississippi (**\$2505**)

2021	Graduate Competitive Travel Grant, University of Southern Mississippi (\$500)
2020	Graduate Competitive Travel Grant, University of Southern Mississippi (\$99)
2021	American Association of Geographers—Human Dimensions of Global Change Student Research Grant (\$500)
2018-2020	Safrit Scholarship, Duke University \$20,000)
2019	Duke University Center for International and Global Studies Graduate Award for Research and Training (\$1,000)
2019	Duke University Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies Graduate Student Research Award (\$2,000)
2019	Nicholas School of the Environment, Kuzmier-Lee-Nikitine Fund Summer Enrichment Award (\$1,000)
2008	Burton Award for Outstanding Legal Writing (national writing award)
2008	Order of the Coif, University of Minnesota
2008	ALI-ABA Scholarship & Leadership Award, University of Minnesota
2005-2008	Dean's List with an "A" Average, University of Minnesota
2005-2008	Book Award (for highest grade in class): Patents, Contracts, Taxation, Business Associations / Corporation, University of Minnesota
2003	Hilldale Undergraduate Research Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$4,000)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political ecology; diverse and community economies; ocean and coastal geographies and governance; critical ocean geographies; post-development and alternative futures; Caribbean and island geographies; environmental justice; science and technology studies; legal geographies

PUBLICATIONS

In review	Gangadharan, D., Cambridge, N., Gillette, M.B., McCormack, F., Jayaraman, N., Melvin, E. , Smith, H., Stroud, S., and St. Martin, K. From blue economy to blue communities: Methods that (help) make blue communities matter. <i>Oceans and Society</i>
In press	Havice, E., Gray, N., Hartman Davies, O., Lagroux, N., Lehman, J., Melvin, E. , Peters, K., Quesnot, T., Vadrot, A., and Campbell, L., Many knowledges for One Ocean. <i>npj Ocean Sustainability</i>
2026	Melvin, E.C. , Zurita Posas, A.P., Carmine, G., Havice, E., and Campbell, L.M. Mapping Ocean Worlds Through the Data Revolution. <i>Political Geography</i> . doi: 10.1016/j.polgeo.2026.103620
2026	Lehman, J., Campbell, L.M., Gray, N.J., Gruby, R.L., Havice, E., Melvin, E.C. , Polepalli, S.N., The Future of Global Ocean Observations: Five Scenarios. <i>npj Ocean Sustainability</i> . doi: 10.1038/s44183-026-00219-9
2026	Melvin, E.C. , Marine Genetic Resources, Patents, and the Commodification of Knowledge on the High Seas (and beyond). <i>Commodity Frontiers</i> , 8, 43–49. doi: 10.26300/jrb8-fw70
2023	Melvin, E.C. , Acton, L. and Campbell, L.M. (Un)claiming rights, resources, and ocean spaces: Marine genetic resources and area-based management tools in high seas governance negotiations. <i>Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space</i> . 6(3): 1661-1681. doi: 10.1177/25148486221132832

- 2022 Campbell, L., Fail, R., Horan, R., Acton, L., Blackwatters, J., Garcia Lozano, A., Gray, N., Gruby, R., **Melvin, E.**, Murray, G., & Wiehe, E. Architecture and agency for equity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. 13:100144. *Earth System Governance*. doi: 10.1016/j.esg.2022.100144
- 2020 Schmaltz, E.*, **Melvin, E.C.***, Diana, Z.*, Gunady, E.F., Rittschof, D., Somarelli, J.A., Virdin, J., & Dunphy-Daly, M.M. Plastic pollution solutions: Emerging technologies to prevent and collect marine plastic pollution. *Environment International*. 144:106067 doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2020.106067 *Co-Lead Authors
- 2020 Smith, C., Rudd, M., Gittman, R.K., **Melvin, E.C.**, Patterson, V., Renzi, J., Wellman, E., & Silliman, B. Coming to terms with living shorelines: A scoping review of novel restoration strategies for shoreline protection. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. 7:434. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2020.00434
- 2007 **Melvin, E.C.** An unacceptable exception: The ramifications of physician immunity from medical procedure patent infringement liability, *Minnesota Law Review*, 91(4), 1088-1112. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=982228>

Datasets

- 2025 **Melvin, E.**, Havice, E., Drakopoulos, L., Zurita Posas, A., Crisp, K., Gulino, J., Kingery, Z., Patel, S., Sajewski, A., Walsh, H., & Campbell, L. *Catalog of Ocean Data Science Initiatives (v. 2)* [Dataset]. Carolina Digital Repository. https://cdr.lib.unc.edu/concern/data_sets/9593v914h?locale=en
- 2025 **Melvin, E.**, Zurita-Posas, A., Havice, E., Campbell, L.M. *Analysis of Ocean Data Science Initiatives' Geospatial Data Visualizations* [Dataset]. Carolina Digital Repository. https://cdr.lib.unc.edu/concern/data_sets/v405sr32m?locale=en

Podcasts and Recorded Content

- 2021 **Melvin, E.** Landscape as Concept. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4nKIgj8WGo&t=48s>
- 2020 **Melvin, E.** and Rosing, K. Tourism in the Bahamas, *Seas the Day*. Episode 10. <https://sites.nicholas.duke.edu/seastheday/2021/01/20/episode-10-tourism-in-the-bahamas/>

Thesis

- 2020 **Melvin, E.C.** Tourism, environmental stewardship, and community engagement on Andros, Island, Bahamas. Master's Thesis, Duke University. Available at <https://dukespace.lib.duke.edu/dspace/handle/10161/20472>

Published Abstracts

- 2025 **Melvin, E.** Fixing Ownership of Mobile Resources? How Intellectual Property Rights Could Complicate Access and Benefits Sharing Regimes for Marine Genetic Resources. One Ocean Science Congress. <https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/OOS2025/OOS2025-841.html>
- 2024 **Melvin, E.C.**, Zurita Posas, A., Carmine, G., Havice, E., Campbell, LM. Visualizing Digital Data and Ocean World-Making. Coastal and Marine Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers. <https://coastalmarineresearchgroup.wordpress.com/conferences-events/past-events/annual-cmrg-postgraduate-researcher-presentation-competition/2024-2-2/>

- 2021 **Melvin, E.C.**, Acton, L., Campbell, L.M. 2021. Complicating Conservation: How Marine Genetic Resources Challenge High Seas Biodiversity Negotiations. Proceedings of the Seventy-Fourth Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, 74(13-14).
<https://proceedings.gcfi.org/proceedings/complicating-conservation-how-marine-genetic-resources-challenge-high-seas-biodiversity-negotiations/>

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

Conference and Workshop Presentations

- 2025 “Blue Communities and ~~(in)~~ Visibility on the Global Stage: Reading for Difference Through Collaborative Event Ethnography. Liviana Conference, Community Economies Research Network, Virtual. Session: Making (Blue) Communities Matter: Research Practices
- 2025 “Fixing Ownership of Mobile Resources? How Intellectual Property Rights Could Complicate Access and Benefits Sharing Regimes for Marine Genetic Resources.” One Ocean Science Congress, Nice France. Session: Tools, Data, and Collaboration to Support Equitable Access to Marine Genetic Resources, Capacity Sharing, and Benefit Sharing
- 2025 “Visualizing Digital Data: Possibilities for Making Ocean Worlds.” American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Detroit Michigan. Session: Cartographies for a Changing Planet.
- 2024 “Visualizing Ocean Data and Ocean Worldmaking.” Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers, London, England. (Coastal and Marine Specialty Group Postgraduate Prize for best student paper)
- 2023 “Rethinking the Blue Economy: A Community Economies Approach to Post-Disaster Development.” Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Nassau, The Bahamas. Session: Governance.
- 2023 “How Maps Make Oceans: Digital Data and Ocean World-Making.” Digital Oceans Governance Lab Workshop, Beaufort, North Carolina.
- 2023 “Blue Possibilities: Reading for Diversity within Grand Bahama’s Blue Economy.” American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Denver Colorado. Session: Blue Economy (Norbert P. Psuty Paper Merit Award for best graduate student paper presentation, Coastal and Marine Specialty Group)
- 2022 “Re-inventing the Blue Economy: Ocean Innovation as a Strategy for Recovery in Grand Bahama.” Liviana Conference, Community Economies Research Network, Virtual. Session: Reimagining the Blue Economy, Enacting other Marine Futures.
- 2022 “The Blue Economy as a Strategy for Re-Imagining Post-Disaster Development in Grand Bahama.” Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers Annual International Meeting, Newcastle England (attended virtually). Session: Emerging Research in Political Geography.
- 2022 “Management Beyond Boundaries: How Marine Genetic Resources Reveal the Limitations of Territorial Forms of Governance.” Graduate Student Symposium, Ocean Springs Mississippi.
- 2022 “Blue economy and the (re)production of ocean space in the Bahamas.” American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, New York New York (converted to

- virtual). Session: “Engaged” Perspectives: Assessing the Spatiality and Performance of “Blue” Markets
- 2021 “Complicating conservation: How marine genetic resources challenge high seas biodiversity negotiations.” Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference (converted to virtual).
- 2021 “(Un)claiming rights, resources, and ocean spaces: Marine genetic resources and area-based management tools in high seas governance negotiations.”
- Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers Annual International Meeting, London England (attended virtually). Session: Ocean Governance Beyond (and Against) Borders
 - American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Seattle Washington (converted to virtual). Session: The Institutional Production of Territory: State Expansion in a ‘Nationalist’ Age
 - University of Southern Mississippi Graduate Student Symposium. Virtual.
- 2020 “Tourism, environmental stewardship, and community engagement on Andros Island, Bahamas.” Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment Masters Symposium. Virtual.

Conference Panels

- 2025 Panelist: “Making (Blue) Communities Matter: Research Practices.” Liviana Conference, Community Economies Research Network, Virtual.

Conference Organization and Moderation

- 2025 Co-moderator: “Making (Blue) Communities Matter: Voices from the Field.” Liviana Conference, Community Economies Research Network, Virtual.
- 2025 Organizer and co-moderator: “How do we engage decolonial theory to confront racialized capitalism and white supremacy in the Americas?” Liviana Conference, Community Economies Research Network, Virtual.

Public Lectures

- 2026 “Re-Thinking the Blue Economy through Environmental Restoration: A Community Economies Approach.” Bahamas National Trust Public Lecture Series. Rand Nature Centre, Freeport, Grand Bahama.

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

- Ongoing **Fragments of Possibility: Assembling Diverse Blue Economies.** Doctoral dissertation research. Advised by Dr. Lisa Campbell.
- 2023-2026 **Making Ocean Worlds: The Big Data Revolution and Oceans Governance.** PIs: Dr. Lisa Campbell and Dr. Elizabeth Havice. Project of the Digital Oceans Governance Lab. Funded by National Science Foundation Human-Environment and Geographical Sciences Program.
- 2020-2023 **Marine Genetic Resources and Area-Based Management Tools in High Seas Governance Negotiations.** PI: Dr. Leslie Acton. Funded by the University of Southern Mississippi.

- 2019-2020 **Connecting for Resilience: Understanding Community Networks and Their Role in Disaster Preparedness and Response.** PI: Dr. Lisa Campbell. Funded by NC Sea Grant.
- 2019-2020 **Tourism, Environmental Stewardship, and Community Engagement on Andros Island, Bahamas.** Master's Research advised by Dr. Lisa Campbell. Funded by Duke University.
- 2019-2020 **Bioremediation of Plastic Pollution to Conserve Marine Biodiversity.** PI: Dr. Meagan Dunphy-Daly. Funded by Duke University and Bass Connections.

RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT

- 2023-2024 **Research Assistant**, Duke University Marine Lab. PI: Dr. Lisa M. Campbell
- 2020-2022 **Graduate Assistant**, University of Southern Mississippi. PI: Dr. Leslie Acton
- 2019-2020 **Research Assistant**, Duke University Marine Lab. PI: Dr. Lisa M. Campbell

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

Teaching and Mentorship Experience

- Ongoing **Mentor/Supervisor**, Masters and REU Students, Duke University
- 2026 **Guest Lecturer**, Coastal Zone Management (Inst: Dr. Kelly Kingon), University of The Bahamas: North (guest lectures: International Law of the Sea; Blue Economy: Critiques and Possibilities)
- 2026 **Guest Lecturer**, Sustainable Tourism (Inst: Tarran Simms), University of The Bahamas (guest lecture: Blue Economy: Critiques and Possibilities)
- Fall 2025 **Instructor of Record**, MARSCI 303, Ocean Justice
- Fall 2025 **Supervisor**, MARSCI 393, Research and Independent Study
- Spring 2025 **Teaching Assistant**, ENVIRON 551, International Conservation and Development (Inst: Dr. Lisa Campbell) (podcast lab instructor; guest lecture:)
- Spring 2023 **Teaching Assistant**, ENVIRON 335, Drones in Marine Biology, Ecology, and Conservation (Inst: Dr. David Johnston), Duke University (guest lecture: Emerging Technologies and Governance: Considering Stakeholders in Using Technology for Science)
- 2023 **Guest Lecturer**, Sustainable Tourism (Inst: Tarran Simms), University of the Bahamas (guest lecture: Tourism and the Blue Economy)
- Fall 2022 **Adjunct Faculty**, MAR 417, Ocean Policy and Management, University of Southern Mississippi (sole instructor of record for writing-intensive undergraduate course required for marine science degree; developed curriculum and re-designed course)
- 2020-2022 Informal Mentor, Master's Students, University of Southern Mississippi (provide informal mentorship to multiple master's students, including providing substantive feedback on proposals and other written products)
- 2022 **Guest Lecturer**, COA 690-4981, Aquatic Ecosystem Management (Inst: Dr. Leila Hamdan and Dr. Leslie Acton, University of Southern Mississippi (guest lecture: International Oceans Governance)

- 2021 **Teaching Assistant**, COA 443/543 and COA 443L/543L, Marine Mammals (Inst: Dr. Christiana Wittmaack), University of Southern Mississippi (guest lecture: Marine Mammal Management and Governance)
- 2006-2007 **Student Instructor**, Structured Study Group program, University of Minnesota Law School (led study sessions on property, contracts; developed individual tutoring program)

Research Project Advising

- 2026 Dear, M. The Role of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network within the Coral Reef Governance System [Duke University]. <https://hdl.handle.net/10161/34537>
- 2024 Gulino, J. Ocean Data Science Initiatives Engage in the Ocean Science-Policy Interface by Positioning their Data and Services as Policy Relevant [Duke University]. <https://hdl.handle.net/10161/30570>

Pedagogical Training

- Fall 2025 Teaching Triangles (Duke University), Dean Hugh Crumley
- Spring 2025 Facilitating Student Learning and Teaching Innovation (Duke University), Professor Jennie De Gagne
- Fall 2023 Teaching Diverse Learners (Duke University), Professor Courtnea Rainey
- Spring 2023 Inclusive STEM Teaching Project (<https://www.inclusivestemteaching.org>), Certified Participant

SELECTED SERVICE

Peer Reviewer: Environmental Politics; Progress in Environmental Geography; npj Ocean Sustainability; Geo: Geography and Environment

University Service

- 2025-2026 First Year Liaison and PhD Resource Coordinator, Duke Marine Lab
- 2024-2025 Graduate Student Representative, Marine Science and Conservation, Duke Marine Lab
- 2023-2024 PhD Liaison to Coastal Environmental Management Masters Students, Duke Marine Lab
- 2023 Member, PhD Advisory Committee for faculty search, Duke Marine Lab
- 2021-2022 President, Marine and Estuarine Graduate Student Association. University of Southern Mississippi
- 2021-2022 Student Representative, School of Ocean Science and Engineering Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. University of Southern Mississippi
- 2019 Volunteer, Marine Debris Program, Community Science Initiative, Duke Marine Lab
- 2018-2019 Administrative Coordinator, Ocean Policy Working Group, Duke University

Community Service

- 2019-Present Secretary, Board of Directors, Small Hope Bay Foundation, Andros Island, Bahamas
- 2023-Present Volunteer, Misplaced Mutts Dog Rescue, Beaufort NC

SKILLS

Qualitative data analysis (nVivo), Collaborative event ethnography, Survey design (Qualtrics), Statistical analysis (r, Excel), Data Visualization (r, Adobe InDesign/Illustrator), Global information

systems / geospatial analysis (ArcGIS Pro), Video/Audio editing (Adobe Audition, Wondershare Filmora), Photo editing (Adobe Lightroom/Photoshop Elements), German (Intermediate)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

2022-Present Community Economies Research Network
2022-Present Royal Geographical Society
2021-Present International Studies Association
2021-2023 Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
2020-Present Association of American Geographers

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017-Present Professional Association of Dive Instructors, Open Water SCUBA Instructor
2013-2017 Senior Litigation Associate, Latham & Watkins LLP, Chicago IL
2009-2013 Intellectual Property Associate, Mayer Brown LLP, Chicago IL
2008-2009 Judicial Law Clerk to Hon. Michael S. Kanne, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Lafayette, IN