

John Wesley Wiggins (he/him/his)

+1 (202) 580-9379 • jww620@umd.edu • john.w.wiggins310@gmail.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/j-wesley-w-0b8b65128/>

Education

College: University of Maryland- College Park; College Park, MD (August 2023 - Present)

Pursuing Ph.D. in **Environmental Health Sciences**

Princeton University; Princeton, NJ (August 2017- May 2021)

Bachelor of Arts in **Geosciences**; Certificate in **Environmental Studies**

Senior Independent Research: [Senior Independent Research: Sea-Level Rise on the Eastern Shore of](#)

[Maryland: Vulnerability, Adaptation, Environmental Justice](#)

Study Abroad: University of Cape Town; Cape Town, South Africa (February 2020 - June 2020)

Professional Experience

University of Maryland, College Park (August 2023 - Present)

Graduate Assistant for the Urban Equity Collaborative (UEC)

- Engage in the interdisciplinary research of the UEC, including research conceptualization, data collection, research analysis, and write-ups
- Coordinate and schedule public engagement activities such as UEC workshops
- Facilitate UEC workshop sessions
- Assist the UEC Project Manager in identifying potential invitees to UEC public engagement activities
- Assist in the collection of materials or data needed for all future grant submissions or grant-reporting requirements
- Assist in developing training/capacity building on community-based participatory research practices and policy advocacy training for community fellows and affiliated UMD faculty and students.

Young, Gifted & Green (February 2023 -Present)

Washington, DC Climate Resiliency Trainer

- Coordinate and facilitate climate resilience training for DC residents focused on personal response to extreme weather, extreme temperatures, and lead contamination events

Environmental Protection Agency, Water Infrastructure and Cybersecurity Resilience Division (June 2021 - April 2023)

ORISE Fellow with the Creating Resilient Water Utilities (CRWU) Initiative (<https://www.epa.gov/crwu>)

- Collaborated with EPA Staff, water sector stakeholders, and other federal agencies to assist water systems in the United States in increasing resilience to climate change impacts
- Worked with drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities to develop climate adaptation and resilience plans
- Promoted a clear understanding of complex climate science into accessible presentations, documents, and outreach materials
- Conducted workshops for multiple U.S. Climate Regions with multiple speakers and assist with public outreach
- Led the composition of a program newsletter to deliver information to partners and interested stakeholders
- Updated outreach materials such as PowerPoint presentations, publications, and web content to ensure they include new content and reflect CRWU's mission
- Developed metrics to measure the division's environmental justice impact
- Developed map products to display climate models crucial for water sector utility owners and operators
- Maintained effective relationships with internal and external shareholders

Young, Gifted, and Green, Environmental Justice Griot Program (July 2022 - October 2022)

Washington, DC EJ Griot (Volunteer Initiative)

- Analyzed DC lead legislation focused on health equity and climate justice
- Built knowledge and skills to testify before public officials about topics relating to environmental justice
- Developed relationships with local DC non-profits and the DC Department of Energy and Environment

Princeton University Office of Sustainability (October 2018 - May 2021)

Sustainable Composting Research at Princeton Lab Operational Assistant

- Assisted in the day-to-day operations of loading and off-loading food scraps from the various cafes around Princeton University's campus to create compost to be used as a soil amendment on campus grounds
- Developed written content for release to the general public
- Conducted interviews with Princeton Faculty and condensed complex scientific jargon for engagement with the general public

Princeton University Office of Sustainability (February 2019 - May 2021)

Sustainability Representatives (<https://tigersgogreen.princeton.edu/>)

- Promoted sustainability on Princeton University's campus through student engagement in study breaks
- Wrote and edited content on the EcoReps Blog
- Organized on-campus events that allowed students to practice sustainable living

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (June 2019 - August 2019)

Princeton Internships in Civic Service Intern

- Created a dashboard that presents data from the Coastal Zone Management Program and the National Estuarine Research Reserve using Google DataStudio to assist the programs in keeping track of specific site metrics like participation, management, and engagement
- Used standard data gathering and analysis techniques to collect and review technical information
- Developed written communication sufficient to respond to requests for general information

The National Museum of Natural History; Washington, DC (June 2014- June 2017)

Visitor Engagement Intern

- Compiled morphological data on fossil foraminifera for a paleobiology research project
- Photographed and categorized microscopic organisms to measure the effect of ocean acidification on biodiversity
- Presented research findings to hundreds of visitors and to a community of peers
- Communicated verbally procedural requirements and complex scientific information to a variety of internal and external audiences

Research Experience

Department of Geoscience, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey (August 2020 - May 2021)

Senior Year Independent Research Project; Oppenheimer Lab

(<http://arks.princeton.edu/ark:/88435/dsp0102870z979>)

- Developed a research question to analyze climate change and sea-level rise in the Chesapeake Bay
- Conducted a literature review of current sea-level rise adaptation and resilience efforts and the effect of adaptation programs on African American communities on the Eastern Shore of Maryland
- Collaborated with Princeton Survey Research Center and L2 Incorporated to develop and host a climate adaptation questionnaire on Qualtrics targeting community members in Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, and Wicomico counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland
- Visualized and analyzed demographic data, survey results, and sea-level rise data using Microsoft Excel, R Studio and QGIS
- Composed a 50-page research paper for University Staff and Faculty based on the findings of my research
- Created a Powerpoint presentation to communicate the research findings to a broad audience and virtually presented it to faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Geosciences

Princeton University John H. Pace Jr. '30 Center for Civic Engagement (July 2020 - August 2020)

Recognizing Inequities and Standing for Equality(RISE) Intern (<https://geo-context.github.io/>)

- Researched critical race theory and the impacts of systemic racism on the field of geosciences
- Designed educational materials discussing the scientific racism present in the work of 19th-century geoscientists
- Drafted supplementary material for lecturers in association with the California Institute of Technology

Oceanography Department, University of Cape Town; Cape Town, South Africa (February 2020 - May 2020)

Junior Year Independent Research (Spring Semester); Fawcett Lab

- Analyze stable isotope data alongside nutrient data in the Indian Ocean using Excel and R Studio
- Visualized data using Ocean Data View and R Studio
- Developed conclusion based on data analysis and a literature review
- Composed my findings in a 20-page research paper to submit to University faculty and staff

Department of Geoscience, Princeton University; Princeton, New Jersey (September 2019 - January 2020)

Junior Year Independent Research (Fall Semester); Sigman Lab

- Conducted laboratory work and collaborated with other members of the team to collect and prepare samples of shark teeth for a mass spectrometer
- Analyzed the isotopic composition of Nitrogen in shark teeth using Microsoft Excel and R Studio
- Visualized data for use in a research paper using R Studio
- Composed a 15-page research paper summarizing my findings for submittal to University faculty and staff
- Created a research poster to demonstrate the research findings

Department of Geoscience, Princeton University; Princeton, New Jersey (June 2018 - August 2018)

Princeton Environmental Institute Research Intern, Ward Lab

- Extracted DNA from samples of different bacteria and performed polymerase chain reaction procedure
- Presented research outcomes to a group of Princeton faculty and peers

Skills

Microsoft Office Suite • Public Speaking • Video Editing Software (Da Vinci Resolve, Adobe Premiere Pro) • Beginner's Spanish • Google Data Studio • Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok) • WordPress • R Studio • Geographical Information Systems (QGIS and ArcGIS)

Publications and Media

ISEE North America Chapter (NAC) Conference 2026 Abstracts. (2026). *Environmental Epidemiology*, 10(1S), e494.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/EE9.0000000000000494>

Wiggins, J. W., Zimmerman, K., Baranowski, C., Fries, S., & Horansky, A. (2022). Adapting to a Changing Climate: EPA's Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool. *Journal AWWA*, 114(10), 42–50.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/awwa.2016>

Zimmerman, Klara; **Wiggins, Wesley**; Baranowski, Curt; Fries, Steve; Horansky, Alex. (2022): Opflow; Volume 48; Issue 7; p 10-14. *Strengthen Climate Resilience*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/opfl.1713>

Leinbach, S., K. Matterson, **J.W. Wiggins**, L. Plaisance. 2020. Projecting impacts of ocean acidification on coral reefs: variation in micro-invertebrate diversity and abundance along a natural pH gradient in Papua New Guinea. Benthic Ecology Meeting. Wilmington, NC.

Pico, Tamara; Chen, Christine; Lau, Harriet C.P.; Olinger, Seth; **Wiggins, John Wesley**; Austermann, Jacky; et al. (2021): GeoContext: A social and political context for geoscience education. figshare. Online resource.

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.14158457>

EOS article: "Teaching Geoscience History In Context" by Kimberly Cartier. Interview with GeoContext Team:

<https://eos.org/articles/teaching-geoscience-history-in-context>

Washington Informer: "Spotlighting Black Environmentalists: A Q&A with Wesley Wiggins" by Kayla Benjamin.

<https://www.washingtoninformer.com/spotlighting-black-environmentalists-a-qa-with-wesley-wiggins/>

Awards

Robert S. and Barbara A. Gold Public Health Innovation Award (May 2026)

Black Millennials for Flint - Young, Gifted and Green 40 under 40 Award (September 2023)

Chairman's Award - Princeton University's Department of Geosciences (May 2021)

Departmental High Honors - Princeton University's Department of Geosciences (May 2021)

Henry Horn's Prize (First Place) - Princeton University's Program in Environmental Studies (May 2021)

- Awarded to a senior who has produced the best video presentation of their independent research for a broad audience. Established in memory of Henry Horn, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, emeritus, and founding director of the Program in Environmental Studies.

Above and Beyond Award (Youth Programs) - Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (April 2016)

Professional Memberships

International Society of Environmental Epidemiology - Member since 2025

American Public Health Association - Member since 2023

Chesapeake AWWA | American Water Works Association - Member since 2023