

Suzanne Spitzer

Curriculum vitae

PhD Candidate
Integration & Application Network
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

My goal is to pursue a career in environmental management with focuses in science communication, citizen science, and community engagement. I am interested in exploring the interface of cultural anthropology and ecology and conducting applied research in order to solve transdisciplinary problems related to ecosystem management and ecological restoration.

EDUCATION

- 2015-present University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)**
PhD student in Environment and Society
Marine Estuarine Environmental Science (MEES) Graduate Program
Advisor: William C. Dennison
Committee members: Michael Paolisso, Andrea Wiggins, Judith O'Neil, Astrid Caldas
- 2013 University of Notre Dame**
Bachelor of Science in Biology and Anthropology

RELEVANT RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Finalist – Upcoming in 2021

Integration & Application Network (IAN) – UMCES

- 2015-present Graduate Assistant**
- Collaborate with partners in the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative to integrate citizen scientists and their data into the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership
 - Assist with science communication projects, including environmental report cards
 - Developed and tested a submerged aquatic vegetation monitoring protocol and training program for citizen scientists in the Chesapeake Bay
 - Assisted UMCES faculty with the Maryland Legislative Session (2018, 2019)
- 2014 Science Communication Intern**
- Collaborated with partners and clients to develop science communication products, including report cards, conference posters, conceptual diagrams, and professional reports

Marine Biological Laboratory – Ecosystems Center

- 2013-2014 Field and Research Assistant – Landscape Management and Restoration Ecology**
- Conducted ecological field experiments and behavioral observations to examine effects of cattle grazing and mechanical mowing in structuring coastal vegetation patterns
 - Engineered an organizational system for hundreds of raw data files, digitized data from field notebooks, identified and corrected inconsistencies, and inventoried all data
 - Conducted a literature review and co-authored a scientific paper (*In prep.*)

University of Notre Dame Department of Biological Sciences

- 2011-2013 Undergraduate Research Assistant – Behavioral Ecology and Disease Ecology**
- Researched parasite diversity/abundance and social dominance in wild male baboons
 - Expert in standard parasitological techniques (i.e., fecal flotation and sedimentation)

SERVICE

- 2018-present MEES Environment and Society Foundation Program Committee**
Currently serving as a student representative on a committee alongside faculty from UMCES and University of Maryland College of Behavioral and Social Sciences developing curriculum, admission, and examination policies and procedures.
- 2019-present IAN Connections Committee**
Currently serving on a committee that is responsible for improving communication between staff at multiple offices and planning the annual staff retreat.
- 2019-present UMCES Self-Study Working Group**
Currently a member of a working group focused on UMCES governance, leadership, and administration as part of a self-study for accreditation with the Middle State's Commission on Higher Education.
- 2019 UMCES Committee for Mental Health Awareness**
Compiled an informational guide on the mental healthcare options near each UMCES lab and co-developed specific recommendations for institutional improvements.
- 2016 MEES Colloquium in Annapolis Program Committee**
Assisted in planning an annual conference for MEES students and faculty by developing informational materials, helping with logistics, and organizing a social activity.
- 2013 University of Notre Dame "Climate Change & the Common Good" Committee**
Served as the Logistics Coordinator and Organizational Assistant, and the sole student representative, on a committee to organize a multidisciplinary national conference

AWARDS

- 2020 Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship – University of Maryland Graduate School**
\$15,000 stipend and tuition to support one semester of focused dissertation writing
- 2020 Outstanding Teaching Assistant – University of Maryland Graduate School**
Annual award, represents the top 2% of all graduate assistants
- 2019 Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant – University of Maryland Graduate School**
\$400 for conference travel
- 2018 Outstanding Graduate Assistant – University of Maryland Graduate School**
Annual award, represents the top 2% of all graduate assistants
- 2017 Debbie Morrin-Nordlund Memorial Travel Award – MEES Graduate Program**
\$600 for conference travel

- 2017** **Dean's Fellowship – University of Maryland College Park College of Computer, Mathematical, & Natural Sciences**
\$5000 to support dissertation research
- 2013** **Dean's List – University of Notre Dame College of Science**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2019, 2018** **Environment and Society**
Co-designed this course; Instructors: M. Paolisso and W.C. Dennison; MEES
- 2017** **Healthy Rivers for All: Setting the course for sustainability with river basin health report cards**
Instructors: S. Costanzo, R.H. Kelsey, and W.C. Dennison; IAN
- 2017** **Science for Environmental Management**
Instructors: D. Boesch and W.C. Dennison; UMCES
- 2016** **Principles of Biology II Lab**
Supervisor: H. Lemke; University of Maryland Biological Science Program
- 2013, 2012** **Animal Behavior**
Instructor: E. Archie; University of Notre Dame Department of Biological Sciences
- 2012** **Biological Sciences I Lab**
Instructor: T.M. Olsen; University of Notre Dame Department of Biological Sciences

CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAININGS

- 2019** **Brooke Tully “Making Moves: Creating Conservation Movements” outreach and social marketing course**
- 2015** **IAN “Communicating Science Effectively” science communication course**
- 2013** **SCUBA Open Water Diver certification (PADI)**



CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Organized Sessions and Workshops

- Spitzer, S. (2019, Nov). “Using citizen science to address complex environmental problems.” Session convened for the Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation conference, Mobile, AL.
- Spitzer, S. (2019, Jun). “Transdisciplinary research approaches in Chesapeake Bay.” Session convened for the inaugural Chesapeake Studies conference, Salisbury, MD.

Spitzer, S. (2019, Mar). "Transdisciplinary approaches for researching socio-environmental systems." Session convened for the Society for Applied Anthropology conference, Portland, OR.

Fries, A., Donovan, E.C., & **Spitzer, S.** (2019, Mar). "Best practices in Science Communication." Workshop facilitated at the Citizen Science Association conference, Raleigh, NC.

Spitzer, S., Taillie, D., & Vargas-Nguyen, V. (2017, Nov). "Collaboration in Practice: Tools for Engagement." Session convened for the Chesapeake Watershed Forum, Shepherdstown, WV.

Invited Talks

Spitzer, S. (2020, May). "Tips for Young Scientists... from a young(ish) scientist." Talk presented for the Young Scientist Academy, online via zoom.

Spitzer, S. & Laumann, K.M (2018, Dec). "Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers: Highlights from the new volunteer monitoring program." Talk presented at Maryland Water Monitoring Conference, North Linthicum, MD.

Presentations

Spitzer, S. & Dennison, W.C. (2020, June). "Co-developing and evaluating a volunteer monitoring program for Chesapeake Bay" Lightning talk presented at the Science of Team Science conference, virtual on zoom.

Spitzer, S., Landry, J.B., Swanson, S., Laumann, K.M., & Dennison, W.C. (2019, Dec). "Collaborative development of a volunteer monitoring program for Chesapeake Bay submerged aquatic vegetation." Poster presented at the Maryland Water Monitoring Conference, North Linthicum, MD.

Also presented at:

(2019, Nov). Chesapeake Watershed Forum, Shepherdstown, WV.

(2019, Oct). Marine Estuarine and Environmental Science Colloquium, Baltimore, MD.

Spitzer, S., Landry, J.B., Dennison, W.C., Laumann, K.M., & Swanson, S. (2019, Nov). "Designing a citizen science program for monitoring Chesapeake Bay grasses." Talk presented Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation conference, Mobile, AL.

Spitzer, S. (2019, Jun). "Co-designing a citizen science program for monitoring submerged aquatic vegetation in the Chesapeake Bay." Talk presented at the inaugural Chesapeake Studies conference, Salisbury, MD.

Spitzer, S. (2019, Mar). "How are citizen scientists advancing Chesapeake Bay environmental science?" Talk presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology conference, Portland, OR.

Spitzer, S. (2019, Mar). "Collaborative development of a seagrass monitoring program for Chesapeake Bay citizen scientists." Lightning talk presented at the Citizen Science Association conference, Raleigh, NC.

Spitzer, S., Donovan, E.C., Fries, A., & Dennison, W.C. (2018, Jun). "Citizen science to support more inclusive Chesapeake Bay research." Poster presented at the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences Conference, Washington, D.C.

Also presented at:

(2018, Dec). Maryland Water Monitoring Conference, North Linthicum, MD.

(2018, Nov). Chesapeake Watershed Forum, Shepherdstown, WV.

(2018, Oct). Marine Estuarine and Environmental Science Colloquium, Frostburg, MD.

- Spitzer, S. (2018, Jun). “Designing a citizen science program that promotes collaborative knowledge production.” Lightning talk presented at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) Symposium— Boundary Spanning: Advances in Socio-Environmental Systems Research, Annapolis, MD.
- Spitzer, S., Dennison, W.C., & Donovan, E.C. (2018, May). “Collaborative team science supports integrative research in the Chesapeake Bay.” Talk presented at the Science of Team Science Conference, Galveston, TX.
- Spitzer, S. (2017, Nov). “Assessing the priorities of citizen scientists and resource managers for environmental monitoring.” Talk presented at the Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation conference, Providence, RI.
- Spitzer, S., Donovan, E.C., & Dennison, W.C. (2017, May). “Exploring the goals and motivations of citizen scientists in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.” Talk presented at the Citizen Science Association conference, Saint Paul, MN.
- Spitzer, S. (2013, Mar). “A Hierarchy of Health: Dominance Rank and Parasite Burden in Wild Male Baboons.” Poster presented at the Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference, South Bend, IN.
- Also presented at:
 (2012, May). University of Notre Dame College of Science Joint Annual Meeting, South Bend, IN.
 (2013, May). University of Notre Dame College of Science Joint Annual Meeting, South Bend, IN.

Departmental Talks

- Spitzer, S. (2019, Jun). “Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers: Introducing the Bay’s newest citizen science program.” Talk presented at the Horn Point Student Seminar Series, Cambridge, MD.
- Spitzer, S. (2018, Mar). “Understanding and engaging volunteer scientists in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.” Talk presented at the Horn Point Student Seminar Series, Cambridge, MD.
- Downard, S., Richards, C., Rivera, P., & **Spitzer, S.** (2017, Mar). “International Students at the Table: A Qualitative Study of Food Access, Knowledge, and Support.” Talk presented at the annual Practicing Anthropology Student Association AnthroPlus Student Conference, College Park, MD.
- Spitzer, S. & Dennison, W.C. (2016, Nov). “Tools for Integrating Traditional Environmental Science and Local Knowledge: Promoting Collaborative Learning with Conceptual Diagrams, Report Cards, and Citizen Science.” Talk presented at the University of Maryland Department of Anthropology E-lunch series, College Park, MD.
- Spitzer, S., Siemek, S., Hagedorn, J., & Vargas-Nguyen, V. (2015, Dec). “Upper Potomac Headwaters Report Card 2015.” Talk presented at the UMCES Appalachian Lab Watershed Moments Community Learning Series, Frostburg, MD.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- Laumann, K.M., Nastase, E.A., Vargas-Nguyen, V., Kelsey, R.H., Carew, A., Donovan, E.C., Fries, A.S., **Spitzer, S.E.**, & Dennison, W.C. (2019). [Moving beyond the ecosystem in ecosystem health report cards](#). *Environmental Practice*, 21(4), 216-229.

Testa, J.M., Clark, J.B., Dennison, W.C., Donovan, E.C., Fisher, A.W., Ni, W., Parker, M., Scavia, D., **Spitzer, S.E.**, Waldrop, A.M., & Vargas, V.M. (2017). Ecological forecasting and the science of hypoxia in Chesapeake Bay. *Bioscience*, 67(7), 614-626.

Douglas, M.M., Dennison, W.C., Kelsey, R.H., Setterfield, S.A., **Spitzer, S.E.**, & Vargas, V.M.D. (*In preparation*) “Transdisciplinary Science for Environmental Problem Solving.”

Neill, C., **Spitzer, S.E.**, Macedo, M.N., Riskin, S.H., Krusche, A.V., Nunez, D., & Coe, M.T. (*In preparation*) “Land Use and Impoundment Effects on Temperature and Water Chemistry of Lowland Amazonian Headwater Streams.”

Science communication products

Integration and Application Network. (2019). [Guide to the Introductory Monitoring Program \(Tier 1\)](#). IAN Press, Cambridge, MD.

Integration and Application Network. (2019). [Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers Pocket Field Guide](#). IAN Press, Cambridge, MD.

Integration and Application Network. (2019). [Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers Methods Manual](#). IAN Press, Cambridge, MD.

Integration and Application Network. (2017). [Tidal water quality indicator factsheets](#). IAN Press, Cambridge, MD.

Costanzo, S.D., Lookingbill, T., Walsh, B., Fries, A., **Spitzer, S.**, Hawkey, J., Vargas, V., Webb, B., Easby, S., Goelst, C., & Rouch, M. (2016) [Shenandoah National Park Natural Resource Condition Assessment](#). IAN Press, Cambridge, MD.

Donovan, E.C., Raabe, S., Wetzel, K., Fries, A., Lehmer, N., **Spitzer, S.**, Testa, J., & Vargas, V. (2015) [Chesapeake Bay Trust: Expansion of a survey tool to measure behavior change and impacts within watersheds](#). IAN Press, Cambridge, MD.

Integration and Application Network. (2015). [Chesapeake Bay Story website](#).

Integration and Application Network. (2015). [Upper Potomac Headwaters Report Card 2015](#). IAN Press, Cambridge, MD.

Integration and Application Network. (2015). [Long Island Sound Report Card](#). IAN Press, Cambridge, MD.

Spitzer, S., Kelsey, R.H., Dennison, W.C., Costanzo, S., Thieme, M., & Freeman, S. (2015). [Report Card Review: A survey of report cards available through the world wide web](#). IAN Press, Cambridge, MD.

Blog posts

Spitzer, S. (2019, Dec). “[Reflecting on water monitoring and citizen science at the Maryland Water Monitoring Council conference](#)” IAN-UMCES blog.

Spitzer, S. (2019, Oct). “[Making connections to ensure a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay](#)” IAN-UMCES blog.

Spitzer, S. (2019, Oct). “[Eyes on the prize: Looking beyond graduate school during the 2019 MEES Colloquium](#).” IAN-UMCES blog.

Spitzer, S. (2019, Sep). “[Kicking off another semester of Environment and Society](#).” IAN-UMCES blog

- Spitzer, S. (2019, June). [“All about the Bay: Exploring history, heritage, and habitat at the Chesapeake Studies conference.”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2019, May). [“Teaching and Learning with Technology.”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2019, May). [“Discussing Discussions: How to facilitate engaging and inclusive group discussions.”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2019, Apr). [“Supporting collaborative learning: Teaching tips for facilitating group work.”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2019, Apr). [“Uncovering five values of citizen science at CitSci2019.”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2019, Apr). [“Chesapeake Bay SAV Watchers: A new citizen science program for monitoring Bay grasses.”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2019, Apr). [“Spanning boundaries at the Society for Applied Anthropology conference.”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2019, Jan). [“Thinking Big: How UMCES can increase its capacity to produce actionable science that serves society.”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2018, Sep). [“It’s game time! Board games that can help people ‘level up’ their capacity for transdisciplinary work.”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2018, Jul). [“How can we include and legitimize other voices in science?”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2018, Jul). [“A polemic against coupled human and natural systems, boundary spanning, and transdisciplinarity: An existential appeal to “Shake things up!” in socioecological systems research.”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2018, May). [“How to improve interdisciplinary collaborations: lessons learned from scientists studying team science.”](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Versions also published on:*
- (2018, Jul). [“What can interdisciplinary collaborations learn from the science of team science?”](#) London School of Economics Impact Blog.
- (2018, Jun). [“What can interdisciplinary collaborations learn from the science of team science?”](#) Integration and Implementation Insights blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2018, May). [Ten teaching tips from the Teaching & Learning Transformation Center at the University of Maryland.](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2017, Dec). [Five principles of holistic science communication.](#) IAN-UMCES blog.
- Versions also published on:*
- (2018, Fall). [“Five principles of holistic science communication.”](#) In *CERF’s Up!* quarterly newsletter. Vol 44.3: 10-12.
- (2018, Apr). [“Five Principles of Science Communication.”](#) Social Science Space blog.
- (2018, Apr). [“Five principles of holistic science communication.”](#) London School of Economics Impact blog.
- (2018, Feb). [“Five principles of holistic science communication.”](#) Integration and Implementation Insights blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2017, Dec). [Sharing tools for stakeholder engagement and collaboration at the Chesapeake Watershed Forum.](#) IAN-UMCES blog.

- Spitzer, S. (2017, May). [“Up close and personal” Community engagement at the Citizen Science conference \(part 2\)](#). IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2017, Feb). [“In this room, it’s playtime!” Creative inspiration at the Citizen Science conference \(part 1\)](#). IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. & Olsen, N. (2017, Feb). [Greater than the sum of its parts: What is a coupled human and natural system?](#). IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2016, Jan). [Over the river and through the woods to release the Upper Potomac Headwaters Report Card, we go!](#). IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2015, Nov). [A look at the “Earth in Perspective” with Ricky Arnold](#). IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S. (2015, Jun). [Long Island Sound Report Card release in Westport, Connecticut](#). IAN-UMCES blog.
- Spitzer, S., Zhang, F., & Schweitzer, C. (2015, Apr). [Who ya gonna call? Recommendations for scientists who are called to action in a state of environmental emergency](#). IAN-UMCES blog.

OTHER SKILLS

Adobe Creative Suite—including Illustrator, InDesign, Acrobat, and Photoshop.

Microsoft Office Suite—including Excel, PowerPoint, and Word.