

# SIERRA GLADFELTER

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## Climate Adaptation and Community Engagement Professional

Dynamic and motivated leader with 7+ years of experience working collaboratively with diverse partners to deliver projects and conduct community-based research in multi-cultural environments | Confident building institutional relationships, managing projects, and facilitating stakeholder processes

### Professional Experience

#### Consultant and Project Manager

March 2020–Present

Dialogue + Design Associates | Charlottesville, VA

- Manages diverse projects on environmental and economic resilience for clients across central Appalachia.
- Conducting a regional assessment of just transition work for the Highlander Research and Education Center by leading 25 interviews and focus groups and developing a comprehensive Key Issues Report and Final Report.

#### Project Manager, Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT)

March 2019–Present

Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA

- Coordinates all aspects of The RAFT, including managing a core team of multi-institutional partners, several community-based implementation groups, and graduate student interns
- Tracks project deliverables including products for public dissemination, grant reports, and manages website

#### Research Associate

August 2019–May 2020

Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA

- Conducted data analysis on future climate scenarios and land-based mitigation interventions as part a multi-institutional team of environmental scientists and earth system modelers under Dr. Deborah Lawrence.
- Produced climatology products based on high resolution modeling of present-day, mid-century and end of century climate conditions for stakeholders in the East African Great Lakes and Ethiopia (EAGLE) region.

#### Managing Editor

October 2018–March 2020

Pennsylvania Magazine | Camp Hill, PA

- Managed all content of this bimonthly magazine from query through production including corresponding with over 100 writers and photographers, reviewing queries, editing content, and planning and managing issues.

#### Development Associate

October 2018–August 2019

Sierra Club Virginia Chapter | Richmond, VA

- Planned, organized, and oversaw all fundraising events and activities; including appeals, events, donor identification and solicitation, and donor relations in coordination with Chapter Director
- Developed, recommended, and implemented programs and activities to achieve Chapter fundraising goals

#### Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Fellow

August 2017–July 2018

United States-India Educational Foundation | New Delhi, India

- Designed qualitative research tools and conducted 200 interviews to evaluate climate adaptation in Ladakh
- Analyzed complex datasets and sources to write reports, case studies, and critical reviews for diverse audiences

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**Junior Researcher** June–August 2016

Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre | Zambia Red Cross, Lusaka, Zambia

- Researched national level climate policy and disaster management plans to inform ongoing programs
- Evaluated barriers and opportunities for building local resilience to climate change in beneficiary communities

**Research Associate** January–June 2016

Institute for Social & Environmental Transition–International | Boulder, CO

- Collaborated with an interdisciplinary research team to analyze South Carolina’s response to flood disasters
- Produced a Post Event Review Capability report synthesizing qualitative interview data from 59 diverse stakeholders, including government officials, first responders, and community members

**Outreach and Education Coordinator** February 2013–June 2014

Schuylkill Headwaters Association | Pottsville, PA

- Spearheaded public outreach, built strategic partnerships, and organized volunteers to implement projects
- Secured \$69,500 in grants to support diverse watershed education and community action programs, including a week-long experiential education program for students that involved working with 25 partner institutions.

## Education

**Master of Arts in Geography Graduate, Certificate in Development Studies** 2017

University of Colorado Boulder | Boulder, CO

Thesis title: “Training Rivers, Training People: Interrogating the making of disasters and politics of response in Nepal’s lower Karnali River Basin”

**Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Minor in Geography and Urban Studies** 2012

Temple University, Honors Program | Philadelphia, PA, *Summa Cum Laude*

## Trainings and Certifications

**Basic Mediation Training, FairField Center, VA** January 2020

Completed a 20-hr course in conflict resolution and mediation certified by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

**Mentorship Program, American Society of Adaptation Professionals** September 2019

Completed a nine-month knowledge- and skills-building professional development program, featuring a series of one-on-one and group mentoring sessions with experienced climate adaptation professionals.

## National Fellowships, Awards, and Research Grants

**Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Fellowship** 2017–2018

**National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship** 2014–2017

**National Audubon Society Toyota Together Green Fellowship** 2013

**Udall Foundation Scholarship** 2011, 2010

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## Service and Engagement

**Co-Leader and Member**, Charlottesville Chapter, Citizens' Climate Lobby 2018–Present  
**Member**, American Society of Adaptation Professionals 2017–Present

## Selected Publications

### *Peer-Reviewed Articles*

- Gladfelter, S.** (2020). Displacing Disasters: The politics of localized struggles to (re)position river training infrastructure and (re)distribute vulnerability along Nepal's lower Karnali riverbanks. *Studies in Nepali History and Society*, 25 (1), 111-142.
- Gladfelter, S.** (2018). The politics of participation in community-based early warning systems: Building resilience or precarity through local roles in disseminating disaster information? *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 30, 120-131. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2018.02.022>.
- Wilson, A., **Gladfelter, S.**, Williams, M., Shahi, S., Baral, P., Armstrong, R., & Racoviteanu, A. (2017). High Asia: The international dynamics of climate change and water security. *Journal of Asian Studies*, 76 (2), 457-480. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021911817000092>.
- Gladfelter, S.** & Mason, R J. (2012). Beyond Boundaries: An assessment of the Yosemite National Park Geotourism Initiative. *Tourism Planning & Development*, 9 (4), 355-368. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/21568316.2012.726262>.

### *Research Reports and Professional Writing*

- Gladfelter, S.** & Yonnetti, E. (2018, March 11). [Ladakh's Artificial Glaciers, Ice Stupas, and other attempts to survive a warming planet](#). *Tibet Himalaya Initiative*, University of Colorado Boulder.
- Gladfelter, S.** (2017, October 13). [Training rivers, training people: Interrogating the making of disasters and politics of response in Nepal's lower Karnali River Basin](#). *Flood Resilience Portal*.
- Gladfelter, S.** (2016, August). [Anticipating disaster: Local dependence on formal climate information vs. traditional ways of knowing](#). *Center for Science & Technology Policy Research*, CU Boulder.
- Venkateswaran, K., MacClune, K., & **Gladfelter, S.** (2016). [Risk Nexus: What can be learned from the Columbia and Charleston floods 2015?](#) PERC Report. *Zurich American Insurance Company*.

### *Articles and Op-Eds for Popular Audiences*

- [Pipeline CSI: A Volunteer Army of Citizen Scientists is Watching Pipeline Construction and Safeguarding Waterways](#). *Blue Ridge Outdoors*. April 2019.
- [Saucony Creek Brewing Co. from "Farm to Pint" to Watershed](#). *Berks County Living*. March 27, 2014.
- [The state of the Hudson: Seeking vision in Peter Seeger's wake](#). *Matador Network*. February 25, 2014.
- [Elephant Valley Project: Rehabilitating Cambodia's Asian elephants](#). *Matador Network*. June 28, 2013.
- [Beyond Angkor: Highlights of the undiscovered Cambodia](#). *Jax Fax Magazine*. May 27, 2013.
- [A wind-win for Maryland and a beacon for the bay](#). *The Baltimore Sun*. April 14, 2013.
- [From poachers to tour guides: The story of a Cambodian ecovillage](#). *Matador Network*. March 8, 2013.
- [All you need to know to trek the Manaslu Circuit in Nepal](#). *Matador Network*. January 2, 2013.
- [Sustainability certificate to promote green in curriculum](#). *The Temple News*. November 16, 2009.
- [Sustainable Living Event](#). *Pennsylvania Magazine*. September/October 2008.
- [The disposal dilemma](#). *The Baltimore Sun*. September 4, 2008.

## Additional Skills

Project Management | Research & Data Analysis | Report & Grant Writing | Editing