

Douglas L. Bessette
Michigan State University
480 Wilson Rd., NRB 327
East Lansing, MI 48824
www.dougbessette.com
bessett6@msu.edu

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada	Geography	PhD 2015
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	Community, Ag, Recreation and Resource Studies	MSc 2011
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	Economics	BA 2005

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2023 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University.
2017 – 2023	Assistant Professor, Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University.
2013 – 2018	Special Term Appointee, Decision & Risk Analysis, Argonne National Laboratory.
2016 – 2017	Senior Research Associate, School of Environ. & Nat. Resources, The Ohio State University.
2015 – 2016	Post-doctoral Scholar, Earth & Environ. Systems Institute, Pennsylvania State University.

PUBLICATIONS¹

Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Journal Articles

- Horowitz, D.*, Borgess, P.*, Conroy, J.*, Swanson, T.*, & **D Bessette**.² (2026) Database of Renewable Energy Opposition Groups in the United States. *Data*. Vol 11. <https://doi.org/10.3390/data11070159>
- Bessette, D.**, Rand., Hoen, B., Nilson, R., White, J.*, Hoesch., K., & S.B. Mills. (2025) Missing the mark: Avoiding community misengagement in large-scale solar development. Vol. 127. *Energy Research & Social Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2025.104338>
- Warsaw, P., McKim, A., & **D. Bessette** (2025). Spartans mentoring Spartans: Experiences from a postsecondary mentor education program. *NACTA Journal*
- Rand, J., Hoesch, K., Nison, R., Hoen, B., Mills, S.B., **Bessette, D.L.**, & J. White*. (2025) More Power to Them: U.S. Large-Scale Solar Neighbors' Support for Additional Solar. Vol. 44 *Frontiers in Sustainable Energy Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsuep.2025.1579170>
- White, J.*, & **D. Bessette**. (2025) Distributing a survey using Every Door Direct Mail in an ideal use case. *Methodological Innovations*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20597991251329754>
- Hoesch, K., S.B. Mills, J. Rand, B. Hoen, R. Nilson, **D. Bessette**, & J. White* (2025). What to Expect When You're Expecting Engagement: Delivering Procedural Justice in Large-Scale Solar Energy Development. *Energy Research & Social Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103893>
- Diaz, A.M., J. Arvai, P. Hartmann, & **D. Bessette** (2025) Partisan Winds: Group-level Polarization and Issue-framing Propel Attitudes about Local Wind Farms. *Energy Research & Social Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103848>
- Kannan, S.*, **D. Bessette** & L. Mulenga (2024) Electricity access empowers women through expansion of economic, physical, and mental spaces in Zambia. *Energy Research & Social Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103687>
- Hoesch, K., **D. Bessette**, D. Bednar (2024). Locally charged: Energy Justice Outcomes of a Low-Income Community Solar Project. *Energy Research & Social Science*. Vol. 133. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103569>
- Bessette, D.**, B. Hoen, J. Rand, K. Hoesch, J. White*, Sarah B. Mills, & R. Nilson (2024). Good fences make good neighbors: Stakeholder Perspectives on the local benefits and burdens of large-scale solar energy development in the United States. *Energy Research & Social Science*. Vol. 108. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2023.103375>

¹ * denotes a supervised student; ** denotes a supervised postdoctoral scholar

² Selected as Journal Issue Cover

- Bahrou, A., **D. Bessette** & J. Brooks (2023). What drives resident support for planned rain gardens in urban neighborhoods? *Journal of Sustainable Water in the Built Environment*. Vol. 10. <https://doi.org/10.1061/JSWBAY.SWENG-516>
- Kannan, S.* & **D. Bessette** (2023). Grid and off-grid electricity impacts on gendered time use in Zambia. *Energy for Sustainable Development*. Vol. 76. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esd.2023.101276>
- Kannan, S.,* **D. Bessette** & B. Abidoye (2022). Misalignment of perceptions with records and resources in responding to climate risk. *Climate & Decision Making*. Vol. 4. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2022.1038320>
- Bessette, D.**, D. Brainard, A. Srivastava, W. Lee, & S. Geurkink (2022). Battery electric tractors for sustainable organic farming: Growers' preferences and perceptions. *Energies*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en15228648>
- Crawford, J.*, **D. Bessette** & S.B. Mills (2022). Rallying the anti-crowd: Organized opposition, democratic deficit, and a potential social gap in large-scale solar energy. *Energy Research & Social Science*. Vol. 90. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2022.102597>
- Bessette, D.** & J. Crawford* (2022). All's fair in love and WAR: The conduct of wind acceptance research (WAR) in the United States and Canada. *Energy Research & Social Science*. Vol. 88. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2022.102514>
- Gunn, G., V. Tarabara, M. Ruttly, **D. Bessette** & R. Richardson. (2021) Roughness and storage capacity of freshwater ice in the Straits of Mackinac. *Cold Regions Science & Technology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.coldregions.2021.103278>
- Schaefer, M.** , L. Schmitt Olabisi, K. Arola, C.M. Poitra, E. Matz, M. Seigel, C. Schelly, A. Adesanya, & **D. Bessette**. (2021) Understanding socio-technological systems change through an Indigenous Community-based participatory framework. *Sustainability*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13042257>
- Bessette, D.**, M. Ruttly, G. Gunn, V. Tarabara, & R. Richardson. (2021) The perceived risk of underwater oil pipelines in icy conditions. *Journal of Great Lakes Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2020.12.002>
- Bessette, D.** & S. Mills (2020) Farmers vs. Lakers: Agriculture, amenity, and community in predicting opposition to United States wind energy development. *Energy Research & Social Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2020.101873>
- Bessette, D.** & R. Gregory. (2020) The promise and reality of social-cultural metrics. *Ecology and Society*, Vol 25. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-11730-250311>
- Brosemer, K., C. Schelly, V. Gagnon, K. Arola, J. Pearce, **D. Bessette** & L. Schmitt Olabisi (2020) The energy crises revealed by COVID: Intersections of indigeneity, inequity and health. *Energy Research & Social Science*, Vol. 68. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2020.101661>
- Schelly, C., **D. Bessette**, K. Brosemer, V. Gagnon, K. Arola, A. Fiss, J. Pearce, & K. Halvorsen (2020) Energy Policy for Energy Sovereignty: Can policy tools enhance energy sovereignty? *Solar Energy*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.solener.2020.05.056>
- Campbell-Arvai, V., **D. Bessette**, L. Kenney & J. Arvai. (2019) Improving decision making for carbon management initiatives. *International Journal of Risk Assessment and Management*, Vol. 22, Issue 3/4, P. 342-358. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJRAM.2019.103338>
- Bessette D.**, S. Zwickle, & R.S. Wilson (2019) In the weeds: Distinguishing organic farmers who want information about ecological weed management from those who need it. *Renewable Agriculture & Food Systems*, Vol. 34, Issue 5, P. 160-171. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1742170518000042>
- Bessette, D.**, R. Wilson, C. Beaudrie & C. Schroeder. (2019) An online decision support tool to evaluate ecological weed management strategies. *Weed Science*, Vol. 67, Issue 4, P. 463-473. <https://doi.org/10.1017/wsc.2019.21>
- Bessette, D.**, R. Wilson & J. Arvai. (2019) Do people disagree with themselves? Exploring the internal consistency of complex, unfamiliar, and risky decisions. *Journal of Risk Research*, DOI: [10.1080/13669877.2019.1569107](https://doi.org/10.1080/13669877.2019.1569107)
- Mills, S., **D. Bessette** & H. Smith. (2019) Exploring Landowners' Post-Construction Changes in Perceptions of Wind Energy in Michigan. *Land Use Policy*, Vol. 82, P. 754-762. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2019.01.010>
- Bessette D.**, & J. Arvai. (2018) Engaging attribute tradeoffs in clean energy portfolio development. *Energy Policy*. Vol. 115, P. 221-229. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2018.01.021>
- Bessette D.**, L. Mayer, B. Cwik, M. Vezzer, K. Keller, R. Lempert & N. Tuana. (2017) Building a values-informed mental model (ViMM) for New Orleans climate risk management. *Risk Analysis*, Vol. 37, Issue 10, Pg. 1993-2004. DOI: 10.1111/risa.12743 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.12743/full>
- Zwickle, S., R. Wilson, **D. Bessette**, S. Culman, & D. Doohan (2016) Facilitating ecological weed management decisions by assessing risk-benefit tradeoffs. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, Vol. 40 Issue 7, P. 635-659. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2016.1166170>

- Bessette D. J.** Arvai, & V. Campbell-Arvai. (2016) Expanding the reach of participatory risk management: Testing an online decision-aiding framework for informing internally consistent choices. *Risk Analysis*, Vol. 36, Issue 5, P. 992-1005. DOI: 10.1111/risa.12481 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.12481/abstract>
- Kenney, L, **D. Bessette** & J. Arvai. (2015) Structuring decisions about energy in developing communities: an example from Canada's north. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, Vol 58, Issue 5, P. 855-873. DOI: 10.1080/09640568.2014.899205 <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09640568.2014.899205>
- Bessette, D.**, J. Arvai & V. Campbell-Arvai. (2014) Decision support framework for developing regional energy strategies. *Environmental Science & Technology*, Vol. 48, P. 1401-1408. DOI: 10.1021/es4036286 <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es4036286>
- Arvai, J., R. Gregory, **D. Bessette** & V. Campbell-Arvai. (2012) Decision support for the development of energy strategies. *Issues in Science and Technology*, Vol. 28, No. 4, P. 43-52. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43315645>

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- Bessette, D.** (2022) Heuristics and bias in assessing the social impacts of energy projects. *Handbook of Environmental Impact Assessment*. Ed. Alberto Fonseca. Edward Elgar.
- Bessette, D.**, C. Schelly, L. Schmitt-Olabisi, K. Halvorsen, V. Gagnon, A. Fiss, K. Arola & E. Matz. (2021) Energy democracy in practice: Centering energy sovereignty in rural communities and Tribal Nations, *Routledge Handbook of Energy Democracy*. ed. A. Feldpausch-Parker, D. Endres, T. Rai Peterson & S. Gomez. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429402302>
- Campbell-Arvai, V., **D. Bessette**, R. Wilson & J. Arvai. (2019) Decision-making for the environment, *SAGE Handbook on Nature*, Section: "Risk and the environment: social theories, public understandings, and the science-policy interface," ed. N. Pidgeon & B. Macgillivray. SAGE. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781473983007.n26>
- Bessette, D.** & R. Richardson. (2013) Evolutions in methods and technology for research in pro-environmental behavior. *Building a Green Economy: Perspectives from Ecological Economics*, ed. R. Richardson. Michigan State University Press. P. 295-312.

Research Reports & Conference Proceedings

- Bessette, D. L.**, White, J., Mills, S. B., Hoen, B., Rand, J., Nilson, R., & Hoesch, K. (2024). Supporting Community-Centered Solar Development: A Guide to Hosting Community Conversations About Large-Scale Solar Development. Michigan State University; University of Michigan; Lawrence Berkeley National Lab.
- Rand, J., K. Hoesch, S.B. Mills, B. Hoen, R. Nilson, **D. Bessette** & J. White. (2024) [Perceptions of Large-Scale Solar Project Neighbors: Results From a National Survey](#). Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.
- McKim, A., P. Warsaw, & **D. Bessette** (2023). Experiences from a postsecondary mentor education program. North Central Region of the American Association for Agricultural Education. September.
- Bessette, D.**, J. Rand, B. Hoen, S. Mills, K. Hoesch, & J. White (2023) Community centered solar development (CCSD) case study interviews. Solar Energy Technologies Office, Department of Energy. <https://doi.org/10.2172/1986023>
- Bessette, D.** (2022) Organic vegetable grower preferences for on-farm solar, electric tractors and autonomous agricultural robots: Interview results. Project GREEN. Michigan State University.
- Bessette, D.** & A. Depew³. (2019) Tracking renewable energy values, benefits, and concerns in Michigan: In the media and at public meetings. Prepared for Michigan Energy Office, Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy.
- Bessette, D.**, G. Gunn, M. Ruty, V. Tarabara, & R. Richardson (2018) Public perceptions of the Line 5 pipeline in Michigan: A summary report for policy-makers. [Institute for Public Policy and Social Research](#).
- Bessette, D.** & J. Bruskotter. (2018) [Deer Stakeholder Engagement Process: Informing the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife 10-year Deer Management Plan](#). Prepared for Ohio Division of Wildlife, Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
- Tschakert, P., D. Pannell, R. Pandit, S. Prout-Quicke, C. Lawrence, A. Sabharwal, **D. Bessette**, ...I. Kunamwene (2016). *Assessing non-market loss and damage in the context of climate change*. Perth, Australia.
- Bessette, D.** (2015) Decision aiding for coupled climate-energy strategies (Doctoral dissertation). <http://hdl.handle.net/11023/2016>

³ Undergraduate student supervised.

Phillips, J., F. Petit, & **D. Bessette**. (2014) Using decision analysis to construct risk performance indicators. *The Center for Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Report*, Vol. 13, No. 2, P. 12-14.

Bessette, D. (2012). A structured approach for involving the Student Leadership Council in the development of an Undergraduate Student Consultation Plan for the MacEwan Student Centre Redevelopment. Students' Union, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB.

Bessette, D. (2011). The Experience Sampling Method, Apple iPhones, and Investigating the Relationship Between Values, Subjective Well-being and Pro-environmental Behavior ([Master's Thesis](#)).

Works in Progress

Pascaris, A., **Bessette, D.** et al. (*in review*) A systematic review and critical analysis of research on public responses to large-scale solar in the United States. *Energy Research & Social Science*

Commentary, Editorial, and Blog Essays

Bessette, D. Climate change missing from the debate about data centers in Michigan. [Bridge](#). January 16, 2026.

Bessette, D. & J. White. Detroiters more likely to support local solar power development if they think it reduces energy prices for their community. *The Conversation*, March 7, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.64628/AAI.vhjvpgksa>

Bessette, D. A Great Lakes pipeline dispute points to a broader energy dilemma. [The Conversation, October 17, 2018](#).

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

National Science Foundation: Growing Convergence Research. Growing Restorative Agroenergy Landscapes. **Total funds received:** \$2,664,678. 2025-2030. Senior Personnel.

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development. An autonomous electric tractor-based system for precision vegetable crop production. **Total funds received:** \$225,000. 2025-2026. Co-Principal Investigator.

United States Department of Energy. Fast and (or?) Fair: Are Rapid and Equitable Processes for Large-scale Solar Development Mutually Exclusive? **Total funds received:** \$2,500,000. 2025-2027. Principal Investigator.

Michigan State University: Office of Research & Innovation: Climate Justice and Environmental Ethics Concept Notes Competition. Just Approaches to Community Collaborations in Climate Adaptation. **Total funds received:** \$3,000. 2023-2024. Co-Investigator.

Michigan State University: Office of Research & Innovation: Climate Change Research Support Program. Building a Foundation for SCALE (Sustainable Communities, Agriculture, Landscapes, and Energy). **Total funds received:** \$100,000. 2022-2023. Co-Investigator.

United States Department of Energy—Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Community-Centered Solar Development: Exploring the Key Enabling Community Factors, Impacts and Opportunities for Large-Scale Solar. **Total funds received:** \$2,500,000. MSU portion: \$286,142. 2021-2024. Co-Principal Investigator/MSU Principal Investigator.

Michigan State University: Project GREEN. Leveraging solar and robotic technology to address energy and labor constraints for Michigan Vegetable Growers. **Total funds received:** \$79,650. 2021-2023. Collaborator.

United States Department of Agriculture—National Institute of Food & Agriculture. Spartans Mentoring Spartans: Launching a Peer Mentoring Academy at Michigan State University. **Total funds received:** \$15,000. 2020-2021. Co-Investigator.

National Science Foundation: Growing Convergence Research. A Convergent Discipline in Socio-Technological System Transitions – Research on Michigan Community & Anishinaabe Renewable Energy Sovereignty. Collaborative Proposal w/ Michigan Technological University. **Total funds received:** \$1,645,708. MSU portion: \$343,708. 2019-2025. MSU Principal Investigator.

United States Geological Service. Perceptions of decision support system success: Lessons from the North Central Region. **Total funds received:** \$92,335. 2019-2020. Co-Investigator w/ S. Gray & R. Kline-Robach.

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy: Michigan Energy Office. Identifying Michigan residents' values, concerns and renewable energy development objectives. **Total funds received:** \$12,000. 2019. Principal Investigator.

Michigan State University: Catalyst Innovation Program, Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology. **Total funds received:** \$9,000. 2019-2020. Co-Investigator w/ R. Jordan & S. Gray.

Michigan State University, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, AgBioResearch & MSU Extension. In pursuit of Great Lakes Offshore Wind (GLOW): Building collaborations and learning lessons on Block Island. Professional Development Microgrant Program. **Total funds received: \$1,300.** 2019 - 2020. Principal Investigator.

National Institute of Food & Agriculture—Ohio State University. Quantifying and predicting the effects of ecological weed management strategies on organic agroecosystems to inform farmer decision making. 2017 – 2019. **Total funds received: \$44,201.** MSU Principal Investigator.

Michigan State University: Institute For Public Policy And Social Research. Line 5: Oil spill detection, remediation, and risk perceptions in winter conditions. **Total funds received: \$25,000.** 2018 – 2019. Co-Investigator w/ G. Gunn, M. Rutt, R. Richardson & V. Tarabara.

Michigan State University: ESPP-AgBio Research. Examining the impacts of and improving decision-making processes for offshore wind development in the U.S. Great Lakes. **Total funds received: \$10,000.** 2018-2019. Principal Investigator w/ A. Anctil, S. Moore, K. Robinson.

US Fish & Wildlife Service: Ohio Department of Natural Resources—Ohio State University. Stakeholder Engagement Process for Deer Management Plan. **Total funds received: \$32,838.** 2017 – 2018. MSU Principal Investigator.

Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), WUN Research Development Fund. Non-market Valuation of Loss and Damage under Climate Change. **Total funds received: \$19,100.** 2015. Collaborator.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations & Panels

“Artificial Impact (AI): How the Rapid Development of Hyperscale Data Centers Impacts Michigan Communities.” Digital Scholarship Lab. MSU Library Environmental Committee for Earth Day. April 14, 2026.

“Understanding local opposition to and policy support for renewable energy and hyperscale data center development in Michigan and the US.” Deregulation, Energy and the Environment: Balancing Power in a Warming World. MSU College of Law. March 20, 2026.

“Fast and/or Fair: Centering communities in large-scale solar energy development in the US.” Research Seminar Series: Business Economics Institute of the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). March 6, 2026.

“Community “mis-engagement” around large-scale solar (LSS) energy development in the US.” Hamm-Norris Seminar Series, Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI. September 5, 2025.

“How deploying energy infrastructure hinges on local acceptance” Panelist. IES Energy Symposium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. May 21, 2025.

“Stakeholder engagement to enhance equitable energy decarbonization” Presenter. Lehigh University NRT. March 26, 2025.

“Stakeholder perspectives on large-scale solar development in the United States.” Speaker. CARESolar Workshop, Zurich, Switzerland, February 3, 2025.

“Community-centered solar development” Presenter. Cornell Extension Solar-Ag Meeting (Virtual) January 17, 2025

“Detecting and addressing organized opposition to large-scale renewables.” Panelist. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office Social Science and Siting Workshop. August 29th, 2023.

“Community constraints of decarbonization.” Featured Speaker. Michigan Municipal Electric Association Spring Meeting. Grand Rapids, MI. May 18, 2023.

“What’s driving community opposition to renewable energy development?” Yi-Fu Lecture Series. University of Wisconsin Department of Geography. Madison, WI. April 28, 2023.

“Renewable energy siting, development, and justice.” Michigan State University Department of Community Sustainability Brown Bag Seminar Series. East Lansing, MI. January 27, 2023.

“Oil Spills Under Ice: Risk Perceptions of Line 5.” Presenter. US Coast Guard Great Lakes Oil Spill Center of Expertise Stakeholder Workshop to Identify Oil Spill Research Gaps and Opportunities. NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Ann Arbor, MI. September 21, 2022.

“Robotic and Precision Cultivation Roundtable.” Panelist. Midwest Mechanical Weed Control Field Day. Benton Harbor, MI. September 14, 2022.

Aaron Price Fellows Program. Panelist. USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, Catalina Island, CA. July 21, 2022.

- “Improving processes (and outcomes) of large-scale solar development in Michigan.” Special Speaker. Michigan Municipal Electric Associations (MMEA). Grand Rapids, MI., May 20, 2022
- “Project Siting and a ‘Just’ Energy Transition,” Chair, Panel. American Clean Power Annual Siting Conference, July 22, 2021. Virtual.
- “The Great Line 5 Debate: Potential Environmental and Economic Impacts,” Invited Panel Speaker. Canada Connect Panel Dialogue Event, March 10, 2021. Virtual.
- “Climate justice: A force for change,” Invited Panel Speaker. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w_-DeQIbdj_PN6rlBIAq8M7nujh9ixny?usp=sharing Green Team. Virtual. August 19, 2020.
- “Risk perceptions and detection of oil spills on ice covered lakes.” Northern Michigan Area Committee Meeting (NMAC). Petoskey, MI. July 15, 2019.
- “Workshop on Climate Futures. De-risking the path to low-carbon electricity.” Clean Air Task Force, RAND Corp., Chicago, IL. May 9, 2019.
- “Learning to live with Turbines,” Powering Renewable Energy in the Midwest, Lansing, MI. June 4, 2019.
- “Winter Lake Oil Spills - Risk Perception, Detection, and Remediation.” MSU Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) Public Policy Forum, Lansing, MI. April 17, 2019.
- “Developing Climate-Business Strategies: Partnering with Universities for Science-Based Impact,” Global Climate Action Summit, San Francisco, CA. 2018.
- “Framing alternatives to elicit more deliberate energy preferences.” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Center for Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems (CANES), Cambridge, MA. 2018.
- “Structuring your decision-making process.” Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Delaware, OH. 2016.
- “Flooding of the promised land: Ten years after Katrina.” Penn State University, State College, PA. 2015.
- “Using values-informed mental models to improve risk management decisions.” Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, CA. 2015.
- “Decision aiding for the creation of regional energy strategies.” Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN. 2014.
- “Decision support for energy and carbon management.” The Risks of CO2 Sequestration Workshop, Waterloo, ON. 2011.

Presentations at Academic and Professional Conferences

- Swanson, T. & **D. Bessette** (2025) Co-author. Your dollar, my community: Regulatory risk and procedural justice in large-scale solar energy development. Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. December 8, 2025.
- Alsbro, J. & **D. Bessette** (2025) Co-author. Who benefits from renewable energy projects? Examining power purchase agreement revenue flows in Michigan and Ohio. Energy Analysis & Policy Conference, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Conference, November 19, 2025.
- Bessette, D.**, J. Rand, B. Hoen, R. Nilson, K. Hoesch, S. Mills, & J. White (2025) Presenter. Avoiding Community “Misengagement” in Large-Scale Solar Development. National Sustainability Society Annual Conference. Notre Dame, South Bend, IL. October 21, 2025.
- Bessette, D.**, S. Mills, K. Hoesch, B. Hoen, J. Rand, R. Nilson & J. White (2024) Presenter. Examining how place, policy, process, and perceptions impact solar development and climate mitigation. Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, Austin, TX. December 9, 2024.
- White, J. & **D. Bessette** (2023) Co-Author. Risks, Benefits and Opportunities for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Development. Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. December 7, 2023.
- White, J. & **D. Bessette**. (2023) Co-Author. Pragmatic Placement or Enduring Externality? Elucidating Resident Perceptions of Solar Development on Urban Michigan Brownfields. 13th Annual MSU & UM Energy & Environmental Economics Day. Ann Arbor, MI. August 24, 2023.
- Bessette D.** (2023) Renewable Revenues & Tax Equity Investing. Place-based Energy Transitions. International Association for Society & Natural Resources Conference. Portland, ME. June 15, 2023.
- Bessette D.** (2022) Measuring community acceptance and the perceived risk of clean energy technologies. Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. Tampa Bay, FL.

- Bessette D.,** R. Williams, R. Winkler, D. Gard, J. Kinch, S. Mills, D. Lee, & J. Collins. (2022) Presenter. “Assessing the potential for reaching net-zero emissions using socially acceptable solar.” International Association of Society for Natural Resources Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica.
- Kannan, S., & **D. Bessette.** (2022) Co-author. “Electricity access and women’s empowerment in Zambia.” International Association of Society for Natural Resources Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica.
- Bessette, D.** (2022) “Challenges of stakeholder engagement in risk-based decision making.” Decision Analysis Society Advances in Decision Analysis Conference. Rosslyn, VA. Virtual
- Tarabara, V., E. Sarda, A. Fujisaki-Manome, **D. Bessette,** & J. Lenters. (2022) Co-author. “Briefing of CIGLR Under-ice oil spill working group meeting.” Region 5 Regional Response Team (RRT5). Virtual.
- Bessette, D.** & B. Perry. (2022) Presenter. “Fuels & fun: The intersection of energy and outdoor recreation.” National Environment and Recreation and Research Symposium (NERR). Annapolis, MD.
- Bessette, D.** (2022) Presenter. “Oil spill risk perceptions and communication.” Summit of the CIGLR working group Oil Spills Under Ice. Sault Ste. Marie, MI.
- Kannan, S.* & **D. Bessette.** (2021) Co-author. “Gendered norms, perceptions and adaptations to climate change risk in Africa.” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- Bessette, D.** (2021) Presenter. “Using a convergent decision-support tool to evaluate clean energy risks, benefits, and opportunities.” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- Kannan S.* & **D. Bessette** (2021) Co-author. “A gendered analysis of electricity access and time poverty in Zambia.” International Symposium for Society and Resource Management. Virtual.
- Crawford J.* & **D. Bessette** (2021) Co-author. Describing the social gap in utility-scale solar energy: A Michigan case study. International Symposium for Society and Resource Management. Virtual.
- Zwickle, A., T. Holt, J. Gregorini*, & **D. Bessette** (2020) Co-author. “The framing and funding of opposition to clean energy.” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- Crawford J.* & **D. Bessette** (2020) Co-author. “Exploring a social gap in utility-scale solar energy.” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- Depew, A.* & **D. Bessette** (2020) Co-author. “Fears, facts and falsities: Tracking renewable energy values, benefits and concerns.” Behavior, Energy & Climate Change. Virtual.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4P8GNSkhM&feature=youtu.be>
- Crawford, J.* & **D. Bessette** (2020) Co-author. “Exploring a social gap in utility-scale solar energy: A Michigan case study. Public Engagement with Science.” Poster Presentation. Virtual. <https://pewconf.wordpress.com/posters/>
- Crawford, J.* & **D. Bessette** (2020) Co-author. “The conduct of wind energy acceptance research in North America: theory, incentives and dissemination.” International Symposium for Society and Resource Management. Virtual.
<https://youtu.be/sCfv1ilyypg>
- Marinelli, V.T, D. Thomas, A. Beattie, G. Gunn, M. Ruty, **D. Bessette,** R. Richardson, & V. Tarabara (2020) Co-author. “Oil spills under ice: Kinetics of oil spreading as a function of ice cover characteristics.” Harbin, P.R. China.
- Bessette, D.,** G. Gunn, M. Ruty, V. Tarabara, & R. Richardson. (2019). Presenter. “Perceived risk of oil spills under icy.” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, Society for Risk Analysis. Washington, D.C.
- Gunn, G., K. Nyland, V. Tarabara, M. Ruty, **D. Bessette,** R. Richardson. (2019). Co-author. “Implications of ice cover characteristics for underwater oil spills in the straits of Mackinac, Michigan,” Eastern Snow Conference, Fairlee, Vt.
- Bessette, D.,** S. Mills & H. Smith (2019). Presenter. “Learning to live with turbines—or not. Comparing post-construction perceptions.” International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM). Oshkosh, WI.
- Bessette, D.,** G. Gunn, V. Tarabara, M. Ruty, & R. Richardson. (2019). Presenter. “The perceived risk of underwater oil pipelines and spills under ice.” 2019 International Conference on Energy Research and Social Science (ERSS). Tempe, AZ.
- Bessette, D.** & J. Arvai. (2018). Presenter. “Improving Clean Energy Elicitation Processes: Providing Meaningful Alternatives, Attributes and Assistance,” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Bessette, D.,** H. Walpole* & R. Wilson. (2018). Presenter. “Risky Conversations: Examining the Dual Impacts of the SRA Annual Meeting on Thinking and Practice in Risk Science,” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

- Bessette, D., C. Beaudrie & R. Wilson.** (2018). Presenter. “Using Decision Support to Overcome Resistance to Science-Based Recommendations,” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Bessette, D., C. Beaudrie & R. Wilson.** (2017) Presenter. “Quantifying and predicting the effects of ecological weed management strategies on the organic agroecosystem to inform farmer decision making.” National Institute of Food & Agriculture, Washington D.C.
- Bessette, D., C. Beaudrie & R. Wilson.** (2016) Presenter. “Structured decision support for organic farmers: lowering barriers, clarifying trade-offs and linking risk management strategy performance to farmer values.” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- Bessette, D. & R. Wilson.** (2016) Presenter. “Quantifying and predicting the effects of ecological weed management strategies on the organic agroecosystem to inform farmer decision making. “ National Institute of Food & Agriculture, Washington D.C.
- Bessette, D., B. Cwik, L. Mayer, & N. Tuana.** (2015) Presenter. “Informing climate change risk management and decision support in New Orleans: A new value-informed approach. Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA.
- Arvai, J. **D. Bessette**, L. Kenney, & V. Campbell-Arvai. (2015) Co-author. “Less smoke, fewer mirrors: Decision-aiding to address the risks of climate change. Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA.
- Bessette, D.** (2015) Presenter. “Using values-informed mental models to identify climate impacts, strategies, and values in New Orleans.” SCRiM Seminar Series, Penn State University, State College, PA.
- Bessette D., M.A. Vezer, L. Mayer, K. Keller, R. Lempert & N. Tuana.** (2015) Presenter. “Values-informed mental models: A new tool for climate risk management and coupled ethical-epistemic analysis.” Learning Sciences/Science of Learning Poster Conference, Penn State University, State College, PA.
- Bessette, D. & J. Arvai.** (2014) Presenter. “Multiple elicitations: The internal consistency of everyday decisions.” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Bessette, D. & J. Arvai.** (2014) Presenter. “Examining the internal consistency of energy-environment decisions.” Department of Geography 51st Annual Conference, The University of Calgary, Calgary, AB.
- Bessette, D. & J. Arvai.** (2013) Presenter. “Decision aiding for the Creation of Energy Strategies: Part II: Alberta, Canada.” Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- Bessette, D. & J. Arvai.** (2013) Presenter. “Decision Aiding for the Creation of Energy Strategies.” Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, IL.
- Bessette, D., J. Arvai & V. Campbell-Arvai.** (2012) Presenter. “Decision aiding for the creation of energy strategies.” Presented at Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. *DARSG Student Merit Award Winner
- Bessette, D. & R. Richardson.** (2011) Presenter. “The Apple iPhone and experience sampling method: Values, well-being and pro-environmental behavior.” U.S. Society of Ecological Economics (USSEE) Conference, East Lansing, MI.
- Bessette, D. & R. Richardson,** (2011) Presenter. “The Apple iPhone and experience sampling method: Determining pro-environmental behavior.” Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies (CARRS) 2nd Annual Student Symposium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Michigan State University	East Lansing, Michigan, USA
• CSUS 221, Seminar in Environmental and Sustainability Careers (7)	2022 –
• CSUS 459, Clean Energy Systems Policy (6)	2020 –
• CSUS 433, Grantwriting & Fund Development (1)	2020
• CSUS 491, Modeling Clean Energy Problems (1)	2019
• CSUS 259, Sustainable Energy & Society (6)	2019 –
• CSUS 200, Introduction to Community Sustainability (2)	2018 – 2019
• CSUS 890, Independent Study	2018 –
The Ohio State University	Columbus, Ohio, USA
• ENR 8150, Advanced Environment, Risk & Decision Making	2017
• ENR 2367, Communicating Environmental & Natural Resource Information	2016

The University of Calgary	Calgary, Alberta, Canada
• GEO 391: Geographic Field Studies, <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	2013 – 2014
• Student Success Centre; English for Academic Purposes, <i>Writing Instructor</i>	2013 – 2014
• GEO 340: Qualitative Research Methods, <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	2013
• URC 507: Diseases in a Changing World: Social, Economic and Health Perspectives, <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	2013
• HROD 559: Rationality and Decisions, <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	2012

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION AND ADVISING

Michigan State University

Postdoctoral Scholar Advisor	
• M. Schaefer	2020 – 2021
Ph.D Advisor and Chairperson	
• T. Swanson	2025 –
◦ <i>Project: Community impacts, siting and permitting of large-scale solar development</i>	
• S. Kannan (<i>graduated</i>)	2019 – 2023
◦ <i>Project: Essays on Electricity Access, Women's Empowerment, and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa</i>	
M.Sc. Advisor and Chairperson	
• J. White (MSc-A) (<i>graduated</i>)	2022 – 2024
◦ <i>Project: Urban Resident Perceptions and Preferences Of Local Large-Scale Solar Sited On Brownfields And Disturbed Lands</i>	
• B. Halle (MSc-B) (<i>graduated</i>)	2021 – 2023
◦ <i>Project: Misinformation in Wind Zoning Policy: A review of Michigan Ordinances</i>	
• J. Gregorini (MSc-A) (<i>graduated</i>)	2020 – 2022
◦ <i>Thesis: Native American Community Perspectives on Renewable Energy</i>	
• J. Crawford (MSc-A) (<i>graduated</i>)	2019 – 2021
◦ <i>Thesis: Characterizing the social gap in utility-scale solar energy</i>	
Ph.D Guidance Committee Member	
• C. Deng (<i>graduated</i>)	2024 – 2025
• P. Guillante (<i>graduated</i>)	2024 – 2025
• F. Hanna (<i>graduated</i>)	2023 – 2024
• R. C. Lembi	2022 –
• S. Kirshenbaum (<i>graduated</i>)	2021 – 2024
• O. Elegbede (<i>graduated</i>)	2018 – 2019
M.Sc. Guidance Committee Member	
• M. Brondizo (<i>graduated</i>)	2021 – 2023
• L. Young (<i>graduated</i>)	2018 – 2020
External Academic Advising (while in service at Michigan State University)	
• M. Haffar, Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Michigan	2018 – 2020
• L. Lutzke, PhD student, University of Michigan	2019 – 2020

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION AND ADVISING

Michigan State University

Paid Hourly Undergraduate Research Assistants	
• P. Richards	2026 –
• P. Borgess	2025 –
• C. Hyde	2025 –
• D. Horowitz	2024 –
• J. Alsbro	2023
• B. Cibor	2022 – 2023
• E. Carney	2022

- B. Lajiness 2022
- H. Mumford 2021
- A. Depew 2019 – 2020

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Michigan State University

- MSU Institute of Public Utilities Faculty Affiliate 2026 –
- Inaugural *Scholar at the Table*, MSU Honors College April 10, 2026
- Canadian Studies Center, Advisory Council, Search Committee, DEI Advocate 2022 –
- University Military Education Advisory Committee, *Elected* 2018 – 2022, 2026 –
- Environmental Science & Policy Program, Faculty Advisory Council, *Elected* 2018 – 2024
- University Committee on Undergraduate Education, *Alternate* 2018
- College Advisory Committee, *Alternate* 2018
- Ambrose Patullo Environmental Fellowship, Judge 2018

Michigan State University, Department of Community Sustainability

- Undergraduate Advisory Curriculum Committee (Chair: 2024) 2018 – 2019, 2024
- Creator/Coordinator: Hamm-Norris Seminar Series 2023 –
- Search Committees:
 - AFNRE Assistant Professor 2024
- Faculty Advisory Committee (*Chair*: 2022-2023) 2020 –2023, Fall 2025
- Axinn International Scholarship, Reviewer 2019, 2021

SERVICE, MEMBERSHIPS, & PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- *Michigan Renewable Energy Association* 2025 –
- *Capital Area Friends of the Environment* 2025 –
- *Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research* 2021 –
- *International Association for Society and Natural Resources* 2019 –
- *Northern Michigan Area Committee (EPA)* 2019 – 2024
- *National Collaborative for Research on Food, Energy, and Water Education* 2019 – 2023
- *Powering Renewable Energy in the Midwest* 2018 – 2023
- *Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council* 2018 –
- *Society for Judgment and Decision Making* 2018 – 2019
- *American Association for the Advancement of Science* 2017 –
- *Society for Risk Analysis* 2013 –
 - Program Committee 2025 –
 - Councilor, *Elected* 2022 – 2025
 - Decision & Risk Analysis Specialty Group, President, *Elected* 2021 – 2023
 - Decision & Risk Analysis Specialty Group, Secretary, *Elected* 2018 – 2019
 - Communication Committee 2017 – 2020

Associate Editor: Society & Natural Resources 2022 –

Editorial Board

- *Climate & Decision Making* 2021 –
- *Environment, Systems and Decisions* 2019 –

Ad hoc Reviewer

- NREL Great Lakes Wind Energy Challenges and Opportunities [Assessment](#) 2023
- NARUC Onshore U.S. [Carbon Pipeline Deployment](#): Siting, Safety, and Regulation 2023
- Planning & Zoning for Solar Energy Systems: A [Guide](#) for Michigan Local Governments 2021
- NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCOR) Track 1: Idaho 2021
- University of Michigan Graham Sustainability Institute Carbon Neutrality Acceleration Program 2020

- NIFA Small Business Innovation Research Program, Phase 1 2020
- NSF Decision Risk & Management Sciences (DRMS) CAREER Proposal 2019
- Chapter 4: Energy, National Climate Assessment 2019
- *Nature Energy; Energy Policy; Energy Research and Social Science; Environmental Science & Technology; Risk Analysis; Journal of Risk Research; Journal of Environmental Psychology; Science Communication; Environmental Science and Pollution Research; Human Dimensions of Wildlife; Environmental Communication; Environmental Reviews; Journal of Environmental Planning; Global Environmental Change* 2014 –

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND REFERENCES

- “How green is your chat? Interactive showcase aims to educate, bring awareness.” [The State News](#). April 15, 2026.
- “Trudging the depths on Deep Green proposal.” [City Pulse](#). February 17, 2026.
- “AI data center proposed for downtown Lansing causes community backlash.” [Impact 89 FM](#). February 14, 2026.
- “New details emerge about proposed Lansing data center.” [Lansing State Journal](#). February 5, 2026.
- “Climate change missing from debate about data centers in Michigan.” [Bridge](#). January 16, 2026.
- “UK company wants to build a data center that will heat downtown Lansing.” [mLive](#). January 8, 2026.
- “What Michigan data center developers can learn from reactions to renewable energy projects.” [WKAR NPR](#). November 19, 2025.
- “Proposed downtown data center focused on sustainability.” [City Pulse](#). November 5, 2025.
- “Proposed solar farms on state forestland sparks debate over renewable energy.” [WILX 10](#). January 6, 2025.
- “Crescent Wind Farm fuels Consumers Energy’s push for greener Michigan.” [Spartan News Room](#). October 18, 2024.
- “Ohio county sees dueling studies on solar project payments, but only one disclosed its data.” [Energy News Network](#), February 22, 2024.
- “Sunblocked: Resistance to Solar in Farm County.” [NPR REVEAL](#), January 6, 2024
- “Michigan sets ambitious targets for clean energy: Aiming for 100% by 2040” [Channel 3 News](#), November 28, 2023
- “Amidst Clinton County green energy uproar, MSU expert explains wind turbines” [WLNS 6](#), May 14, 2023.
- “Is race a major factor behind opposition to wind farm?” [Inside Climate News](#), October 5, 2023.
- “Ice makes oil spills harder to detect, easier to contain,” [Great Lakes Echo](#), December 24th, 2022
- “Michigan utilities have made big green energy promises, but can they be kept?,” [Lansing State Journal](#), November 26, 2022.
- “Our View editorial: Decisions on solar farms require listening to public,” [The Herald Bulletin](#), November 11th, 2022.
- “Small organic growers give input on ag tech,” [Vegetable Growers News](#), November 1, 2022.
- “We need to build a lot of wind turbines. Will Americans agree to live near them?” [GRIST](#), January 21, 2021.
- “COVID-19 Pandemic Revealed Underlying Energy Justice Crises, Study Finds,” [Great Lakes Echo](#), September 9, 2020.
- “COVID-19 Pandemic Revealed Underlying Energy Justice Crises, Study Finds,” [PBS WKAR](#) September 1, 2020.
- “Oil Flow Beneath Ice in the Great Lakes: An Update,” [Michigan Policy Wonk Blog](#), February 14, 2020.
- “Do oil and ice mix? Researchers study winter oil spills in the Straits,” [Petoskey News](#), May 1, 2019.
- “Ice and oil: Study seeks to answer how ice impacts Straits oil cleanup,” [Traverse City Record Eagle](#), March 3, 2019.
- “MSU releases findings on survey of Michigan residents’ views on Line 5,” [Mackinac News](#), March 3, 2019.
- “Michiganders worried about Line 5 spill into Mackinac Straits, MSU research finds,” [WKAR MSU Today with Russ White](#), February 22, 2019.
- “Perceptions play big role in how residents feel about wind energy,” [Phys.org](#), February 8, 2019.
- “Deer stakeholders group does due diligence,” [Outdoor News](#), September 21, 2018.

AWARDS AND OUTSIDE SERVICE

- CANR Global Scholar in Research, Michigan State University, 2025
- Radio & Book Reader, NPR WKAR Radio Reading Service, 2025-
- Doctoral Specialization, Environment and Energy Systems Specialization, The University of Calgary, 2014.
- Certificate of Training, Decision Analysis in Public Policy, Short Course, Argonne National Laboratory, 2014.

- Student Merit Award, Decision Analysis and Risk Specialty Group, Society for Risk Analysis, 2012.
- Early Career Scholar, Aldo Leopold Leadership Program, 2011.
- President, CARRS Graduate Student Organization, Michigan State University, 2010 – 2011.
- Fellowship, Environmental Science and Policy Program, Michigan State University, 2009.
- University Honors, University of Michigan, 2001 – 2004.
- James B. Angell Scholar, University of Michigan, 2003.
- Airborne Certificate, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Achievement Medals (2), Army Commendation Medal, US Army, 1997-2001