

# LINDA POWERS TOMASSO

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## EDUCATION

- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Harvard University** Expected: May 2022  
Doctoral Candidate, Dept of Environmental Health  
Dissertation: “Defining metrics for capturing nature affinity to evaluate the association of nature utilization and its related health outcomes,” Research sponsorship, REI Foundation  
Harvard Presidential Scholar, 2017-18.  
Recipient, NIH National Research Service Award (NRSA), Training in Environmental Epidemiology
- Harvard University**, Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies May 2014  
Relevant coursework: Sustainability, Carbon Reduction Strategies, Environmental Data Analysis, Environmental Management, Climate Change, Sustainable Building, Forest Management
- Georgetown University**, Master of Science in Foreign Service
- University of Notre Dame**, Bachelor of Arts, *Magna cum Laude*  
Majors in American Studies and Spanish; **Universidad Anahuac**, Mexico City, exchange year

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Research mentor**, Yunfei Li, HSPH Masters Student, “Nature attitudes of Chinese vs Chinese-Americans”
- **Teaching Fellow**, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health:
  - Dr. Peter James, *Built Environment, Nature and Health* Fall 2019-2021
  - Drs. Greg Wagner/David Wegman, *Epidemiology of Environmental Health & Safety Policy* Spring 2020
  - Prof. Patrick Whitney, *Design for Healthy Cities*, Bangkok, Thailand Jan 2020
- **Head Instructor and course designer**, *Sustainable Building Design for Healthy Communities* 2015-2017
- **Teaching Fellow** to Dr. Joseph Hunt, Env't Assessment for Sustainable Projects Summer 2014
- Head Teaching Assistant to Drs. Gary Adamkiewicz/PK Newby, *Farm to Fork* Fall 2013
- **Teaching Assistant** to Dr. John Spengler, *Introduction to Sustainable Buildings* Fall 2013
- HarvardX MOOC course, *Human Health and Global Environmental Change* Apr- Aug 2013
  - 45,000 students enrolled from 100 countries; assisted in pilot interactive climate change solution groups

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Harvard Chan School of Public Health** Feb 2014—Aug 2017
- **Project Associate**, Center for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard School of Public Health
    - Environmental Policy Researcher for Health and Places Initiative (HAPI) in China, focusing on sustainable healthy cities and land use and carbon sink loss from urbanization;
    - Project leader for HSPH/GSD case study of Yueqing, China sustainable healthy urban design
  - **Faculty Aide** to Megan Epler Wood, Senior Faculty in Sustainability/Env're Management Jan– Dec 2013
    - China-based research interviewing Chinese government officials and university faculty to assess training for sustainable regional tourism development targeted in government’s Five-Year Plan.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** Sep 2015- Jun 2016
- **Principal researcher** contracted with University of Connecticut CLEAR to assess state-of-the-science on blue carbon sequestration in US wetlands.

## Georgetown University

- **Research Assistant** to Dr. Madeleine Albright, Donner Chair Professor, School of Foreign Service, on East-West Security and U.S. Foreign Policy issues
- **Research Assistant** to Dr. Augusto Varas, Woodrow Wilson Institute, Smithsonian Institute, Wash, DC

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Tomasso, L. P., Cedeno Laurent, J. G., Chen, J. T., Catalano, P. J., & Spengler, J. D. (2021, August). Social and built environment antecedents to disparities in adult nature engagement. In ISEE Conference Abstracts (Vol. 2021, No. 1).
- Tomasso, L. P., Cedeño Laurent, J. G., Chen, J. T., Catalano, P. J., & Spengler, J. D. (2021). Cultural Sets Shape Adult Conceptualizations and Relationships to Nature. *Sustainability*, 13(20), 11266.
- DeVille, N. V\*, Tomasso, L. P.\*, Stoddard, O. P., Wilt, G. E., Horton, T. H., Wolf, K. L., ... & James, P. (2021). Time Spent in Nature Is Associated with Increased Pro-Environmental Attitudes and Behaviors. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(14), 7498.
- Tomasso, L. P., Yin, J., Cedeño Laurent, J. G., Chen, J. T., Catalano, P. J., & Spengler, J. D. (2021). The Relationship between Nature Deprivation and Individual Wellbeing across Urban Gradients under COVID-19. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(4), 1511.
- Alahmad, B., Tomasso, L. P., Al-Hemoud, A., James, P., & Koutrakis, P. (2020). Spatial Distribution of Land Surface Temperatures in Kuwait: Urban Heat and Cool Islands. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(9), 2993.
- Trudel-Fitzgerald, C., Millstein, R. A., von Hippel, C., Howe, C. J., Tomasso, L. P., Wagner, G. R., & VanderWeele, T. J. (2019). Psychological well-being as part of the public health debate? Insight into dimensions, interventions, and policy. *BMC public health*, 19(1), 1-11.
- Tomasso, L. P., Casado, C. C., Rodriguez, J., Yin, J., & Africa, J. K. (2018). Yueqing's Healthy Future: A Case Study in Design Planning for Healthy Urbanization. In *Lifelong Learning and Education in Healthy and Sustainable Cities* (pp. 551-572). Springer, Cham.
- Tomasso, L. P., & Leighton, M. (2014). The Impact of Land Use Change for Greenhouse Gas Inventories and State-Level Climate Mediation Policy: A GIS Methodology Applied to Connecticut. *Journal of Environmental Protection*, 5(17), 1572.
- "Environmental Management of Tourist Growth in China," (Sep 2011). White Paper, Epler-Wood International and Harvard University
- "Assessing the Carbon Offset Potential of Turfgrass," (Spring 2008) requested by Turfgrass Institute, Cornell University
- Tomasso, L.P. (2007). *Alan Tompkins – painter*. Stinehour Press.

## PRESENTATIONS (AND WEBINARS)

- Lecturer, "Olmsted's Brain: Discovering Health in Urban Places, Wild Spaces." Trinity College, Oct 2021.
- Presenter. "Implications of disparities in social and built environment antecedents to adult nature engagement." 2021 SHIFT Summit, "Ensuring Access to Nature – For Human Health and the Environment." Grand Junction, CO, 18-20 October 2021.
- Presenter. The Relationship between Nature Deprivation and Individual Wellbeing across Urban Gradients under COVID-19. "Nature and Health Conference: Generating Understanding Across Communities and Disciplines" University of Washington. 12-14 October 2021. Virtual
- Presenter. "Implications of disparities in social and built environment antecedents to adult nature engagement." Roundtable presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting, October 2021. Denver/Virtual.
- Presenter. "Implications of disparities in social and built environment antecedents to adult nature engagement." Poster presentation at the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) annual meeting. August 2021. Virtual.
- Panel organizer and presenter, "Climate and Equity," NESSBE, Yale Univ (Mar 2021)
- Panel organizer and presenter, "Equity of Place," NESSBE, Yale Univ (Mar 2019)
- Panel organizer and presenter, "Health of Place," NESSBE, Yale Univ (Mar 2017)
- Panelist, International Future Living Institute annual conference, Seattle, (May 2017)
- Presenter, "Building Leadership for Health Urban Sustainability Summit," Sponsored and organized by Harvard Chan's Dept of Environment Health and Graduate School of Design, Shanghai (May 2016)
- Recorded webinar on land-based carbon sequestration for Connecticut Climate Change Group

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- “Optimizing the Climate Mitigation Potential of Connecticut’s Forests” (with H.D. Silver) for Connecticut Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner. (Sep 2015),
- “The Impact of Urbanization on Land Use Change and Regional Carbon Budgets: a Case Study in China.” (Mar 2014). Presentation at Dept of Urban Planning, Tongji University, Shanghai, China
- Recorded webinars for Health and Place Initiative: “The Impact of Urbanization on Land Use Change and Regional Carbon Budgets: a Case Study in China.” (Mar 2014)  
<<http://research.gsd.harvard.edu/hapi/overview/activities-and-events/webinar-series-2015/urbanization-and-the-changing-landscape-land-use-changes-and-carbon-budgets-in-china>>
- Recorded webinar for the Center for Land Use and Education Research, University of Connecticut: “Loss of Carbon Sequestration from Land Use Change in Connecticut.” (Sep 2014)  
<<http://clear.uconn.edu/webinars/CLEARseries14/carbon-sequestration.htm>>
- “Environmental Management of China’s Urban Tourism Build-out.” Lecture for Department of Tourist, Nanchang University, Nanchang, China (Jan 2013)

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, New Britain, CT** 2012

- Intern in Bureau of Technology and Energy Policy with focus on state climate change policy
  - Elaborated triennial CT Greenhouse Gas Inventory using EPA GHG State Inventory Tool. Gaps in inventory provided basis for graduate thesis research on diminished carbon sequestration in CT
  - Drafted DEEP’s annual Progress Report on the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act
  - Contributed timely research and revisions to 30-year State Comprehensive Energy Strategy

#### **Independent Consultant on International Development, Farmington, CT** 2003-2009

- Wrote and developed country risk analysis, sector research & reporting, working papers, strategic development on sustainable development and environmental management for international NGOs and private clients: Global Forest Trade Network/WWF; Aid to Artisans; Earth Asset Partnership; Tenery Christ Water.
- Authored policy briefs for Alexandra Cousteau’s Project: Blue Legacy on water issues in West Bank/ Botswana/ Coral Reef management
- Interviewed global offices and developed report on best practices report for WWF/Global Forest Trade Network, with focus on value chain analysis and product marketing of Forest Stewardship Council wood
- Led Spanish research interviews with technical experts on Amazon basin forestry and supply chain issues for pioneering methodology for valuating tropical forests on behalf of WWF/Global Forest Trade Network
- Provided land conservation easements valuations for Earth Asset Partnerships, central Vermont
- Developed and wrote grant proposals, conducted country analyses and liaised with foreign embassies and European aid officials for NGO project funding for Aid to Artisans, Hartford, CT

#### **New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT** 2000-2015

- Officer and Trustee playing lead advisement role on museum strategy, capital development, collections acquisitions, and education programs during Museum expansion
  - As Chair of Acquisitions and Loan Committee, wrote strategic plan for collection acquisitions received by the National Association of American Museums
  - Five-time chairmanship of annual fund-raiser cumulatively netted \$1 M for Museum arts education

#### **Houston International Protocol Alliance, Office of the Mayor, Houston, TX** Mar Aug 1991

- Country Affairs Specialist to plan Houston’s official foreign visitors, including Queen Elizabeth II
- Initiated country briefing papers and discussion points for Mayor and City Council on bilateral commercial, economic, and cultural issues for meetings with heads of state, ambassadors, and international delegations

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**U.S. Information Agency/U.S. Department of State**, Washington, DC

Feb 1986-Jul 1990

- Career U.S. Foreign Service Officer for Public Diplomacy, responsible for press and cultural affairs for the U.S. Government
- Provided regular written analysis of foreign media, public opinion, political processes for US Embassy personnel and high-level visiting U.S. policy-makers
- Selected as Cultural Center Director-designate for U.S. Embassy in Warsaw to open and manage first U.S. Cultural Center in Poland after fall of Communism; Received extensive Polish language and Eastern European training during 1989-1990
- As Information Officer, Office of Central American Affairs, U.S. Department of State, assisted with media coordination and policy briefings related to first democratic elections in post-Sandinista Nicaragua
- As Deputy Director, Public Affairs, Milan, Italy, helped integrate U.S. Government policy objectives as Public Diplomacy for U.S. Consulate Milan
  - Analyzed and wrote media briefings and press summaries for visiting USG officials overseas, up to Presidential level.
  - Managed U.S. Government cultural affairs programs in Northern Italy with cultural office personnel
  - Organized symposia and press conferences of U.S policy and economic activities
- As Staff Officer G-7 Economic Summits, Venice (1987) and Houston (1990), liaised with White House Communications Office to coordinate security, media, meetings of U.S. President and heads of state
- As Acting Cultural Attaché, San Juan, Costa Rica (1984), supported U.S. public affairs efforts in volatile Central American region by coordinating Embassy outreach activities with universities, intellectuals, and artists

## AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Harvard Extension School 2015 Dean Shinagle Award for Exceptional Teaching Assistant May 2015
- Class Marshall, Graduate studies in Sustainability and Environmental Management (GPA: 4.0) May 2014
- Dean's Thesis Prize: "Defining an Accessible Methodology for Land Use Accounting in Regional GHG Inventories," original research affiliated with Harvard, Stanford, and UCONN Center for Land Use
- Derek Bok Public Service Award, Harvard University May 2014
- U.S. Congressional Citation, in recognition of Acquisitions Committee leadership, Jul 2012  
New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT
- Individual Contribution to the Arts Award, New Britain Arts Alliance, CT Jun 2012
- YWCA Woman in Leadership Award, YWCA New Britain, CT Jun 2007

## SKILLS

- **Language Skills:** Fluent in **Spanish** and **Italian**; working ability in **Polish** and **French**
- Professional Certification: LEED Green Associate in Green Building
- Proficient in R statistical analysis and software
- Basic use of Geographic Information Systems and related software (ArcGIS)

## SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

- Trustee Emeritus, New Britain Museum of American Art 2000 - 2017
- Board Member, Farmington Land Trust, Farmington, CT 2015 - 2019
- Board Member, Friendship Service Center for the Homeless, New Britain, CT 2005 - 2012  
Co-chaired capital campaign which raised \$9 M for permanent supportive housing for homeless
- Board Member, Stanley-Whitman House living history museum, Farmington, CT 2006 - 2009
- Cooperator, Hospital for Special Care, New Britain, CT 1996 - 2011