

**Zdravka (Zee) Tzankova, Ph.D.**

Program in Climate & Environmental Studies | Vanderbilt University

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## EDUCATION

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- 2007 Ph.D. **University of California, Berkeley**  
Environmental Science, Policy, and Management
- 2000 M.A. **Brown University**  
Environmental Studies
- 1998 B.A. **Mount Holyoke College**, Phi Beta Kappa  
International Relations
- 1996 **Williams College**, Williams-Mystic Maritime Studies Program  
Interdisciplinary experiential learning & field study semester

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2022 – **Associate Professor of the Practice**, Climate & Environmental Studies, *Vanderbilt University*  
**Director of Undergraduate Studies**, Climate & Environmental Studies, *Vanderbilt University*  
**Co-director, Climate, Health, & Energy Equity Lab (CHEEL Lab)**, The Wond'ry, *Vanderbilt*
- 2015 – 2022 **Associate Professor NTT**, Sociology & Public Policy Studies, *Vanderbilt University*
- 2007 – 2015 **Assistant Professor**, Environmental Studies, *University of California, Santa Cruz*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2024– **Strategic partner, WattCarbon, Oakland, CA**  
Strategic & technical collaboration on financing accelerated deployment of distributed renewable resources (as part of a CHEEL lab partnership with WattCarbon).
- 2021– **Stakeholder & community partnerships consultant (pro bono), WattTime, Oakland, CA**  
Stakeholder outreach and inclusion strategies; Facilitate community-led and community informed technical innovation and data use
- 2020– **Strategy Consultant (pro-bono), Clearloop, Nashville, TN**  
Stakeholder outreach & community building (research & strategy development); Client recruitment strategy development; Co-benefits optimization for economic, social, environmental co-benefits of rural solar development in the Southeast
- 2014– **Sustainability Consultant, Nordic Naturals, Watsonville, CA**  
Sustainable seafood sourcing research & strategy building

- 2006-2007     **Conservation Consultant, Center for the Future of the Oceans, Monterey, CA**  
Sustainability analysis of US aquaculture operations; Analysis and design of mitigation and control options for specific types of US-based aquaculture
- 2000-2006     **Policy & Strategy Consultant, SeaWeb, Washington, DC**  
Research and strategic consulting in support of marine conservation initiatives; evaluation and fine-tuning of social marketing and consumer campaigns; research and strategy on filling regulatory gaps on marine aquaculture.
- 2001           **Strategy Advisor, Environmental Law Foundation (ELF), Oakland, CA**  
Policy, technical, strategic, and litigation advice on approaches to tackling cruise ship pollution and cruise industry non-compliance with environmental regulations.
- 2001           **Outreach Assistant, California Sea Grant Extension, Oakland, CA**  
Policy research and analysis on state, federal, and international policies and regulations for the prevention of shipping-mediated marine bioinvasions; Outreach to commercial shipping on regulatory compliance and bioinvasions prevention.
- 1999           **Community Director, Office of Student Life, Brown University, Providence, RI**  
Advisor, crisis manager & event coordinator for a 300-student campus residential community of first-year students; outreach and advising on issues at the intersection of the personal and the academic; coordination of crisis management across Deans of student life, community directors, and undergraduate Ras.
- 1999           **Writing Coach, Brown University Writing Center, Providence, RI**  
Editorial & structuring assistance for a range of writing projects, from class papers to dissertation chapters; Served a writing center clients ranging from undergraduate students to master's and PhD students, helping each client develop and advance their writing competencies.
- 1997-1998     **Writing Tutor, Mount Holyoke College Writing Center, South Hadley, MA**  
Editorial & structuring assistance for a range of writing projects, from class papers to dissertation chapters; Served undergraduate clients on a range of written work in English and Spanish.
- 1996, 1999     **Ocean Classroom Instructor, Schooner Ernestina, New Bedford, MA**  
Instructor in ecology, maritime history, and physics of sail at the middle to high school level; Mentor for *Upward Bound* students & at-risk youth.
- 1997           **Environmental Educator & Sailing Instructor, Schooner Californian, San Francisco, CA**  
Instructor for environmental and ecology field study, as well as navigation & physics of sail at the middle to high school level; Career and college counselor for high school students participating in outdoor education programs abroad

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Environmental policy & governance (including public and private environmental & climate governance); sustainability transitions; energy & health equity; corporate environmentalism & climate action; corporate &

institutional decarbonization; sustainable supply chains & value chain greening; environmental & energy justice; business ethics & stakeholder relationships; private environmental governance; public-private governance interactions; corporate-NGO partnerships; nonprofit strategy & management; sustainable food systems

## TEACHING

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### COURSE DESIGN & TEACHING

Organizations & the environment

Corporate environmental strategy

Nonprofits & the environment

Environmental & resource governance

Climate governance

US & comparative environmental policy

Coastal & marine policy

Public land & resource management

Environmental social science

Environmental problem-solving

Introductory sociology

Environmental sociology

Sociology of food & agriculture

### PROGRAM & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Climate & Environmental Studies program

Environmental Sociology Undergraduate Major

Coastal Sustainability Graduate Program

## PhD ADVISING

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**Pamela Rittlemeyer** (UCSC): Meanings Behind Perceptions: Flood Risk and Management of the California Delta Levee System (completed June 2020)

**Jennifer Ohayon** (UCSC): Science, Risk, and Democracy: The Cleanup of Military Superfund Sites (completed June 2015)

**Tiffany Wise-West** (UCSC): Microgrids and Local Renewable Energy Systems: Drivers, Barriers and Outlook (completed December 2014)

**Peter Brewitt** (UCSC): Same River Twice: Restoration Politics, Water Policy, and Dam Removal (completed June 2014)

**Amy Concilio** (UCSC): Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum* L.) Invasion and Global Change in the Eastern Sierra Nevada, CA: Likelihood of Spread and Feasibility of Control (completed June 2012)

**Jae Pasari** (UCSC): Grassland Invasion, Management, and Multifunctionality (completed June 2011)

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

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**Tzankova, Z.**, Ziegler CC, and Muchira JM. (*In progress, Energy Research & Social Science*). Mobilizing carbon offsetting to advance health & energy equity in developed countries?

Ziegler CC, and Muchira JM and **Tzankova, Z.** (In progress, Invited submission for *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*). Leveraging Commercial Drivers of Health for Climate Mitigation and Health Equity.

Maciel-Seidman M, **Tzankova Z**, Ziegler CC, Lele A, Lu S, Yan Y and Muchira JM. 2024. Mobilizing carbon offsetting to reduce energy cost burdens: a new approach for calculating and monetizing the offset value of energy efficiency upgrades to low-income housing. *Front. Energy Res.* 12:1437560.

**Tzankova, Z.**, and C. Vanags. 2021. US urban and suburban yardscaping: from conventional to regenerative, in *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Futures*, Robert C. Brears, ed.

**Tzankova, Z.** 2020. Can private governance boost public policy? Insights from public-private governance interactions in the fisheries and electricity sectors. *Regulation & Governance*  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/rego.12317>

**Tzankova, Z.** 2020. Public policy spillovers from private energy governance: New opportunities for the political acceleration of renewable energy transitions. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 67  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2020.101504>

Hernández, D., D. Vallano, E. Zavaleta, J. Pasari, **Z. Tzankova**, S. Weiss, P. Selmants, C. Morozumi, P. Koch. 2016. Nitrogen Pollution Is Linked to US Listed Species Declines. *BioScience*, 66(3): 213-222. <https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biw003>

Baerenklaw, K., S. Daroub, A. Drevno, V. Haden, C. Kling, T. Lang, C. Lyn, C. Mitterhofer, D. Parker, D. Press, T. Rosenstock, K. Schwabe, T. Tomich, **Z. Tzankova**, and J. Wang. 2016. Chapter 8: Responses: Policies and Institutions, pp. 231-257 in Tomitch, Brodt, & Dahlgren, eds. *The California Nitrogen Assessment Challenges and Solutions for People, Agriculture, and the Environment*. University of California Press.

**Tzankova, Z.**, and L. E. Gwin. 2015. Surf-n-Turf, but the sustainable kind? The limits and potential of market-driven regulation in food production. *Seattle Journal of Environmental Law*, 5(1): 303 - 338.  
<https://tinyurl.com/surf-n-turf-sustainable>

**Tzankova, Z.**, and A. Concilio. 2015. Controlling an invasive plant at the edge of its range: towards a broader understanding of management feasibility. *Biological Invasions*, 17(1): 507-527.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-014-0747-5>

**Tzankova, Z.** 2014. Interactions between public and private resource governance: key insights from the fisheries case. *William and Mary Policy Review*, 6(1): Fall 2014. <https://tinyurl.com/public-private-governance-int>

**Tzankova, Z.** 2014. The Oceans & Fisheries (1950s-present). Chapter 24 in *The Guide to U.S. Environmental Policy*, Fairfax & Russell, eds. DWJ/CQ Press.

**Tzankova, Z.** 2013. The difficult problem of non-point nutrient pollution: could the Endangered Species Act offer some of relief? *William & Mary Environmental Law and Policy Review*, Vol. 37(3): 709-757.  
<https://tinyurl.com/disruptive-litigation>

**Tzankova, Z.**, D. Vallano, and E. Zavaleta. 2011. Can the Endangered Species Act address the threat of atmospheric nitrogen deposition? Insights from the case of the Bay checkerspot butterfly. *Harvard Environmental Law Review*, 35(2): 434-475. <https://tinyurl.com/ESA-N-checkerspot>

**Tzankova, Z.** 2010. The political consequences of legal victories: ballast regulation and the Clean Water Act. *Environmental Law Reporter*, 40: 10154-10170. <https://tinyurl.com/ELR-polit-conseq-of-legal-vict>

**Tzankova, Z.** 2009. The science and politics of ecological risk: bioinvasions policies in the US and Australia. *Environmental Politics*, 18 (3): 333-350. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09644010902823725>

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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Thorpe, E., Vandenberg, M., and **Z. Tzankova**. 2025. Companies will still face pressure to manage for climate change, even as government rolls back US climate policy. *The Conversation*, April 11, 2025. <https://theconversation.com/companies-will-still-face-pressure-to-manage-for-climate-change-even-as-government-rolls-back-us-climate-policy-251580>

Ziegler, CC and **Tzankova, Z.** 2025. Carbon credits can make housing accessible to low-income Tennesseans – here is how. *The Tennessean*, April 6, 2025. <https://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/contributors/2025/04/06/carbon-credits-affordable-housing-low-income-tennesseans/82943161007/>

**Tzankova, Z.**, C. Ziegler, and J. Muchira. Nov. 19, 2024. Carbon offsets can help bring energy efficiency to low-income Americans – our Nashville data shows it could be a win for everyone. *The Conversation*, November 19, 2024. <https://theconversation.com/carbon-offsets-can-help-bring-energy-efficiency-to-low-income-americans-our-nashville-data-shows-it-could-be-a-win-for-everyone-240600>

**Tzankova, Z.** 2021. Carbon offsetting can be a tool of environmental justice. *Fast Company*, March 2, 2021. <https://www.fastcompany.com/90600561/carbon-offsetting-can-be-a-tool-of-environmental-justice>

**Tzankova, Z.** 2020. Why companies as diverse as eBay, IKEA and Mars are increasingly supporting US clean energy policies. *The Conversation*, June 30, 2020, <https://tinyurl.com/CorporSupport4USCleanEnergyPol>

**Tzankova, Z.** 2020. Stimulus spending on electricity decarbonization: the role of corporate renewable buyers. *Utility Dive*, June 11, 2020, <https://tinyurl.com/CorpRoleinGreenStimulus>

**Tzankova, Z.** 2014. The Peruvian anchoveta fishery: regulatory, environmental, economic, and social dimensions. Report for *Nordic Naturals*.

**Tzankova, Z.** 2007. Sustainability assessment of U.S. farmed sturgeon. Seafood Watch Report. Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Program.

**Tzankova, Z.** 2007. Addressing ballast-mediated marine invasions in the United States and Australia: The science and politics of defining and managing ecological risks. Doctoral Dissertation, University of California, Berkeley.

**Tzankova, Z.** 2004. Understanding and rethinking the legal and regulatory frameworks for marine aquaculture in the United States. SeaWeb Consulting Report.

White, K., B. O'Neill, and **Z. Tzankova**. 2004. At crossroads: will aquaculture fulfill the promise of the blue revolution? A SeaWeb Publication.

## MEDIA MENTIONS

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HuffPost Work In Progress Series, July 2020. How corporate America is becoming a powerful ally for clean energy. [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/corporate-america-ally-clean-energy\\_n\\_5f3c3896c5b61551404e5738](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/corporate-america-ally-clean-energy_n_5f3c3896c5b61551404e5738)

HuffPost Work In Progress Series, Oct. 2020. Companies are making major climate pledges. Here is what they really mean. [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/companies-climate-pledges-what-they-mean\\_n\\_5f7b6237c5b66fab25dc3079](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/companies-climate-pledges-what-they-mean_n_5f7b6237c5b66fab25dc3079)

## SELECT RECENT TALKS

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- 2024 **Tzankova, Z.**, C. Ziegler, and J. Muchira. 2024. Carbon offsets as a tool of health equity in the US? Paper & Presentation at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 3-7, 2024.
- Tzankova, Z.** October 16, 2024. From Campus to Community: How Vanderbilt's carbon neutral commitment shows up as an economic development tool in Panola County, Mississippi. Invited Panelist, Wond'ry Panel on Clearloop-Vanderbilt-Panola partnership.
- 2023 Carol Ziegler, **Z. Tzankova**, and J. Muchira. Health interventions with health co-benefits: building on the insights of work in the CHEEL Lab. Invited talk, VUMC Climate Action & Sustainability Summit. Thursday, Dec. 7, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN.
- Z. Tzankova.** Climate mitigation interventions with health co-benefits for marginalized populations: insights from the first year of research at the Vanderbilt *Climate, Health, and Energy Equity* Lab. Invited talk, VU-ORNL Workshop on Climate Change & Environmental Justice, October 9, 2023, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
- 2022 **Z. Tzankova** & C. Quaile. The equity dimension of corporate climate action: awareness and progress among 30 companies leading on corporate decarbonization. Paper & Oral presentation, Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA), March 31, 2022, Nashville, TN.
- 2021 **Z. Tzankova** & M. Vandenberg. Developing a private governance framework for managing agricultural nutrient pollution in the US. Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA), April 9, Online.
- 2020 Accelerating the greening of the grid with private sector innovation, NYC Climate Week & National Clean Energy Week Panel (organized by *Clearloop*). Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020 (Online); Co-panelists: Prof. Michael Vandenberg, Vanderbilt Law School; Laura Zapata, Clearloop; Governor Phil Bredesen; Henry Richardson, WattTime; Joey James, Downstream Strategies
- 2019 **Z. Tzankova.** Increasing the size and impact of the private sector wedge: what insights from the dynamics of public-private governance interaction? Presentation at *BW+10 – The Tenth Anniversary of the Behavioral Wedge*, Vanderbilt Symposium co-sponsored by the Vanderbilt Law School and the Vanderbilt institute for Energy & Environment, March 1, Nashville, TN.
- Z. Tzankova** & J. Owley. Private, market-driven governance of pesticide use in US agriculture: prospects, limits, and unresolved questions. Paper & Oral presentation, Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA), March 29, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Climate change, religion, and a sustainable future, Panel conversation organized by *Ask & Wonder*, Harding House Brewing Co., Nashville, TN, Aug. 12.

**Z. Tzankova.** Climate citizenship: a reflexive engagement in climate policy and activism. *Sunrise Movement* event on the Green New Deal, Vanderbilt University, Feb. 5.

- 2018 **Z. Tzankova & L. Gwin.** Retailers, fast food companies, and environmental upgrading in the US meat value chain. Paper & Oral presentation, Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA), April 4-7, San Francisco, CA.

**Z. Tzankova.** Leveraging the private environmental goals and commitments of business actors to strengthen public environmental policy and regulation: opportunities, mechanisms, and the role of ENGOs. Paper & Oral Presentation. Yale-Copenhagen Business School Symposium on Private Authority & Public Policy in a Global Context. Yale University, New Haven, CT, Jan. 11-12, 2018.

**Z. Tzankova & Ray Blind.** Can science and technology move too fast? Molecular Biophysics Training Program & Center for Structural Biology, Special Seminar on Responsible Conduct of Research, Vanderbilt University, June 26.

- 2017 **Z. Tzankova.** NGOs, technology companies, and the greening of the US grid: A new theory of public-private governance interaction. Paper & Oral presentation, Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA), Feb. 22-25, Baltimore, MD.

- 2016 Rittelmeyer, P., **Z. Tzankova**, A. Szasz, and E. Hines. Risk perception and management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Levee System. Poster presentation, International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC4), July 30-Aug. 3, St. John's, Newfoundland.

## WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

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- 2021 Governing nutrient pollution beyond farmers, SESYNC workshop & a multi-stakeholder, multi-institutional collaboration launch (Co-organizer)
- 2017 2017 J.B. & Maurice C. Shapiro Environmental Law Symposium on Private Environmental Governance. George Washington University Law School, March 2-3, 2017. Washington DC (Co-organizer)
- 2007 Sourcing sustainable seafood: integrating researcher & practitioner insights, University of California, Berkeley, College of Natural Resources, May 2007, Berkeley, CA (co-organizer).

## GRANTS & AWARDS

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|-----------|--|---------------------|
| 2023      | Dean's Distinguished Teaching Fellow for 2023-2024   |                     |
| 2022      | Private Donor Contribution in support of the Climate, Health, and Energy Equity Lab (CHEEL Lab, which I co-direct) | (\$ 10,000, co-PI)  |
| 2021      | NSF 21-548 Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier (on which I serve as Supporting Personnel)              | (\$ 150,000)        |
| 2020      | SESYNC (National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center)<br><i>Governing nutrient pollution beyond farmers</i>       | (\$ 50,000, co-PI)  |
| 2009-2010 | Kearney Foundation   | (\$ 223,175, co-PI) |

*Understanding and managing the impacts of human nitrogen  
deposition in endangered Bay Area serpentine grasslands*

## MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

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International Studies Association (ISA)

Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AEES)

American Sociological Association (ASA)

## REVIEWS

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*Ecological Economics; Energy Research & Social Science; Environmental Research Communications;  
Environmental Research Letters; Global Environmental Politics; Journal of Environment and Development;  
Nature Food; NOAA Sea Grant; Organization & Environment; Natural Hazards; Regulation & Governance;  
Society & Natural Resources*

## SERVICE

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2024-2025	Climate & Environmental Studies Program Revisions Committee, Co-lead
2024	Director of Undergraduate Studies
	EES Search Committee Member, Search for Professor of the Practice in Climate Science
	VUSRP Reviewer
2023-	EES Faculty Search Committee – re: Professor of the Practice in Climate Science
2022-	Director of Undergraduate Studies, Climate & Environmental Studies
	Faculty Liaison for Climate & Environmental Studies with the Ingram Center for Success in Athletics
2020	Scholarship Committee
	Vanderbilt Global Education Office
2019	Convener, Green Jobs & Environmental Careers Vanderbilt Alumni Panel
2017-	Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, Home Institution Mentor for Vanderbilt
2017-2018	Associate Director Search Committee, Curb Center for Art, Enterprise & Public Policy
	Brightspace Advisory Committee, Vanderbilt Center for Teaching
	Working Group on Environmental Pedagogies & Course Design, Vanderbilt Center for Teaching
	Faculty Speaker, Vanderbilt MOSAIC undergraduate recruitment
2015-2016	Working Group on Community Engagement & Service Learning
	Vanderbilt Center for Teaching



## Tzankova CV

Faculty participant, *Know Tomorrow*, Student-Organized Climate Change Awareness & Action Event (SPEAR & Vanderbilt Food Justice), Oct. 2, 2015, Vanderbilt University.

2014-2015 *Coastal Sustainability Program Planning Committee*  
University of California, Santa Cruz

2009-2011 Undergraduate Honors Committee  
College Eight, University of California, Santa Cruz

2008-2015 Graduate Program Committee  
Department of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

## REFERENCES

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Available upon request