

RACHEL E. SZCZYTKO

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Department of Community Sustainability
Environmental Science & Policy Program

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EDUCATION

Michigan State University	Dual Ph.D. Community Sustainability; Environmental Science and Policy	05/2028 (anticipated)
North Carolina State University	M.S. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management	12/2017
University of Michigan	B.S. Environment	08/2014

Certificates and Trainings

We All Count	Foundations of Data Equity	06/2021
Antioch University New England	Conservation Psychology Institute	06/2016
National Association for Interpretation	Certified Interpretive Guide	06/2015

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Statistical Consultant	Center for Statistical and Technical Consulting	05/2024 – present
Intern	US EPA, Office of Research and Development	05/2024 – 09/2024
Research Assistant	Michigan State University	05/2023 – present
Research Associate	Penn State University	2023
Research Assistant	North Carolina State University	02/2023 – 09/2023
Environmental Education Program Associate	Pisces Foundation	05/2019 – 01/2023
Science Education Specialist	Asombro Institute for Science Education	05/2018 – 04/2019
Research Technician	North Carolina State University	12/2017 – 07/2018
Research Assistant	North Carolina State University	2016 - 2017

Educator and Interpretive Ranger	Student Conservation Association	2015
Program Instructor	Thousand Pines Outdoor Science School	09/2014 – 12/2014
Field Researcher	EcoQuest Education Foundation	01/2014 – 06/2014
Research Assistant	University of Michigan	2013 - 2014

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

1. Stevenson, K., **Szczytko, R.**, Carrier, S., & Peterson, M. (2021). How outdoor science education can help girls stay engaged with science. *International Journal of Science Education*, 43(7), 1090-1111.
2. Ferreira, B., Carrillo, B., & **Szczytko, R.** (2021). A phenomenological exploration of the craft beer movement. *Journal of Foodservice Business Research*, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15378020.2021.1964932>
3. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, M., & Bondell, H. (2020). How combinations of recreational activities predict connection to nature among youth. *The Journal of Environmental Education*, 51(6), 462-476.
4. Clark, K., Pender, D., Peterson, M., Stevenson, K., Lawson, D., & **Szczytko, R.** (2020). Reaching Underserved Populations through a Fisheries Education Program. *Fisheries*, 45(3), 131–137. <https://doi.org/10.1002/FSH.10390>
5. Stevenson, K., Peterson, M., Carrier, S., Strnad, R., Olson, R., & **Szczytko, R.** (2019). Making the Case for a Null Effects Framework in Environmental Education and K-12 Academic Outcomes: When “Just as Good” Is a Great Thing. *Frontiers in Communication*, 3. <https://doi.org/10.3389/FCOMM.2018.00059>
6. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, M. N., Nietfeld, J., & Strnad, R. L. (2018). Development and validation of the environmental literacy instrument for adolescents. *Environmental Education Research*, 1-18.
7. **Szczytko, R.**, Carrier, S., & Stevenson, K. T. (2018). Impacts of outdoor environmental education on teacher reports of attention, behavior, and learning outcomes for students with emotional, cognitive, and behavioral disabilities. *Frontiers in Education* (Vol. 3, p. 46).
8. Larson, L. R., **Szczytko, R.**, Bowers, E. P., Stephens, L. E., Stevenson, K. T., & Floyd, M. F. (2018). Outdoor Time, Screen Time, and Connection to Nature: Troubling Trends Among Rural Youth?. *Environment and Behavior*, 0013916518806686.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

Articles

1. **Szczytko, R.** & Stevenson, K. (2017, May) How Kids Learn in Nature. *Parks & Recreation*, 36-37.

Blogs

1. **Szczytko, R.** (2021) Many ways to be outside. Retrieved from: <https://piscsfoundation.org/many-ways-to-be-outside/>
2. Stevenson, K., **Szczytko, R.**, & Oleniacz, L. (2020) To bond with nature, kids need solitary activities outdoors. Retrieved from: <https://news.ncsu.edu/2020/08/to-bond-with-nature-kids-need-solitary-activities-outdoors/>
3. **Szczytko, R.** (2019) Storytelling for connection and change. Retrieved from: <https://piscsfoundation.org/storytelling-for-connection-change/>
4. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Campsites 101. Retrieved from: <http://blog.nhstateparks.org/campsites-101/>
5. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Monadnock walks: Alternatives to summiting. Retrieved from: <http://blog.nhstateparks.org/monadnock-walks-alternatives-to-summiting/>
6. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Tired of being bitten by bugs? Hire a bat. Retrieved from: <http://blog.nhstateparks.org/tired-of-being-bitten-by-bugs-hire-a-bat/>
7. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Monadnock walks: Another alternative to summiting. Retrieved from: <http://blog.nhstateparks.org/monadnock-walks-another-alternative-to-summiting/>

Video Blog

1. **Szczytko, R.** & Klene, G. (2015) Family-Friendly Hikes: Monadnock's Harling & Hinkley Trails. Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hU_5oNh5bp4

POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

1. **Szczytko, R.** (2024, May). Education for action in complex systems. US EPA, Office of Research and Development, Integrated Climate and Science Division Staff Meeting. Hybrid.
2. **Szczytko, R.** & Morris, J. (2021, May) The power of movement building. NOAA Environmental Literacy Program PI Workshop. Virtual.
3. Peterson, M.N., Stevenson, K., Bondell, H., **Szczytko, R.**, & Chesonis, T. (2019, May) Predicting recreational pathways to connection to nature among youth. NC Wildlife Resources Commission Outside Voices Seminar Series. Raleigh, NC.
4. Peterson, M.N., Stevenson, K., Dunn, R., **Szczytko, R.**, & Strnad, R. (2018, October) Conservation Biology and Kids. 16th Annual Natural Learning Design Institute. Raleigh, NC.
5. Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Strnad, R.L., Carrier, S.J., Busch, K.C., Demattia, E.A., Bondell, H.D., Martin, K.L., Yao, Y., Zhang, Z., Lawson, D.F., **Szczytko, R.E.**, Jackson, S.B., & Hartley, J.M. (2018, September) Connecting Children to Nature in an Urbanizing World. R.L. Rabb Science and Society Symposium for Urban Sustainability. Raleigh, NC.

6. Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Lawson, D.F., **Szczytko, R.E.** & Strnad, R.L. (2018, April) How Children can be a Solution to Our Conservation Challenges. NC Wildlife Resources Commission Seminar Series. Raleigh, NC.
7. Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Lawson, D.F., **Szczytko, R.E.** & Strnad, R.L. (2018, March) How Children can Help Solve Our Conservation Challenges. University of Maine Department of Wildlife Ecology Seminar Series. Orono, ME.
8. Peterson, M.N., **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Bondell, H., & Chesonis, T. (2018, April) Predicting recreational pathways to connection to nature among youth. Bioscience Symposium. Aarhus University, Aarhus Denmark.
9. Stevenson, K.T., **Szczytko, R.E.**, & Olson, R.A. (2017, December) How do you know if your program is working? Program Evaluation 101. 7th Annual North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Nonformal Educator's Meeting. Raleigh, NC.

Presentations

1. **Szczytko, R.** (2024, accepted). EE as a lever for systems change: how to measure? NAAEE Research Symposium. Pittsburgh, PA.
2. **Szczytko, R.**, Savage, A., & Knollenberg, W. (2023, September). Assessing the Role of Travel on Retirement Decisions in North Carolina. National Extension Tourism Conference. Milwaukee, WI.
3. Lawson, D., **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Carrier, S.J., & Strnad, R. (2018, March). Overcoming Barriers to Evaluation: Putting Lessons from Research to Practice. 6th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance. St. Petersburg, FL.
4. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Program evaluation partnerships: Findings from NCSU and Muddy Sneakers. NAAEE Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
5. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Leveraging EE's Catch-up Effect. Round table. NAAEE Research Symposium. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
6. **Szczytko, R.**, Kuras, E., Hauk, M., Evenstone, A., & Lawson, D., (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Strategies for success: Graduate student and early-career guidance. Workshop. NAAEE Research Symposium. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
7. **Szczytko, R.** (2017, September) Lessons from Research to Practice. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
8. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., Strnad, R., & Olson, R. (2017, September) Evaluation Partnerships: Findings from NCSU and Muddy Sneakers. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
9. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, October) Pathways to Connection to Nature Among Youth. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference and Research Symposium. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
10. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, June)

Relationships between children's outdoor activities and environmental attitudes by gender and race: Alone time outside predicts positive environmental attitudes. International Symposium for Society and Natural Resource Management. Umeå, Sweden.

11. Stevenson, K. and **Szczytko, R.** (2017, March) How kids learn in nature. Growing IN Place Symposium. Raleigh, N.C.
12. Ferreira, B., Carrillo, B., **Szczytko, R.**, & Seekamp, E. (2017, March) Exploring the meaning within the movement: craft beer from the members' perspectives. 39th Southeastern Recreation Research Symposium. Asheville, N.C.
13. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., and Strnad, R. (2017, March) Creating research & evaluation partnerships with higher education. Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Annual Conference. Buford, GA.
14. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Nietfeld, J., & Strnad, R. (2017, March) Development and validation of the environmental literacy instrument for adolescents. Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Annual Research Symposium. Buford, GA.
15. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Strnad, R., & Olson, R. (2016, October) Creating research & evaluation partnerships with higher education: Lessons learned. NAAEE Annual Conference. Madison, WI.
16. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Strnad, R., Carrier, S., & Olson, R. (2016, September) Measuring environmental program outcomes among elementary school students. 25th Annual Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Black Mountain, NC.
17. Strnad, R. & **Szczytko, R.** (2016, May). Bridging EE and Agricultural Education through Project Learning Tree. Project Learning Tree Annual Coordinator Conference. Salt Lake City, UT.

Posters

1. **Szczytko, R.**, and Zwickle, A. (2024, accepted). Comparing eco-hope and eco-anxiety among U.S. university students. NAAEE Research Symposium. Pittsburgh, PA.
2. **Szczytko, R.**, Zwickle, A., Hamm, J. & Salangi, L. (2023, December). Effects of social determinants of health on perceptions of environmental health risk. Society for Risk Analysis Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.
3. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Shaping life-long environmental engagement: Pathways to connection to nature. NAAEE Research Symposium. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
4. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, September) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference and Research Symposium. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
5. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, June) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. International Symposium for Society and Natural Resource Management. Umeå, Sweden.

6. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, April) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Annual Northeastern Environmental Recreation Research. Annapolis, M.D.
7. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, March) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Annual NC State graduate research symposium. Raleigh, N.C.
8. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., & Strnad, R. (2016, October) Measuring environmental program outcomes among elementary school students. NAAEE Research Symposium, Madison, WI.
9. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., & Strnad, R. (2016, October) Creating New Measures of Environmental Literacy. NAAEE Research Symposium. Madison, WI.
10. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Nietfeld, J. & Strnad, R. (2016, September) Development and validation of the Adolescent Environmental Literacy Instrument. 25th Annual Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Black Hills, NC.
11. Bradshaw, A., Peterson, N., Stevenson, K., Frank, D., & **Szczytko, R.** (2016, September). How teacher beliefs around climate change influence student understanding. 25th Annual Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Black Hills, NC.
12. Curry, K., **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson K., Warner, W., & Park, T (2016, June). Environmental literacy and student performance: Lessons learned from a professional development intervention. North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. Honolulu, HI.
13. Bradshaw, A., Peterson, N., Stevenson, K., Frank, D., & **Szczytko, R.** (2016, April). How teacher beliefs around climate change influence student understanding. 2016 NC State Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium. Raleigh, NC.
14. **Szczytko, R.** (2016, April). Learning to save the earth. North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, NC.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1. Guest lecture (2017, January). Tangibles and Intangibles. PRT 442, Recreation and Park Interpretative Services. North Carolina State University.
2. Guest lecture (2017, February). Interpretive Themes. PRT 442, Recreation and Park Interpretative Services. North Carolina State University.
3. Guest lecture (2017, October). Discussion. Environmentors. North Carolina State University.

GRANTS & AWARDS

2023	Michigan State University Graduate Office Travel Fellowship	\$2,000
2023	National Extension Tourism Student Travel Award	\$350
2023	Michigan State University Environmental Science and Policy Program Graduate Recruiting Fellowship	\$7,000

2023	Michigan State University Distinguished Fellowship	\$106,000
2017	NAAEE Annual Conference William B. Stapp Student Scholarship	\$350
2017	Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Conference Scholarship	\$100
2016	NAAEE Annual Conference William B. Stapp Student Scholarship	\$350
2016	Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference Scholarship	\$60

HONORS

University Honors, University of Michigan, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
 James B. Angell Scholar, University of Michigan, 2013

SERVICE

1. Reviewer. *Environmental Education Research*. 2024.
2. Invited panel member. Career Path Panel. MSU Graduate Women in Science Undergraduate Mentoring Program, February 2024.
3. Reviewer. *Environmental Education Research*. 2023.
4. Invited panel member. Graduate School Panel. MSU Environmental Studies and Sustainability United. October 2023.
5. Reviewer. *Journal of Interpretation Research*. 2017.
6. Junior earth & environmental science judge at NC Science and Engineering Fair, March 2017.
7. Lake Raleigh clean-up organizer, February 2017.
8. Panel member. AmeriCorps Job and Higher Ed Talk, February 2017.
9. Environmentor visiting speaker. North Carolina State University, September 2016.
10. Panel member. Graduate School Session in FW 333: Conservation Biology in Practice, September 2016.
11. High school citizen science education. North Carolina State University, July 2016.

Leadership

2024-	Faculty Liaison	CSUS Graduate Student Organization
2020-23	Finance Chair	Environmental Education Funders Collaborative
2017-18	President	IASNR at NC State
2016-17	Education Chair	Environmental Educators of North Carolina
2016-17	Community Outreach Chair	IASNR at NC State

Membership

2023-present	Michigan State University Graduate Women in Science Undergraduate Mentoring Program
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2023-present Michigan State University Department of Community Sustainability
Graduate Student Organization
2019-23 Environmental Education Funders Collaborative
2016-present North American Association of Environmental Education
2016-18 International Association of Society and Natural Resource
2016-18 Environmental Educators of North Carolina

MENTORING

2016 Mentor for Amy Bradshaw, undergraduate researcher North Carolina
State University

REFERENCES

Advisor at NC State University

Dr. Kathryn Stevenson

Associate Professor
Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management
North Carolina State University
Biltmore 4008, Campus Box 8004
Raleigh, NC 27695
kathryn_stevenson@ncsu.edu
[919-515-2739](tel:919-515-2739) (office)

Committee member at NC State University

Dr. M. Nils Peterson

Professor
Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology
North Carolina State University
Turner House, Campus Box 7646
Raleigh, NC 27695
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Committee member at NC State University

Dr. Sarah Carrier

Associate Professor
Elementary Education
North Carolina State University
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Supervisor at NC State University

Dr. Whitney Knollenberg

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