

MASTERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES

## EVSS FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: DR. ANNETTE WATSON



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Pictured above: Dr. Annette Watson speaking during  
the Hidden Hands Garden Groundbreaking Ceremony  
in the EVSS Student Garden at Stono Preserve,

Dr. Annette Watson joined the College of Charleston's Political Science Department in 2008 and became the Program Director of the EVSS Program in 2016. Dr. Watson conducts research in the South Carolina Lowcountry as well as in Alaska. Her research investigates environmental management, community sustainability & resilience, and co-production of knowledge.

Her most recent project, "Salmon Peoples of the Arctic Rivers," is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In this project, salmon management workshops were held with the Arctic Council and its Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna (CAFF) working group, along with six international indigenous organizations. Dr. Watson's advisee, Haley Kenyon (EVSS student), is developing a second phase of this project to conduct an integrative assessment of the social-ecological system. This collaborative project aims to address the unique issues indigenous people face surrounding the cultural and natural resource of salmon.

In SC's Lowcountry, Dr. Watson has ongoing collaboration with the Gullah/Geechee to develop research to serve their needs. She advises Sara Brunner's (EVSS) project, which is a GIS analysis of the Gullah/Geechee

changes due to the impacts of urban development and climate change.

Dr. Watson's mentorship for EVSS students has an impressive list of seven current students, including the aforementioned students. She enjoys mentoring students that seek to investigate social systems through community engagement and social science methods. Mina Momtaham (EVSS student) is investigating the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on sustainable food systems. Michael Cranford (EVSS/MPA student) is researching the use of strategic planning on agriculture. Charlton Brownell (EVSS/MPA) is analyzing stakeholder opinion on development at Johns Island, SC with QMethod. Ali Soss (EVSS/MPA) is conducting a network analysis of



the red snapper fishing community. Zachary Stephens (EVSS) is developing a mobile app for campus sustainability at the College. From her experience as a first-generation college student, she guides students on how to address the social class barriers that arise from not growing up in households with white-collar professions. She recognizes that "higher education is part of a culture...need[s] to be made transparent and sometimes transformed."

All quotes from Dr. Annette Watson  
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