



KATHRYN KEATING, PH.D.

Social Scientist

Kathryn Sweet Keating, Ph.D., focuses on the intersection between society, the environment, and science in her work as a social scientist at The Water Institute. Kathryn received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in addition to a Bachelor of Social Work from Indiana University. She then attended Portland State University where she obtained a Master of Social Work. Kathryn then moved to Louisiana to continue her graduate studies at Louisiana State University where she received both her Master of Arts in Sociology and her Ph.D. in Sociology.

ORGANIZATION ROLE

Social Scientist

PROJECT ROLE / FOCUS AREAS

Disaster resilience

Environmental
sociology

Large-scale restoration
planning

Mixed-methods
research

Rural social work

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology,
Louisiana State
University, 2020

MA, Sociology,
Louisiana State
University, 2018

MSW, Social Work,
Portland State
University, 1996

BA, Sociology, Indiana
University, 2015

BSW, Social Work,
Indiana University,
2015

Kathryn's research is deeply rooted in disaster resilience and ecosystem restoration and focuses particularly on their impacts on communities. Her dissertation "Facets of Family Resilience: South Louisiana and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill," characterized the negative impacts experienced by families in southern Louisiana due to the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill using an analytical approach to data collected from studies, surveys, and focus groups.

With over eight years of hands-on experience in supporting ecosystem restoration efforts and the communities of the Gulf Coast, Kathryn combines her academic expertise with practical experience to address the complex challenges facing vulnerable populations in disaster-prone areas.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024–Present: Social Scientist, The Water Institute

2020–2024: Social Science Analyst, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

2018–2019: Science Policy Fellow, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council,
National Academies of Sciences Gulf Research Program

2016–2018: Study Coordinator, Resilient Children Youth and Communities Project,
LSU/National Center for Disaster Preparedness

2015–2016: Clinical Social Work Intern, Behavioral Health, OHSU Family Medicine
in Scappoose

2015–2016: Youth Counselor, Safe Place of Hillsboro, Seneca House, Boys and
Girls Aid of Oregon

2013–2015: Residential Coordinator, Binkley House Emergency Youth Shelter,
Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County



SELECTED PROJECTS

2022 Comprehensive Plan Update. *Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.* As a social science analyst, contributed to the evaluation and summary of the 2017 Commitment Planning and Support FPL component of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan update for the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.

Understanding resilience attributes for children, youth, and communities in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill study. *LSU/National Center for Disaster Preparedness (2016–2018)*
Funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, this longitudinal, mixed-methods study examined the public health and social impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill with a focus on child and family resilience and vulnerability.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Keating, Kathryn Sweet, Sarah Becker, Ifeyinwa F. Davis, Thomas Chandler, Tim Slack and Jaishree Beedasy. (2020). “Families coping with financial loss following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.” *Family Relations*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12510>
2. Slack, Tim, Rhiannon A. Kroeger, Samuel Stroope, Kathryn Sweet Keating, Jonathan Sury, Jeremy Brooks, Thomas Chandler, and Jaishree Beedasy. 2020. “Deepwater Horizon oil spill exposure and child health: a longitudinal analysis.” *Population and Environment*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11111-020-00354-6>
3. Keating, Kathryn Sweet, Melissa Gloekler, Nancy Kinner, Sharon Mesick, Michael Peccini, Benjamin Shorr, Lauren Showalter, and Jessica Henkel, 2020. “Coordination of long-term data management in the Gulf of Mexico: Lessons learned and recommendations from two years of cross-agency collaboration.” *Shore & Beach* 88(1), 17-22_ <http://doi.org/10.34237/1008812>