

KENDRA RENTZ

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EDUCATION

Arizona State University

August 2025 – Present

Ph.D. in Geography

Duke University

May 2025

B.S. (Summa Cum Laude) in Environmental Sciences

- Thesis title: “Beyond Survival: Urban Heat Liveability Assessment in Durham, North Carolina”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research Assistant: Shindell Research Group, Duke University

2022 – 2025

- Analyze CMIP6/ISIMIP3 data to evaluate the effects of global warming on population heat exposure.
- Design Python scripts to analyze global methane data for countries within the Global Methane Pledge, working to bridge research to policy.

Research Fellow (NSF REU): Vanos Research Group, Arizona State University

2024

- Completed NSF REU under Dr. Jennifer Vanos at Arizona State University, improving upon biophysical heat balance models to include acclimatization in diverse populations.

Research Intern: Hydrology Department, Itaipu Binacional

2023

- Worked in the hydrology department of the world's third largest hydroelectric dam, fostering cross-cultural interactions and communication skills within a diverse team of Brazilians and Paraguayans.
- Conducted comprehensive data analysis, exploring climate index correlations with natural inflow at Itaipu using Excel, Tableau, and VAR/VECM Python techniques.

Research Analyst: Carbon Offset Initiative, Duke University

2022

- Collaborated with Carbon Offset team and external offset groups to aid Duke University in reaching its climate neutrality goal of 2024.
- Investigated potential carbon offset purchases for the University and collected projections for future fuel efficiency numbers to incorporate into Duke's climate action plan.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Shindell, D., Sadavarte, P., Aben, I., de Oliveira Bredariol, T., Dreyfus, G., Höglund-Isaksson, L., Poulter, B., Saunio, M., Schmidt, G. A., Szopa, S., **Rentz, K.**, Parsons, L., Qu, Z., Faluvegi, G., & Maasakkers, J. D. (2024). The methane imperative. *Frontiers in Science*, 2, 1349770. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsci.2024.1349770>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2025

Teaching Assistant: Geohazards and Disaster Risk, Duke University

Grade assignments, coordinate with guest speakers, and assist with the instruction of 15 graduate students.

VOLUNTEER & OUTREACH

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| 2024 – 2025 | ELEMENT Mentorship Program: Instruct afterschool environmental education program for grades K-5 at a high-priority school. |
| 2024 – 2025 | Climate Connections Program: Founded an interdisciplinary climate mentorship program for Duke undergraduates. The program is continued under the Duke Climate Scholars Program. |

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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| 2025 | <i>Beyond survival: Urban heat liveability assessment in Durham, North Carolina.</i> Poster at the 105th AMS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. |
| 2024 | <i>Effects of heat acclimatization on survivability and liveability projections within future climate scenarios.</i> Poster at the AGU Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. |

GRANTS AWARDED

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| 2025 | NSF Graduate Student Research Fellowship.
\$110,000 over three years to study extreme heat impacts. |
| 2025 | ASU Graduate College Enrichment Fellowship.
\$79,800 over two years to study extreme heat impacts on school children. |

AWARDS & HONORS

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| 2025 | ASU John F. Lounsbury Student Travel Fellowship (\$1,000) |
| 2024 | ASU School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning Graduate Scholar Gold Award (\$5,000) |
| 2024 | American Geophysical Union GeoHealth Outstanding Student Presentation Award (\$200) |
| 2024 | Duke Inaugural Climate Scholar |

ARTICLE FEATURES

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| 2025 | Through community-engaged research, Kendra Rentz found her path to fighting climate change. <i>Civic Science Media</i> . https://civicsciencemedia.org/through-community-engaged-research-kendra-rentz-found-her-path-to-fighting-climate-change/ |
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MEDIA PROJECTS

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| 2022 – 2025 | Operation Climate: Executive producer of student-run podcast that focuses on environmental topics and issues. |
| 2024 | Sacrifice Zone: Dominion Energy's assault on NC farmland: Environmental justice documentary highlighting the unjust development of a LNG plant on and near local farmers' land. |

SKILLS

- Python (Xarray, Pandas, Matplotlib), JupyterLab, Anaconda, Linux (basic), Adobe Audition, Adobe Premiere