

# Brandi Gilbert, PhD

## Associate

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### KEY QUALIFICATIONS

- **Content Expertise:** Disaster preparedness and the social impacts of disaster on vulnerable populations in both the U.S. and international settings, community resilience, youth development and education, public health and systems of care, public policy.
- **Research and Evaluation Methods:** Specialized in qualitative research methods, including study design, drafting measures, collecting data, and conducting structured and semi-structured interviews and focus groups. Analyze qualitative and quantitative data using various statistical packages, and write reports for both scientific and community audiences.
- **Managing and Implementing Programs:** Manage staff in a variety of project tasks, including developing resource materials, collecting and analyzing data, and writing project reports. Co-organized the Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, a national conference for disaster professionals, and co-chaired the American Evaluation Association Disaster and Emergency Management Evaluation Topical Interest Group.
- **Coaching, Training, and Technical Assistance:** Conduct trainings on: evaluation, developing logic models, measuring evaluation goals, and interviewing techniques. Assisted in developing Evaluation 101 workshops for leaders of community-based organizations, which included program workbooks and training activities. Led the development of the Evaluation Resource Guide, which compiles over 100 resources on evaluation topics.
- **Developing Organizational Goals and Strategies:** Use evaluation to help funders align their grantmaking activities and mission; direct funds strategically to improve targeted social conditions; and assess funding history to determine impact, identify gaps, and map out strategies for meeting long-term goals. Use data to inform strategies for community-based organizations to increase their effectiveness and develop sustainability of programs.

### EDUCATION

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- 2013    Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
**Dissertation Title:** Through the Eyes of Youth: Sensemaking and Coping Following the 2010 BP Oil Spill
- 2007    B.A. in Elementary Education, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Associate, 2015 to Present • Urban Institute • Washington, DC**

**Responsibilities:** Serve as Deputy Evaluation Director for an evaluation of Rockefeller Foundation's technical assistance effort provided as a part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's National Disaster Resilience Competition. Support evaluation planning. Train staff to conduct fieldwork, conduct and oversee data collection, monitor project progress, and ensure quality control of reports.

**Associate, 2013 to 2015 • Community Science • Gaithersburg, MD**

**Responsibilities:** Management and supervision of project tasks for community-based studies, working independently and collaboratively; technical quality control over assigned research and evaluation activities; design and administration of interviews, focus groups, and surveys; data analysis; report writing for diverse audiences, including practitioners, scientists, and the general public; and proposal development.

**Sample of Current and Past Projects:**

**Deputy Evaluation Director, Corporation for National and Community Service Retired Senior Volunteer Program, 2015-Present.** Manage data collection of five site visits to examine lessons learned from local disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Train internal staff and evaluation partners to conduct fieldwork, oversee data integration, monitor project progress, and ensure quality control of deliverables and reports. Use evaluation findings to inform development of technical assistance resources for grantees.

**Evaluation Team Member, Kaiser Foundation Port Towns Community Health Partnership, 2014-Present.** Manage data collection and analysis to assess systems change efforts to improve healthy eating and active living through a place-based effort in the Port Towns Communities, MD. Work with local stakeholders to build local evaluation capacity and understand the policy impacts of the Partnership's initiative.

**Evaluation Team Member, W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community and Systems Change Place-Based Effort in Mississippi Evaluation, 2013-Present.** Oversee and provide technical assistance to grantees, develop educational evaluation resources, and facilitate grantee trainings. Manage site visits, assess grant portfolio, and assist with report writing.

**Evaluation Team Member, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Global Libraries Impact Work Group, 2013-Present.** Provide training, technical assistance, and capacity building to approximately 10 international country programs participating in the Bill and Melinda Gates Global Libraries Impact Work Group. Support activities include facilitating a convening in Bucharest, Romania, managing Community of Practice sessions, developing quarterly newsletters, and sharing resources.

**Evaluation Team Member, Institute of Public Health Innovation Transforming Prince George's County Communities Initiative, 2013-2015.** Led evaluation planning with sub-awardees, including logic model and measurement framework development. Other project responsibilities included designing survey and interview protocols, and overseeing data collection, data analysis, and report writing.

**Graduate Research Assistant, 2007 – 2013 • Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado • Boulder, CO**

**Responsibilities:** Conducted in-depth interviews and surveys and assisted with instrument design, data analysis, and report writing.

**Sample of Past Projects:**

**Research Team Member, U.S. Geological Survey Tsunami Scenario Project, 2012-2013.** Engaged in evaluation planning to assess a U.S. Geological Survey emergency planning scenario, including development of logic models, data collection strategies, and interview protocols. Documented observations of tsunami scenario planning meetings through field notes.

**Research Team Member, National Science Foundation Post-Earthquake Temporary Housing Planning Assessment, 2010-2011.** Participated in project fieldwork in Port-au-Prince and Jacmel, Haiti conducting interviews with government officials and key personnel in agencies providing temporary housing. Analyzed organizational correspondence among local inter-agency shelter cluster participants.

**Research Team Member, National Science Foundation Warnings Decisions and Extreme Weather Events Project, 2008-2012.** Collected, coded, and analyzed data from qualitative organizational interviews with local forecasters, public officials, and broadcast media representatives on warning processes for severe weather. Engaged in mental modeling research cross-training with project partners from National Center for Atmospheric Research.

**Research Team Member, U.S. Water Crisis Research Network, 2008-2010.** Collaborated with U.S. and international Dutch partners to share existing research and evaluation findings on issues of public preparedness and emergency management.

**Research Team Member, Fritz Institute Bay Area Preparedness Initiative: Disaster Preparedness among Community-Based Organizations, 2007-2010.** Collected, coded, and analyzed data from qualitative interviews with leaders of 90 community-based organizations. Assisted with technical report and published findings in book chapter and at national conferences.

**Intern, 2008 – 2009 • American Evaluation Association’s Graduate Education Diversity Internship Program • Boulder, CO**

**Responsibilities:** Led an assessment of the University of Colorado Women’s Resource Center (WRC) Student Volunteer Program, which involved independently developing study design and interview protocols and conducting 20 face-to-face interviews with WRC staff and volunteers. Analyzed data and developed an evaluation finding report, which the WRC staff used to adapt the program in the following academic year.

**Research Assistant, 2007 – 2007 • Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware • Newark, DE**

**Responsibilities:** Used qualitative software for analyzing interviews concerning the waterborne evacuation of Lower Manhattan following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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<i>Member</i>	American Evaluation Association
<i>Member</i>	American Sociological Association
<i>Member</i>	Gender and Disaster Network
<i>Member</i>	Society for the Study of Social Problems

## **AWARDS & OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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Chair, American Evaluation Association Disaster and Emergency Management Topical

Interest Group, 2012 – 2014

Dissertation Fellowship Recipient, American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship Program, 2012 – 2013

Committee Member, American Evaluation Association Presidential Task Force, 2012

Conference Co-Organizer, Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, 2008 – 2013

## **REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES, BOOKS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

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Lee, K. & Gilbert, B. (2014). Embedding the Graduate Education Diversity Internship within a Larger System. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 143: 97-108.

Ritchie, L., Tierney, K., & Gilbert, B. (2010). Disaster Preparedness among Community-Based Organizations in the City and County of San Francisco: Serving the Most Vulnerable. Pp 3-39 in *Community Disaster Recovery and Resiliency: Exploring Global Opportunities and Challenges*, Edited by D. S. Miller and J.D Rivera.

Engel, K., Jordan, A., Gilbert, B., & Ritchie, L. (2010). Putting Disaster and Emergency Management Evaluation in the Dutch Context: Learning from International Experience. (In Dutch). *Magazine of Crisis Management and National Security*, September 2010 Issue.

## **TRAINING, EDUCATIONAL, & OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

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*Operationalizing and Measuring Program Goals*. (2013). Written for W.K. Kellogg Foundation. [Primary Author]

*Community Science Evaluation Resource Guide*. (2013). Written for W.K. Kellogg Foundation. [Contributing Author]

## **SELECTED REPORTS**

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*Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Final Evaluation Cross-Case Study of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Training and Technical Assistance*. (2015). Written for CNCS. [Contributing Author].

*Site Visit Evaluation for Mississippi Place-Based Efforts*. (2015). Written for W.K. Kellogg Foundation. [Contributing Author]

*Community Transformation Grant, Final Evaluation Report*. (2014). Written for Institute for Public Health Innovation. [Contributing Author]

*Global Libraries Impact Work Group Bucharest, Romania, Meeting Report*. (2014). Written for Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. [Contributing Author]

*Be Yourself Youth Development Counselor Program Materials Assessment.* (2014) Written for Identity, Inc. [Primary Author]

*Summary of Evaluation Site Visits and Telephone Interviews for Mississippi Place-Based Grantee Efforts.* (2014). Written for W.K. Kellogg Foundation. [Contributing Author]

*Impact Work Group Needs Assessment.* (2014). Written for Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. [Contributing Author]

*Corporation for National and Community Service and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Staff Focus Group Findings.* (2014). Written for Corporation for National and Community Service. [Contributing Author]

*Young Males of Color Grantee Cohort Gathering Report.* (2013). Written for W.K. Kellogg Foundation. [Primary Author]

*Theory and Practice of Community Reconciliation: A Literature Review.* (2013). Written for Andrus Family Fund. [Contributing Author]

*Warning Decisions in Extreme Weather Events: Exploring Inter-Organizational Warning Processes for Flash Floods in Boulder, Colorado and Hurricanes in Miami, Florida.* (2011). Written for the National Science Foundation. [Contributing Author]

*Women's Resource Center Student Volunteer Program.* (2009). Written for University of Colorado Boulder Women's Resource Center. [Primary Author]

*Disaster Preparedness Among Community-Based Organizations in the City and County of San Francisco.* (2008). Written for the Fritz Institute. [Contributing Author]

## **PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS**

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Gilbert, B. (November 2015). *Funding for Graduate Education and Research. Presented at The Bill Anderson Fund Student Council Workshop Series.* Presented via webinar.

Gilbert, B. (October 2014). *Evaluating a Comprehensive Nutrition, Food Access and Physical Activity Initiative: A Mixed Methods Approach to Evaluating the Multi-Level Impact of Transforming Prince George's County Communities.* Presented at American Evaluation Association Conference, Denver, CO.

Gilbert, B. (August 2013). *It Took a Part of Your Life Out: Lifestyle Changes Following the BP Oil Spill.* Presented at the American Sociological Association Conference, New York, NY.

Gilbert, B. (March 2013). *Vulnerability and Resilience as Process: A Multi-Disciplinary Perspective to Inclusive Disaster Planning and Policy.* Presented at Advancing and Redefining Communities for Emergency Management Conference, Washington, DC.

Ritchie, L. and Gilbert, B. (March 2013). *Resilience from the Bottom Up: Assessing Disaster Preparedness in Community-Based Organizations.* Presented at the Annual Meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Denver, CO.

Ritchie, L. and Gilbert, B. (October 2012). *The Role of Stakeholder Feedback in Disaster Preparedness Evaluation: A Collaborative Project with the US Geological Survey.* Presented at American Evaluation Association Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

- Gilbert, B. (August 2012). *The Activism that Never Happened: A Case Study of Youth Volunteerism Following the BP Spill*. Society for the Study of Social Problems, Denver, CO.
- Gilbert, B. & Campbell, N. (August 2012). "You're Not From Around Here, Are You?" Self-Presentation in the Field. Presented at Annual Conference of Black Sociologists, Denver, CO.
- Gilbert, B. (July 2012). *Understanding Children's Disaster Recovery within a Social Context*. Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Children and Disasters Panel, Boulder, CO.
- Gilbert, B. (November 2011). *Addressing Values and Valuing through a Culturally Responsive Evaluation Framework*. Presented at American Evaluation Association Conference, Anaheim, CA.
- Gilbert, B. & Ritchie, L. (November 2011) *Assessing the Needs of Youth in the Aftermath of the Gulf Oil Spill*. Presented at American Evaluation Association Conference, Anaheim, CA.
- Gilbert, B. & Ritchie, L. (May 2011). *Filling a Critical Gap: Recognizing the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in U.S. Disaster Preparedness and Response*. Presented at Veterans Health Administration Comprehensive Emergency Management Program Evaluation and Research Conference, Washington, DC.
- Gilbert, B., Jordan, A. & Ritchie, L. (November 2010). *Warning Decisions in Extreme Weather Events*. Poster presented at American Evaluation Association Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Ritchie, L., Tierney, K. & Gilbert, B. (December 2009). *Exploring the Role of Community-Based Organizations in Helping Vulnerable Populations Prepare for and Respond to Disasters*. Presented at Netherlands US Water Crisis Research Network Meeting, Newark, DE.
- Gilbert, B. (November 2009). *Examining Stakeholder Input: A Culturally Responsive Evaluation of the Women's Resource Center Student Volunteer Program*. Presented at American Evaluation Association Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Gilbert, B. (November 2009). *Exploring Context in Evaluation: The Importance of Cultural and Historical Context*. Presented at American Evaluation Association Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Ritchie, L. & Gilbert, B. (November 2009). *Assessing Disaster Preparedness Among Community-Based Organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area*. Presented at American Evaluation Association Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Tierney, K., Ritchie, L., Gilbert, B. & Austin, D. (April 2008). *Assessing Preparedness within the Critical Civic Infrastructure: Preliminary Findings*. Presented at the Fritz Institute Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Gilbert, B. (April 2007). *Surviving Katrina: An Investigation in the Writing & Literacy Practices of Teachers & Students*. Presented at American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Gilbert, B. (August 2007). *Literacy in a 12th Grade Language Arts Class Following Hurricane Katrina*. Presented at 8th Annual McNair and University Undergraduate Scholars Research Symposium, Newark, DE.