Workshop on Coastal Observation and Modeling Systems
September 8, 2020

Jonathan Gilligan

Jonathan Gilligan is Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences and Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Vanderbilt University and the director of Vanderbilt's Grand Challenge Initiative on Climate and Society.

Gilligan received his BA in Physics and Philosophy from Swarthmore College and his Ph.D. in Physics from Yale University. He was a National Research Council Postdoctoral Associate at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, where he worked with David Wineland using laser-cooled trapped atomic ions to study the fundamental properties of quantum measurements. He led a team at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration developing and using a multichannel gas chromatograph on a NASA airborne mission to study stratospheric ozone depletion.

Gilligan's current research focuses on collaborative interdisciplinary research into interactions between human behavior, society, and environmental change. His research projects include studying the role of the private sector in regulating greenhouse gas emissions; interactions between climate change, land use, and rural agricultural communities in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh; water policy and access to safe drinking water in U.S. cities; and interactions between gentrification and mobility in U.S. cities.

Gilligan has published one book and 92 scholarly articles and holds two patents. He and Michael Vandenbergh shared the 2017 Morrison Prize for the highest-impact paper of the year on sustainability law and policy and their book, Beyond Politics: The Private Governance Response to Climate Change was named by the Environmental Law Review as one of the most important books of the last 50 years on environmental policy.