

James O. Knighton, Ph.D., P.E.

Assistant Professor

University of Connecticut Department of Natural Resources and the Environment

E: james.knighton@uconn.edu | T: (215) 317-0980

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Spring 2019, Biological and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca NY

M.A., 2013, Environmental Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

B.S., 2007, Civil Engineering, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2020 - Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, Storrs, CT

2019 - 2020 Postdoctoral Fellow, The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), Annapolis, MD

2019 Research Associate, New York Water Resources Institute, Ithaca, NY

2015 - 2019 Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, Cornell University Dept. of Biological & Environmental, Ithaca, NY

2013 - 2015 Flood Risk Division Research Associate, Enercon Services, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

2007 - 2013 Hydraulic & Hydrologic Engineer, Philadelphia Water Department, Philadelphia, PA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Cornell U. BEE 4940/6940: Principles and Practices of Hydrologic Modeling (Spring 2019)

Cornell U. BEE 6740: Ecohydrology (Spring 2018)

Teaching Assistant

Cornell U. BEE 3710: Physical Hydrology for Ecosystems (Spring 2017)

Cornell U. BEE 6740: Ecohydrology (Spring 2016)

Cornell U. BEE 4710: Introduction to Groundwater (Spring 2016)

Cornell U. BEE 4730: Watershed Engineering (Fall 2015)

Guest Instructor (selected)

Cornell U. Landscape Design & Research Department Studio (Spring & Fall 2015 - 2018)

Cornell U. BEE 4730: Watershed Engineering (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019 The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center Competitive Postdoctoral Funding (\$153,000): Exploring the Roles of Hydrologic Uncertainty, Future Flood Risk, Anticipation, and Memory in Guiding National Flood Mitigation Policies. **Knighon, J.**, Elliott, R.
- Great Lakes Research Consortium Small Grant (\$10,000): Shifts in Northeastern US Flood Frequency Following Eastern Hemlock Loss and Succession. **Knighon, J.**, Singh, K., Walter, M.T.
- CUAHSI IDTG (\$1,000): Analysis of Soil and Stem Water with Integrated Cavity Output Spectroscopy. **Knighon, J.**, Kim, M., Troch, P.
- 2018 NSF Critical Zone Observatory SAVI International Scholar Grant (\$6,500): Investigating the Influence of Plant Water Uptake, Climate, and Geology on Root Zone Travel Times. **Knighon, J.**, Walter, M.T., Sprenger, M., Soulsby, C., Tetzlaff, D.
- Atkinson Center Sustainable Biodiversity Fund (\$6,237): Flooding Risk Implications of Biodiversity Loss in Eastern US Forests: Hydrologic Modeling of Eastern Hemlock Decline. **Knighon, J.**
- Nature Conservancy (\$30,000): Statewide Vulnerability-Based Assessment of Future Riverine Flood Risk Using a Modified Peaks-Over-Threshold Approach with a Hydrologic Model. Walter, M.T., **Knighon, J.**
- 2017 American Geophysical Union (AGU) Horton Research Grant (\$10,000): Spatial and Temporal Variability of Ecohydrologic Separation in a Snow-Dominated Watershed. **Knighon, J.**
- American Geophysical Union (AGU) Conference Travel Grant (\$550). **Knighon, J.**
- Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (recommended for funding): Designing Waste Manure Application Schemes to Reduce Freshwater Eutrophication Risk under Climate Change. **Knighon, J.**, Walter, M.T.
- Engaged Cornell Graduate Student Grant (\$10,000): Mapping Riverine Flood Risk by Meteorological Mechanism for Central New York, USA: Linking Increased Flooding Risk to Global Climate Change. **Knighon, J.**
- 2016 IGERT Cross-Scale Biogeochemistry and Climate Small Grant (\$3,879): Ecohydrologic Separation as a Framework for Soil Residence Times. **Knighon, J.**
- Cornell Conference Travel Grant (\$440). **Knighon, J.**

- Ram Sagi Dairy Engineering Award (\$1,000): Partitioning evaporation and transpiration through Soil Stable Water Isotopic Measurements. **Knighton, J.**
- 2012 University of Pennsylvania EES Research Award (\$2,000): DNA Barcoding of Invertebrate Freshwater Indicator Species. **Knighton, J.**, Dapkey, T., Willig, S.
- 2007 New Economy Technology Scholarship. **Knighton, J.**
- A.J. Drexel Scholarship. **Knighton, J.**

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

In Review or Preparation (available on request)

- 2020 **Knighton, J.**, Fricke, E., Ricker, B., Evaristo, J., Wassen, M. (In Prep). The Phylogenetic Underpinnings of Groundwater Use by Trees.
- Knighton J.**, Hondula, K., Sharkus, C., Guzman, C., Elliott, R., (In Review.) Flood Risk Behavior of US Metropolitan Areas is driven by Streamflow Dynamics, Race, and Poverty.

Accepted Articles

- 2020 **Knighton, J.**, Souter-Kline, V., Singh, K., Walter, M.T. (2020). Hammond Hill Research Catchment: Supporting Hydrologic Investigations of Rooting Zone and Vegetation Water Dynamics under Climate Change. *Hydrological Processes*. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.13887
- Knighton, J.**, Vijay, V., Palmer, M. (2020). Alignment of Tree Phenology and Climate Seasonality Influences the Runoff Response to Forest Cover Loss. *Environmental Research Letters*. DOI: 10.1088/1748-9326/abaad9
- Knighton J.**, Buchanan, B., Guzman, C., Elliott, R., Rahm, B. (2020). Predicting Flood Insurance Claims with Hydrologic and Socioeconomic Demographics via Machine Learning: Exploring the Roles of Topography, Minority Populations, and Political Dissimilarity. *Journal of Environmental Management*. DOI: 10.1016/j.jenvman.2020.111051
- Knighton J.**, Kuppel, S., Smith, A., Sprenger, M., Soulsby, C., Tetzlaff, D. (2020). Using Isotopes to Incorporate Tree Water Storage and Mixing Dynamics into a Distributed Ecohydrologic Modelling Framework. *Ecohydrology*. DOI: 10.1002/eco.2201
- Knighton, J.**, Singh, K., Evaristo, J. (2020). Understanding Catchment-Scale Forest Root Water Uptake Strategies across the Continental US through Inverse Ecohydrological Modeling. *Geophysical Research Letters*. DOI: 10.1029/2019GL085937

Singh, K., **Knighton, J.**, Lassoï, J., Walter, M.T., Whitmore, M. (2020). Simulation and statistical modeling approaches to investigate hydrologic regime transformations following Eastern hemlock decline. *Hydrological Processes*.

Rosero-Lopez, D., **Knighton, J.**, Lloret, P., Encalada, A. (2020). Invertebrate response to Impacts of Water Intake and Flow Regulation in High Altitude Tropical Streams. *River Research and Applications*. DOI: 10.1002/rra.3578

2019 **Knighton J.**, Souter-Kline, V., Volkmann, T., Troch, P., Kim, M., Harman, C., Morris, C., Buchanan, B., Walter, M.T. (2019). Spatial and Topographic Variations in Ecohydrologic Separation in a Small, Temperate, Snow-Influenced Catchment. *Water Resources Research*. DOI:10.1029/2019WR025174

Knighton J., Coneelly, J., Walter, M. (2019). Possible Increases in Flood Frequency Due to the Loss of Eastern Hemlock in the Northeastern US: Observational Insights and Predicted Impacts. *Water Resources Research*. DOI: 10.1029/2018WR024395

Knighton J., Pleiss, G., Carter, E., Lyon, S., Walter, M.T., Steinschneider, S., (2019). Reproduction of Regional Precipitation and Discharge Extremes with Meso-Scale Climate Products via Machine Learning: An Evaluation for the Eastern CONUS. *Journal of Hydrometeorology*. DOI: 10.1175/JHM-D-18-0196.s1.

Menzies Puer, E. G., **Knighton, J. O.**, Archibald, J. A., & Walter, M. T. (2019). Comparing Watershed Scale P Losses from Manure Spreading in Temperate Climates across Mechanistic Soil P Models. *Journal of Hydrologic Engineering*, 24(5), 04019009.

2018 **Knighton J.**, Tsuda, O., Elliott R., Walter, M.T. (2018). Challenges to Implementing Bottom-Up Flood Risk Decision Analysis Frameworks: How Strong are Social Networks of Flooding Professionals? *Hydrology and Earth Systems Sciences*. DOI: 10.5194/hess-2018-327.

Buchanan, B., Auerbach, D. A., **Knighton, J.**, Evensen, D., Fuka, D. R., Easton, Z., ... & Walter, T. (2018). Estimating dominant runoff modes across the conterminous United States. *Hydrological Processes*, 32(26), 3881-3890.

2017 **Knighton J.**, Steinschneider, S., Walter, M.T. (2017). A Vulnerability-Based, Bottom-Up Assessment of Future Riverine Flood Risk Using a Modified Peaks-over-Threshold Approach and a Physically Based Hydrologic Model. *Water Resources Research*. DOI: 10.1002/2017WR021036

Knighton, J., Menzies, E., M. T. Walter. (2017). Evaluation of Topographic Wetness Guided Dairy Manure Application Schemes to Reduce Stream Nutrient Loading in SWAT. *Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies*. DOI: 10.1016/j.ejrh.2017.11.003

- Knighton J.**, Saia, S., Morris, C., Archibald, J., Walter, M.T. (2017). Ecohydrologic Considerations for Modeling of Stable Water Isotopes in a Small Intermittent Watershed. *Hydrological Processes*. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.11194
- Knighton J.**, DeGaetano, A., Walter, M.T. (2017). Hydrologic State Controls on Riverine Flood Hazard: Negative Feedbacks on the Effects of Climate Change. *Journal of Hydrometeorology*. DOI: 10.1175/JHM-D-16-0164.1
- 2016 **Knighton J.**, Walter, M.T. (2016). Critical Rainfall Statics for Predicting Watershed Flood Responses: Rethinking the Design Storm Concept. *Hydrological Processes*. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10888
- Knighton, J.**, Lennon, E., Bastidas, L., & White, E. (2016). Stormwater detention system parameter sensitivity and uncertainty analysis using SWMM. *Journal of Hydrologic Engineering*. DOI: 10.1061/(ASCE)HE.1943-5584.0001382
- 2015 **Knighton J.**, Bastidas, L. (2015). A Proposed Probabilistic Seismic Tsunami Hazard Analysis Methodology. *Natural Hazards*. DOI: 10.1007/s11069-015-1741-7
- Bastidas, L. A., **Knighton, J.**, & Kline, S. W. (2016). Parameter sensitivity and uncertainty analysis for a storm surge and wave model. *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences*, 16(10), 2195-2210.
- 2014 **Knighton J.**, White E, Lennon E, Rajan R. (2014). Development of Probability Distributions for Urban Hydrologic Model Parameters and a Monte Carlo Analysis of Model Sensitivity. *Hydrological Processes* 28: 5131 – 5139. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10009
- Knighton J.**, Dapkey T, Cruz J. (2014). Random Walk Modeling of Adult *Leuctra ferruginea* (Stonefly) Dispersal. *Ecological Informatics* 19: 1 – 9. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecoinf.2013.11.001
- 2011 Maimone, M., O'Rourke, D. E., **Knighton, J. O.**, & Thomas, C. P. (2011). Potential impacts of extensive stormwater infiltration in Philadelphia. *Environ. Eng. Appl. Res. Pract*, 14, 1-12.

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2017 Outstanding Reviewer *Journal of Hydrologic Engineering*
AGU Horton Research Grant (competitive award)
- 2016 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention
- 2007 Chi-Epsilon inductee- honor society for civil engineering

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 **Knighon, J.**, Kuppel, S., Sprenger, M., Smith, A., Soulsby, C., Tetzlaff, D. (2019). Interpreting Xylem Isotopic Measurements in the context of Tree Water Storage and Mixing. 2019 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting.
- 2018 **Knighon, J.**, Coneelly, J., Walter, M.T. (2018). Oral Presentation. The Influence of Eastern Hemlock Loss on the Flood Frequency Distribution of a Small Temperate Catchment. 2018 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting.
- Knighon, J.**, Elliott, R. (2018). Oral Presentation. What do we talk about when we talk about flooding? 2018 CaRDI Flood Risk & Community Resiliency.
- 2017 **Knighon, J.** Souter-Kline, V., Walter, M.T. (2017). Oral Presentation. Spatial and Temporal Variability of Ecohydrologic Separation in a Snow-Dominated Watershed. 2017 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting.
- 2016 **Knighon, J.** Morris, C., Saia, S., Walter, M.T. (2016). Oral Presentation. The Importance of Plant Growth and Unsaturated Zone Mixing for the Simulation of Stable Water Isotopes. 2016 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting.
- 2015 **Knighon, J.** (2015). Oral Presentation. Estimating the Effects of DEM Uncertainty through Two-Dimensional Spatial Stochastic Watershed Simulation. World Environmental and Water Resources Congress 2015.

PUBLISHED DATASETS

Knighon, J. (2019). CUIISO: Cornell Six Mile Creek Isotopes. CUAHSI HydroClient. DOI: 10.4211/his-5651

Knighon, J. (2018). Tompkins County Flood Expert Survey, HydroShare, DOI: 10.4211/hs.93dbbcda406349e691030e92c882fb3a

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Tompkins County Environmental Management Council Associate Member (2016 – 2019)

US Global Change Research Program & AGU Climate Resiliency Dialogues (2018): Carlisle, PA

US Global Change Research Program & AGU Climate Resiliency Dialogues (2017): Savannah, GA

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Registered Professional Engineer (Delaware) License No.: 19216

Member of AAAS (2016 – present)

Member of American Geophysical Union (2016 – present)

James Knighton

Member of Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society (member since 2006; active 2006 – 2007)

Member of the American Entomological Society (active member since 2012)

PRESS

2020 *ABC New 10*: Demographics data helps predict New York flood insurance claims.

Cornell Chronicle: Demographics data helps predict NY flood insurance claims.

2014 *Environmental News Network*: Returning insects are an imperfect measure of stream restoration potential.

PEER REVIEWS

<https://publons.com/author/1275378/james-knighton>