

MICHAEL C. GAVIN, PH.D.

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LEADER OF RESEARCH AND TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION

Twenty-five years of experience advancing innovation in environmental conservation and sustainable development. Fifteen years directing interdisciplinary and international teams in collaborative research, stakeholder engagement, education and training. Develops and directs programs and web-based platforms that empower innovative synthesis of data and research tools. Proven track record of establishing research alliances spanning the globe, including collaborations between university scientists and industry.

Areas of Expertise

- Partnership-building with diverse stakeholders
- Fundraising from private and public entities
- Conservation and sustainable development
- Diversity, inclusion, and governance
- Team leadership for experimental discovery
- Fostering expert collaboration for innovation
- Design of novel analytical approaches
- Facilitation, training, and mentorship
- Communicating results broadly with different media
- Global experience: Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia-Pacific

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

2012-PRESENT

Research Leader and Principal Investigator

- Achieved award-winning excellence in research revenue (\$3M+, including from private foundations and government agencies, such as the National Science Foundation) and scientific publications (60+)
- Founded and currently direct two international and interdisciplinary research networks that drive discovery by linking experts from diverse fields of expertise to big, open-access databases and novel research tools
- Communicate results to diverse audiences, including via articles, media interviews, and public talks
- Lead federally-funded projects aimed at diversifying the science and knowledge systems used for environmental decision-making, including for the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. National Park Service
- Establish partnerships with scientists from multiple disciplines, community leaders, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and industry to improve performance of programs and commercial products, including for education systems in Vanuatu and Mexico, for national parks in Peru, and for U.S. breweries
- Design and employ novel research tools to evaluate the impacts of conservation and development programs
- Organized and facilitated multiple international symposia in the United States and Bhutan

Program Director

- Directed strategic planning, budgeting, staffing, and transformative innovation for a national award-winning program that trains future environmental leaders

Professor

- Designed and taught 7 different courses, including systems thinking, strategic planning and management
- Served as primary mentor and advisor to 29 early career researchers (Masters, Ph.D., and Postdoctoral)

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE, GERMANY

2014-PRESENT

Research Associate and Principal Investigator

- Built international team, funded, and directed development of a web-based open-access platform that synthesizes data and research tools to empower innovative and interdisciplinary analysis

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)

2014-2018

Elected Member of Commission on Environmental, Economic & Social Policy and Working Group Director

- Founded and led a policy innovation team for the IUCN, the world's largest environmental network, focused on principles of good governance and incorporating cultural diversity into environmental conservation initiatives
- Disseminated research and policy reports globally to government agencies and environmental organizations

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

2005-2011

Program Director, Senior Lecturer, and Principal Investigator

- Directed program focused on training leaders in environmental sustainability
- Designed, funded, and facilitated research innovation conferences for young leaders
- Led international and interdisciplinary team funded by a national research synthesis center
- Directed strategic planning, fund-raising, training, project management for conservation and sustainable development projects in New Zealand, U.S., Bangladesh, China, Peru, Vanuatu, Samoa, and Sierra Leone
- Designed and taught courses on environmental conservation, sustainable development, and scientific research
- Served as primary mentor and advisor to 18 early career researchers (Masters, Ph.D., and Postdoctoral)

SUSTAINABILITY TRUST, NEW ZEALAND

2006-2008

Board Member

- Provided strategic direction and fundraising assistance to non-governmental organization leading sustainable agriculture, transportation, and housing initiatives

HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, HONOLULU, HAWAII

2004-2005

Assistant Professor

- Taught environmental planning, management, sustainability, and scientific research methods

CIMA CORDILLERA AZUL, PERU

2003

Core Member of Strategic Planning Team

- Led community-based field research team focused on local food systems and environmental sustainability
- Co-developed strategic vision and management plan for the Cordillera Azul National Park

U.S. PEACE CORPS, NICARAGUA

1995-1997

Founder and Co-director of Environmental Department of Corn Island

- Developed and managed municipal strategies for solid waste management and environmental education
- Cultivated fluency in Spanish

EDUCATION

University of Connecticut, Ph.D. in Ecology

2002

U.S. Fulbright Scholar, Peru

2001

Bowdoin College, Bachelor's in Biology and Environmental Studies

1995

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **60+ international peer-reviewed science publications**, including in world-leading outlets such as *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and *Proceedings of the Royal Society*
- **Wide-reaching communication**, including popular articles in *Newsweek*, *Scientific American*, the *Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, interviews with national news programs, and an invited TED talk
- **50+ presentations at national and international forums**, including 10 invited keynote addresses