

Gifford J Wong, Ph.D. *gifford.wong@gmail.com*

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Detail-oriented science policy analyst with experience in a diverse range of policy areas including climate change, energy, and polar affairs. Passionate about ensuring policies and programs are evidence-based and provide social, economic, and national security benefits.

SCIENCE POLICY AND DIPLOMACY EXPERIENCE

Senior Policy Advisor (California Office of Energy Safety)

JUNE 2025 — PRESENT

- Support California's Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB) and its mission to "advise and make recommendations to reduce the risk of utility related wildfires."
- Collaborate with Board to review wildfire mitigation plans from California's publicly owned utilities and electrical cooperatives.
- Provide specific support and topical guidance on vegetation management practices, safety culture assessment, and protective equipment and device settings.

Research Staff Member (IDA Science & Technology Policy Institute)

MAY 2019 — MAY 2025

- Provided objective, rigorous science and technology (S&T) policy analysis and support to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and other Federal agencies.
- Assessed Federal Earth observing ecosystem, including existing and future satellite needs (NSTC).
- Facilitated strategic plan development for six Federal science centers (NSF).
- Coordinated interagency subcommittee focused on Federal research and development infrastructure, including development of a national strategic overview (NSTC).

Department of State (Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs)

JANUARY 2017 — JANUARY 2019

- Served as Foreign Affairs Officer responsible for supporting and facilitating interagency and bilateral communication on science, environmental, and health issues relevant to U.S.-China relations (including energy, Arctic and Antarctic affairs, climate change, global health security, science and technology cooperation, and oceans and fisheries).
- Advanced U.S. equities and represented national sensitivities in a variety of negotiations between the United States and appropriate counterparts in China, including discussions of Iranian oil purchases and procurement of avian influenza samples.
- Coordinated briefing materials supporting two Secretary-level engagements with Chinese counterparts and one Presidential visit to China.

HILL EXPERIENCE

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (Congressional Science Fellow)

OCTOBER 2015 — DECEMBER 2016

- Drafted and staffed Senator's weekly floor remarks on climate change ("Time to Wake Up").
- Researched and helped draft report on opponents to the EPA's Clean Power Plan released by Senators Whitehouse, Reid, Boxer, and Markey.
- Assessed and provided recommendations for FY17 Commerce appropriations, drafted memos in preparation for EPW Committee hearings and stakeholder meetings, drafted legislation on electronic waste exports, and took stakeholder and constituent meetings.

EDUCATION

Dartmouth College (*Ph.D. in Earth Sciences—glaciology*)

- Thesis: Environmental and Climatic Controls on Glaciochemistry of Near-Surface Snow in Greenland

University of Tasmania at Hobart (*Honours in Antarctic Studies*)

University of California at Berkeley (*B.A. in Asian American Studies*)

TEACHING AND NATIONAL SERVICE

Polar Science Early Career Community Office (Advisory Board) **September 2023 — present**

- Advise in PSECCO's community-building and community-support efforts.

Study of Environmental Arctic Change (Advisor and contributor) **September 2018 — present**

- Participate in NSF-funded project to co-produce information for Arctic decisionmakers that brings together Indigenous Knowledge holders, scientists, and policymakers.

University of Southern California (Adjunct Associate Professor) **JANUARY 2020 — present**

- Developed and taught course titled "Environmental, Energy, and National Security" with the USC Dana and David Dornsife Washington, DC, Program.

Dartmouth College (Graduate Fellow and Instructor) **SEPTEMBER 2009 — AUGUST 2015**

- Polar Environmental Change Fellow: examined climate change effects on Greenland economy and society through literature review and discussions with Greenlandic and Indigenous stakeholders.
- Instructor: developed and taught 10-week graduate science communication course.

Lead Helitech (4 summers; McMurdo Station): U.S. Antarctic Program; **U.S. Heli-rappeller and Wildland Firefighter** (6 summers; OR, WY): Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service; and **AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps** (2 years; CO, DC)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- Han, X., I. Liu, **G.J. Wong**, and R.P. Appelbaum. July 2021. Challenges to China's Academic STEM Research Ecosystem. <https://www.ida.org/research-and-publications/publications/all/c/ch/challenges-to-chinas-academic-stem-research-ecosystem>
- Moon, T.A., I. Overeem, M. Druckenmiller, M. Holland, H. Huntington, G. Kling, A.L. Lovecraft, G. Miller, T. Scambos, C. Schädel, E.A.G. Schuur, E. Trochim, F. Wiese, D. Williams, **G.J. Wong**. 2019. The expanding footprint of rapid Arctic change. *Earth's Future* 7(3). <https://doi.org/10.1029/2018EF001088>
- **Wong, G.J.**, E.C. Osterberg, R.L. Hawley, Z.R. Courville, D. Ferris, and J. Howley. 2015. Coast to interior gradient in recent precipitation trends in northwest Greenland instrumental period (1952-2012). *Environmental Research Letters* 10(11), 114008. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/10/11/114008>

Select Honors: Invited to interview for NASA astronaut corps (2021); Superior Honor Award, U.S. Department of State (2018); Gary Malone Award, exemplary Dartmouth Geologist (2015); Golden Shovel Award, U.S. Antarctic Program (2001)