Global Fellows Program 2016-2020

Supporting Faculty to Build Knowledge Globally

Office for Global Research Engagement
University of Florida International Center

The OFFICE FOR GLOBAL RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT (OGRE) facilitates international research to increase UF's global presence. OGRE supports faculty to advance international research.

In pursuit of international research excellence, our role is to:

- **INTRODUCE** faculty new to international research to active university networks and experienced mentors.
- **CONNECT** faculty, students, and staff with those who share research interests and are interested in working in similar countries or regions.
- ** Foster** research networks for internationally focused communities of practice.
- **EXPAND** UF's knowledge and capacity in working in international venues.
- **ASSIST** faculty, students, and staff in identifying sponsored research opportunities and programs.
- **FACILITATE** the process of navigating the UF administrative process for conducting international research.
- **SUPPORT** Fulbright visiting scholars at UF, and UF scholars travelling abroad.

For more information: [OGRE@ufl.edu](mailto:OGRE@ufl.edu) and [https://www.internationalcenter.ufl.edu](https://www.internationalcenter.ufl.edu)
Global Fellows Program
Supporting Faculty to Build Knowledge Globally.

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<td>Assistant Professor,</td>
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<td>College of Design, Construction and Planning</td>
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<td>Eugenio Rojas, PhD</td>
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<td>Assistant Professor,</td>
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<td>Mexico, Latin American Emerging</td>
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<td>Economics, European Periphery</td>
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<td>Pengfei Zhao, PhD</td>
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<td>School of Human Development and Organizational</td>
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<td>College of Public Health and Health Professions</td>
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University of Florida
Global Fellows Program

Supporting Faculty to Build Knowledge Globally

The International Center’s theme of learning without borders extends to our faculty and research community. Through the Global Fellows Program, UF faculty can kick-start their international research program. A seed grant of $5,000 provides faculty an opportunity to lay the groundwork for conducting international research. Faculty can use these funds to cover expenses to travel to collect field data, to meet with international scholars, to access resources not available at UF, and to support any activity that advances research abroad.

Why Invest in International Research?

For years, academic scholarship has not been bound to the geographic border of our campus. The scholarly outputs of UF researchers have a global impact; and likewise, the research community that resides outside of UF influences us. Undeniably, research with an international focus has a targeted effect on our faculty and students. How?

1. Working with researchers in other countries will add value through their contribution to greater diversity in scientific knowledge and ideas. Data support that researchers who collaborate internationally are cited more frequently.*

2. International research collaboration fosters global innovation and competitiveness.**

3. International research will extend our opportunities to apply for funding outside of the US. Whether independently or in an international collaboration, an international focus will provide access to a larger set of funding programs.

4. Working internationally, provides access to unique study sites and populations leading to innovation and discovery.

5. Collaborating with international faculty provides access to facilities and resources not available on campus.

6. An international focus enables a greater global perspective and allows us to understand how our research translates outside of the US.

7. Increase our awareness of how disciplines are practiced in other countries.

8. Attract students from undergraduates to post-doctoral fellows from abroad.
9. By extending the international focus to the classroom, we can contribute to students’ global competencies as we prepare them for a multicultural world and global economy.

10. Advance UF’s international ranking and global presence.


Program Activities

Commitment to the program will require each Fellow to:

- Develop an international research project, including a proposal for an externally funded project.
- Identify a faculty mentor to review and provide feedback related to content and academic merit for their proposal.
- Attend the Global Workshop Series offered by the International Center’s Office for Global Research Engagement during the spring semester.
- Travel abroad to conduct fieldwork or assess feasibility of their proposal for international research.

Workshops

In addition to the seed funding, the program offers a series of six workshops on topics about:

- Potential funding opportunities;
- Building partnerships with universities and other institutions outside of the US;
- The logistics of working with international partners;
- UF administrative processes for conducting research abroad;
- Unique issues related to IRB and general compliance practice;
- The how-to’s of engaging students in international research projects; and
- Writing broader impact Statements to illustrate scientific merit and impact on society, education, and community.

Mentorship

The Global Fellows are asked to identify a mentor, a UF faculty who has an established international research program. The mentor will serve as an advisor to the fellow providing insight on the values, culture and best practice of conducting research in an international setting; introducing fellows to a network of people connected to either their specific
research or to the study region; and helps the mentee set realistic goals and the strategy to reach those targets. For the mentor, their participation is an investment into a more junior faculty’s success; however, from the experience, they may gain new perspectives through this interaction and may find an opportunity to reflect on their own research practice. The mentor is expected to meet at least four times with their mentee. As compensation, the International Center provides honoraria of $1,000.

**Fellowship Numbers**

Since the program inception in the 2015/2016 academic year, the program received 130 applications and funded 59 faculty. The Global Fellows represent 9 different colleges and the George A. Smathers Libraries.

**How to Apply**

The Office for Global Research Engagement (OGRE) announces the call for applications at the beginning of the fall semester and applications are due by Mid-October. The application package requires the following:

1. Completed Application form (Appendix A).
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV), no more than three pages.
3. Personal statement of interest describing:
   - Why you are interested in the Global Fellows Program;
   - Your international research goals;
   - Previous international experience and funding;
   - How the Global Fellows Program will benefit your career trajectory; and
   - Your commitment to attend the workshops and to engage fully in the Global Fellows Program.

4. Letter of support from your Department Chair/Head, School Director, or Dean.
5. Letter from your mentor.

In September, OGRE offers two (in person) sessions to explain the program and benefits in more detail. The deadline for applications is Monday, October 22, 2019.
2020 Global Fellows

Simone Athayde, PhD

Associate Scientist, Tropical Conservation and Development Program, Center for Latin American Studies

Dr. Simone Athayde is an Associate Scientist and Core Faculty of the Tropical Conservation and Development Program and in the Center for Latin American Studies. As an environmental anthropologist and interdisciplinary ecologist, her research examines the local impacts of climate change on social-ecological systems. Dr. Athayde is a lead author and expert for the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). She has extensive experience working in the Amazonian region and has worked supporting indigenous peoples’ livelihoods, natural resource management and territorial rights since finishing her Ph.D. at the University of Florida in 2010. Dr. Athayde will use the Global Fellowship to support the project “Local Indicators of Climate Change” (LICCI) amongst indigenous people in the Brazilian Amazon by collecting data on environmental and social impacts of climate change. The LICCI project is part of a globally coordinated program that will take place across 40 sites and is the first global effort devoted to investigate indigenous and local indicators of climate change. She hopes to collect grounded data on the traditional ecological knowledge of the area in order to better understand the physical, and biological and socioeconomic impacts of climate change in the Brazilian Amazon, and will test hypotheses on the distribution of local climate change impact indicators.

Global Research Interests:
- Impacts of climate change
- Interdisciplinary Ecology
- Environmental Anthropology
- Indigenous an Local Knowledge Systems
- Socio-environmental Justice
- Conservation of Biocultural Diversity

Study Region: State of Roraima, Brazilian Amazon
Mentor: Dr. Bette Loiselle, Director, Tropical Conservation and Development Program, Center for Latin American Studies

simonea@ufl.edu

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1 The International Center thanks the Florida Climate Institute for their generous support of Dr. Athayde’s Global Fellowship.
2 The LICCI – Local Indicators of Climate Change Impacts: the contribution of local knowledge to climate change research – is a European Research Council (ERC) funded project aiming to bring indigenous and local knowledge to climate change research. It is led by Principal Investigator Dr. Victoria Reyes-García, a UF alumna and Professor at the Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals in the Universidad Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). More information: https://licci.eu/
John Bowden, PhD
Assistant Professor, Center for Environmental and Human Toxicology, Department of Physiological Science, College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Bowden is a trained chemist that works on analytical toxicology, environmental chemistry, and health-based ‘omics’ using innovative mass spectrometric strategies. His laboratory focuses on two fundamental questions. What effect do we have on the health of the environment? What effect does the environment have on human health? He develops and implements innovative chemical techniques, instrumentation, and workflows to tackle these questions. Dr. Bowden’s Global Fellowship will incorporate state-of-the-art analytical approaches to evaluate the “chemical health” of water being impacted by anthropogenic pollution around the Olifants River in South Africa. He aims to provide, for the first time, robust and comprehensive values for a wide range of anthropogenic contaminants along the Olifants River, which will also include, in addition to surface water, water from schools and villages which source from various locations along the Olifants and its tributaries. This information will hopefully provide local scientists and policy makers the information needed to better help protect their environment and natural resources since as of right now, we know next to nothing, other than that the water is heavily used (by mining, agriculture, livestock, drinking) and there are virtually no safeguards (regulation or monitoring) for the water. He hopes to collect his own samples during his Fellowship, but also aims to train colleagues in South Africa to collect and sample water nearby so they may continue to monitor the impacts moving forward.

Global Research Interests:
- Legacy/Chemicals of Emerging Concern
- Health Impacts from Chemical Exposure
- Environmental Chemical Analysis
- Technology Transfer
- Water Quality in Developing Countries
- Wildlife/Ecosystem Health

Study Region: Olifants River, South Africa
Mentor: Dr. Joseph Bisesi, Assistant Professor, Environmental and Global Health, College of Public Health and Health Professions
john.bowden@ufl.edu
Manoucheka Celeste, PhD

Associate Professor; Center for Gender, Women’s and Sexualities and Women’s Studies Research; and the African American Studies Program; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Manoucheka Celeste is an associate professor with a shared appointment at the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Research and the African American Studies Program. Dr. Celeste is the author of Race, Gender, and Citizenship in the African Diaspora: Travelling Blackness (Routledge), winner of the 2018 National Communication Association Diamond Anniversary Book Award and the 2017 National Communication Association Outstanding Book Award from the African American Communication & Culture Division and Black Caucus. She researches media representations of race, gender, class, sexuality, and nation, and processes of identity formation. She is currently working on a second book project, “The Wailing Black Woman: Interrupting Narratives of Life, Death, and Citizenship in Media and the Public Sphere,” where she centers black women globally to examine media portrayals and public discourses of black life and death. Dr. Celeste holds a Ph.D. in Communication and Graduate Certificate in Feminist Studies from the University of Washington, an M.A. in Mass Communication and a B.S. in Journalism from UF.

Global Research Interests:
- Media Studies
- Cultural Studies
- Communication Studies
- Caribbean Studies
- African Diaspora Studies
- Haitian Studies
- Women’s & Gender Studies
- Black Studies
- Women of Color Feminisms

Study Region: Rwanda, Ghana

Mentor: Dr. Barbara Mennel, Rotham Chair and Director, Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere; Professor, Film Studies and German Studies, Department of Language, Literature and Cultures, and English; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

celeste@ufl.edu
Andrew Janusz, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Andrew Janusz is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego in 2018. His research explores how political institutions and social factors perpetuate racial inequality in Latin America’s emerging democracies. In his current book project, Dr. Janusz explores the political marginalization of African descendants in Brazil. He investigates why Afro-Brazilians do not attain political representation commensurate with their numerical strength and examines how racial disparities in electoral outcomes affect the representation of Afro-Brazilians’ policy interests. His research is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Fulbright-Hays Program. An article based on his findings was published in Politics, Groups, and Identities. As a new professor, Janusz is participating in the Global Fellows Program Workshops to learn how to develop successful funding proposals and navigate the UF IRB.

Global Research Interests:
- Latin America
- Electoral Politics
- Political Representation
- Racial Inequality
- Ethnic Politics

Study Region: Brazil and Latin America

Mentor: Dr. Ben Smith, Associate Professor, Department Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Philip Janzen, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Philip Janzen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History. Originally from Ottawa, Canada, he received his Ph.D. in African history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research and teaching focus on migration, race, and empire in Africa and the Atlantic world.

Janzen is currently working on a book manuscript tentatively titled *Islands Unformed: Geography, Race, and Empire between Africa and the Caribbean*. The project is centered on Caribbean people who joined the French and British colonial administrations in Africa. By following the trajectories of these Caribbean administrators, *Islands Unformed* explores the profound intellectual impacts of dislocation, racism, and assimilation.

With funding from the Global Fellows Program, Janzen is beginning a new project on the documentation of violence in the French colonies of West and Central Africa. He will examine how colonial officials normalized, silenced, and valorized violence in ledgers and correspondence. This research will also trace how colonial archives have informed imperial nostalgia and popular understandings of colonialism in the present.

Janzen has received research support from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Global Research Interests:
- Colonialism and Decolonization
- Migration
- Transnational History
- Intellectual History
- Archives and Sites of Memory

Study Region: West Africa, Central Africa, Caribbean
Mentor: Dr. Nancy Rose Hunt, Associate Professor, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Alix Johnson, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of History,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Alix Johnson is Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology. Prior to joining the University of Florida, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Queen’s University in the Department of Sociology and Surveillance Studies Centre. She holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Johnson’s research and teaching center on the social, material, and political life of information. Her first book project examines digital infrastructures (including data centers, fiber-optic cables, and legislative regimes) as sites for negotiating sovereignty, identity, and imperial power. Her new work explores the militarization of the Arctic, focusing specifically on surveillance as a mode of anticipatory politics.

As a Global Fellow, she will conduct preliminary research in Iceland, where a Cold War U.S. military base is being refurbished as a foothold in the freshly contested North. Johnson’s research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the American-Scandinavian Foundation (among others). Her published work appears in journals including American Ethnologist, City & Society, Culture Machine, and Imaginations.

Global Research Interests:
- Information technology / infrastructure
- Data storage and data mobilities
- Surveillance
- Secrecy
- Militarism
- The Arctic
- Iceland

Study Region: Iceland, the Arctic
Mentor: Dr. Richard Kernaghan, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Jonathan Judy, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Soil and Water Science, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Jonathan Judy is Assistant Professor of Soil and Water Chemistry in the Department of Soil and Water Sciences at the University of Florida. Prior to his current position, Dr. Judy was a postdoctoral fellow at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial research Organisation (CSIRO) in Adelaide, Australia. Dr. Judy’s research investigates the fate of contaminants (e.g. nanomaterials, metals, trace organics, microplastics, nutrients) and their effects on terrestrial biota and water quality. Dr. Judy is currently collaborating with Australian scientists at James Cook University (JCU) in Queensland and with CSIRO scientists in Queensland and South Australia on research projects examining the transport of nutrients within catchments that drain into the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) lagoon. In 2020, Dr. Judy hopes to build on this work and incorporate analysis of stable isotopes and ultrafine particulate nitrogen loads within the GBR lagoon to investigate sources of nitrogen entering the lagoon, as well as the relative importance of ultrafine particulate N to overall N inputs into the lagoon.

Global Research Interests:
- Emerging Contaminants
- Terrestrial Ecotoxicology
- Environmental Science
- Nutrient Losses from Agriculture and other human activities

Study Region: Townsville, Queensland, Australia
Mentor: Dr. Jim Jawitz, Landscape Hydrology, Department of Soil and Water Science, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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Yao Li, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Yao Li is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Johns Hopkins University. Before coming to UF, She was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University’s Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation and was a lecturer at the University of Kansas. Her research combines quantitative and qualitative methods to address debates in the fields of social movements, environmental studies, political sociology, development, and law and society. Her research agenda focuses on 1) the impact of popular resistance and social control in different types of states; 2) informal norms in the interaction between state and society; 3) governance and environmental politics across regimes, with a focus on waste management.

She is the author of Playing by the Informal Rules—Why the Chinese Regime Remains Stable despite Rising Protests (Cambridge 2019; Cambridge Studies in Contentious Politics). Her articles have been published or are forthcoming in Government and Opposition, Journal of Contemporary China, Journal of Current Chinese Affairs, China Journal, among others. She is currently working on a new book project on waste management with a focus on China, Taiwan, and the United States.

Global Research Interests:
- Environmental Studies
- Social Movements and Contentious Politics
- Development
- State-Society Relations
- Waste Management
- Social Control

Study Region: China, Taiwan, and the U.S.
Mentor: Dr. Christine Overdevest, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Julie Meyer, PhD

Assistant Professor, Microbial Ecology and Bioinformatics, Department of Soil and Water Science, Institute of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Research in the Meyer lab is focused on the role of microorganisms in the health and disease of marine keystone species like corals and seagrass. Currently, Dr. Meyer is a lead investigator in the effort to uncover the pathogen(s) responsible for the ongoing stony coral tissue loss disease, which has caused unprecedented coral mortality in the Florida Reef Tract. This devastating coral disease is now spreading around the Caribbean, with confirmed cases in Jamaica, Mexico, St. Maarten, US Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos, and Belize. Dr. Meyer and her collaborators recently published the first microbiological investigation of the disease. She is part of a team of scientists lead by the Smithsonian Marine Station developing probiotic treatments for this devastating disease. She will use the Global Fellows award to establish new relationships around the Caribbean to sample coral microbiomes in advance of the disease front and to share research insights in efforts to mitigate the continued spread of stony coral tissue loss disease.

Global Research Interests:
- Host-microbe Interactions
- Environmental Microbiology
- Coral Disease
- Symbiosis

Study Region: Caribbean Countries and Mexico
Mentor: Dr. Tom Frazer, Director and Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment

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Alpa Nawre, MLAUD
Assistant Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, College of Design, Construction and Planning

Alpa Nawre is Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at University of Florida, and Partner at her design practice, Alpa Nawre Design. Issues pertinent to the design of water infrastructure and resource management in the context of rapidly urbanizing developing countries inform her research, teaching and practice. Her writings have been published as books chapters and in journals such as Landscape Journal, Journal of Landscape Architecture, India and JoLA. Alpa holds a Master in Urban Design from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design, a Master in Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University, and a Bachelor in Architecture from NIT, Raipur, India. She is a recipient of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture Award for Excellence in Design Studio Teaching, the Dumbarton Oaks Mellon Fellowship in Urban Landscape Studies, and a Landscape Architecture Foundation Fellowship for Innovation and Leadership. Alpa has worked internationally in design offices in India, US, UAE and Switzerland. She serves on the Alumni Council of LSU’s School of Landscape Architecture, and the Alumni Council of Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design.

Global Research Interests:
- Water Management
- Multifunctional Landscape Infrastructure
- Participatory Design
- Community Development

Study Region: India, South Asia
Mentor: Dr. Michael Kung, Director of Global Education; Program Director, Department of Sustainable Design, College of Design, Construction and Planning

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Eugenio Rojas, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Eugenio Rojas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Florida. He joined the University in 2019, the same year in which he completed his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on having a better understanding of financial crises, their effect on the macro economy, and the design of macroprudential regulation. Specifically, he studies how imperfections in financial markets interact with the decisions of households, firms, and governments, how these interactions shape the frequency and severity of financial crises, and whether there are regulations that can reduce the likelihood of these events and be welfare-improving for society. Another strand of his research also studies the interaction financial frictions and firms’ investment and exporting decisions. In particular, how financial frictions shape the growth of firms, and the type of goods they decide to export. To study this, he is currently working with census data of manufacturing firms in Mexico. Before his doctoral studies, he also studied topics in labor and education economics. He has published in the International Monetary Fund Economic Review, Economics of Education Review, and the Journal of Applied Economics.

Global Research Interests:
- International Macroeconomics
- Financial Crises
- Financial Imperfections and firm dynamics
- Heterogeneous agents and quantitative macroeconomics
- Macroprudential regulation

Study Region: Mexico, Latin American Emerging Economics, European Periphery
Mentor: Dr. Mark Rush, Professor, Department of Economics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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Jessica Siders Kahler, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Jessica Kahler is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law and affiliate faculty for the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, Center for African Studies, and the Tropical Conservation and Development Program. Prior to joining the University of Florida, Dr. Kahler consulted on the Wildlife Crime Initiative with World Wildlife Fund-US and served in the US Peace Corps in the Republic of Vanuatu. She received her PhD and MS in the human-dimensions of fisheries and wildlife from the Michigan State University and a BA in anthropology and BS in natural resources management from The Ohio State University. Her research focuses on the application of conservation criminology to human-wildlife conflicts, wildlife poaching, illegal trade and trafficking, community-based responses to environmental crime, and situational wildlife crime prevention primarily within southern Africa and Southeast Asia. Dr. Kahler’s research has been published in Biological Conservation, Conservation Biology, Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management, the International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice and in two peer-edited books to name a few. Her work has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the US Fish & Wildlife Service, among other sources. She is currently working with various centers to expand her applied research into new areas particularly in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Global Research Interests:
- Community-based Wildlife Crime Prevention
- Conservation Criminology
- Environmental Justice
- Situational Crime Prevention
- Wildlife Crime
- Wildlife Guardianship

Study Region: Southern Africa (currently Zambia), Southeast Asia (primarily Indonesia), Bahamas, Guyana, and Nicaragua
Mentor: Dr. Stephen Perz, Professor, Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Adrienne Strong, PhD
Assistant Professor, Center for African Studies, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Science

Adrienne Strong is an Assistant Professor in Anthropology and an affiliate of the Center for African Studies, as well as the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Center. Before coming to UF, she was a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health. Adrienne holds a joint PhD in anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis and the Universiteit van Amsterdam in the Netherlands, a certificate in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies, and an AM in anthropology from Wash U, as well as a BS in Biomedical Science from the Ohio State University. Her research centers on maternal mortality in hospital settings in Tanzania, with a focus on the perspectives of healthcare workers. Adrienne’s book Documenting Death: Maternal Mortality and the Ethics of Care in Tanzania will be available in fall 2020 from University of California Press. Other publications can be found in Human Organization, Social Science & Medicine, Health Care for Women International, and the edited volumes Birth in 8 Cultures, Pregnant in the Time of Ebola, and The Work of Medicine: Anthropology in Hospitals.

Global Research Interests:
- Maternal Mortality
- Health Systems
- Healthcare Workers
- Care
- Medicine
- Nursing

Study Region: Sub-Saharan Africa; Tanzania, Liberia, Rwanda, Angola, Nigeria, Guinea, Senegal
Mentor: Dr. Catherine Tucker, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Center for Latin American Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Daniel Urbine,
MD

Clinical Assistant Professor, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, College of Medicine

Dan Urbine is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine in the division of critical care, pulmonary, and sleep medicine. His current research includes serving as a co-investigator on the Indian Lung Disease and Tuberculosis Study. The study is a collaborative effort between researchers at hospitals in India, Australia, and the University of Florida. It is designed to determine how the early identification and treatment of non-communicable pulmonary disease in patients diagnosed with active tuberculosis impacts lung function. Additionally, in partnership with colleagues in Zambia, he is developing a study focused on the risk of nosocomial transmission of tuberculosis among health care workers in Zambia. He is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Humanitarian Health from Johns Hopkins. His research in the field of tuberculosis is a natural way to link his interests in pulmonary disease and the health of marginalized international populations. Dan is also the medical director of Living Hope International (LHI), a non-profit organization with a mission to care for orphaned children in Zambia.

Global Research Interests:
- Pulmonary Infectious Diseases
- Tuberculosis
- Humanitarian Health

Study Region: Zambia and India
Mentor: Dr. Lennox Archibald, Associate Professor, Department of Infectious Disease and Global Medicine, College of Medicine

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Pengfei Zhao, PhD
Assistant Professor, School of Human Development and Organizational Studies in Education, College of Education

Pengfei Zhao is an Assistant Professor in the Research and Evaluation Methodology Program in the College of Education, with specialization in qualitative research methodology. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University Bloomington in 2017 and was a Visiting Assistant in Research at Yale University from 2013 to 2014. Pengfei’s research focuses on critical social and cultural theories and their implications on research methodology and ethics. She grounds her methodological work in long-term international research with a geographical concentration on mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. One of the research projects examines the coming of age experience of rural Chinese youth during and right after the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). Currently, she is completing a book manuscript based on this project titled Changing Fate: The Cultural Revolution’s Rural Youth in Transition to Post-Mao China. With this Global Fellowship, Pengfei proposes to conduct fieldwork comparing the regulation of research ethics in mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, jumpstarting a multi-year data collection process.

Pengfei is the recipient of the 2019 Illinois Qualitative Distinguished Dissertation Award from the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry and the 2017 Best PhD Dissertation Award from the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology. She has peer-reviewed articles published on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Forum: Qualitative Social Research, and Sex Education: Sexuality, Society and Learning.

Global Research Interests:
- Research Ethics
- Critical and feminist philosophic, social, and educational theories
- Youth culture, Immigration and Social Change
- Qualitative research methodology, especially the methodologies of critical ethnography, narrative inquiry, and action research

Study Region: Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan
Mentor: Dr. Danling Fu, Professor, School of Teaching and Learning, College of Education

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2019 Fellows

Eric Coker, PhD
Department of Environmental and Global Health, College of Public Health and Health Professions

Dr. Eric Coker is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental and Global Health. He is also an environmental epidemiologist whose research examines the health effects of environmental pollution and contamination. Dr. Coker is interested in ambient and household air quality in urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa in order to gain a better understanding of and raise awareness of the public health impacts from air pollution in the region. Dr. Coker’s pre-doctoral work at Oregon State University and post-doctoral work at the University of California, Berkeley has resulted in significant publications examining the effects on physical development and neurodevelopmental in children from exposure to air pollution and chemical pesticides. Dr. Coker recently completed a Global Health Fellowship where he conducted a study in Kampala, Uganda examining the relationship between air pollution and respiratory symptoms in children. With funding from the Global Fellows program, he will expand on this work by advancing a research program in Uganda that addresses: (1) development of low-cost ambient air quality monitoring networks, (2) urban air pollution epidemiology studies that integrate ambient and household air pollution and climate data, and (3) understanding the role of susceptibilities factors related to urban slum environments in determining air pollution-related respiratory health risks.

Study Region: Sub-Saharan Africa, east Africa, Uganda
Mentor: Sarah McKune, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Global Health, College of Public Health and Health Professions

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Joel Correia, PhD
Center for Latin American Studies

Joel Correia is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Latin American Studies, core faculty member of the Tropical Conservation and Development Program, and affiliate faculty for both the Department of Geography and American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program. He was a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the University of Arizona Center for Latin American Studies prior to joining the University of Florida. Joel holds a PhD in geography from the University of Colorado Boulder, MA in Latin American studies from the University of Arizona, and BA in Geography from Humboldt State University. His research and teaching center on the intersections of human rights, socio-environmental (in)justice, indigenous politics, and law in the context of extractive development and Latin America, with a particular focus on Paraguay and the Southern Cone region. His research is published in journals such as *Geoforum, The Journal of Peasant Studies, Erasmus Law Review,* and *The Journal of Latin American Geography* with a book manuscript titled *Disrupting the Patrón: Indigenous land rights, critical environmental justice, and territoriality in Paraguay’s Chaco* in progress. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, Fulbright-Hays, U.S. Department of Education, among other sources. Joel has also been involved in numerous applied development and non-academic research projects across Paraguay, in the Mexico–US borderlands, and Kenya.

Study Region: Paraguay, Gran Chaco (Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay), Southern Cone
Mentor: Dr. Robert Walker, Professor, Department of Geography and Center for Latin American Studies

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Joel Correia formulates his goals on a global scale. His niche of interest hones in on working to construct a regional research program, which will cover the issue of indigenous land rights and how it affects deforestation in the South American Chaco forest.
Margaret Galvan, PhD
Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Margaret Galvan is Assistant Professor of Visual Rhetoric in the Department of English at the University of Florida. As a Global Fellow, she will conduct archival and ethnographic research in the United Kingdom to trace transatlantic connections and production histories of the Strip AIDS (1987) and Strip AIDS USA (1988) comics, which raised support and funding for HIV/AIDS in the late 1980s. This work will form part of a future monograph examining the intersection of comics and social movements across the second half of the twentieth century.

Her forthcoming book, In Visible Archives of the 1980s, under contract with the University of Minnesota Press, traces a genealogy of queer theory in 1980s feminism through representations of sexuality in visual culture. Her published work, which analyzes comics through intersectional approaches, can be found in journals like Australian Feminist Studies, WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly, Archive Journal, American Literature, and Journal of Lesbian Studies. See margaretgalvan.org for more information.

“Research is always richer when you have people to think alongside, and the Global Fellows has increased that sphere of influence. There are more folks to think alongside in different disciplines, and hearing what they’re working on and how they approach their problems differently gives me insight about how to think about the humanities work I do and what its impact is globally.”

Margaret Galvan
Speaking about the Global Fellows Program

Study Region: Europe, The United Kingdom
Mentor: Dr. Barbara Mennel, Associate Professor, Department English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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Nicholas Kerr, PhD
Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Nicholas Kerr is an assistant professor of comparative politics in the Department of Political Science. He received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University. His research interests include African politics, electoral institutions, electoral integrity, political corruption and public opinion. His research agenda focuses on how multiparty elections in electoral democracies and competitive autocracies shape popular evaluations of political legitimacy including trust in the electoral process, satisfaction with democracy, and support for regime principles. Nicholas is currently working on a book project that explores the consequences of the design and performance of election commissions on democratization in Africa. He has published articles in Governance, Political Research Quarterly, Political Studies, Journal of Modern African Studies, and Electoral Studies.

Nicholas also has experience conducting fieldwork and organizing surveys in several African countries. He has advised several prominent democracy promotion and political development organizations including The Carter Center, Freedom House, International Foundation of Electoral Systems, and National Democratic Institute. Before moving to UF, Nicholas was an assistant professor at University of Alabama. He received a B.A. in Economics and Political Science from Williams College, and spent his formative years at Campion College High School in Kingston, Jamaica.

Study Region: Sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya
Mentor: Dr. Bryon Moraski, Associate Professor, Department Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Derrick Mathias, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology & Nematology, Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences

My research program at UF focuses on the transmission biology of vector-borne diseases, particularly malaria and mosquito-transmitted viruses. My career path to UF has provided broad training and experience in medical entomology, molecular biology, and evolutionary genetics. My doctoral research at the
University of Oregon explored the genetics and evolution of complex traits in mosquitoes. My postdoctoral training, first with the CDC and then at the Johns Hopkins School of Public health, focused respectively on the impact of anti-malaria interventions on mosquito populations in Kenya and on molecular approaches to interrupting the transmission cycle of malarial parasites. Before moving to UF, I was an assistant professor at Auburn University for two years where I continued research on mosquito-borne diseases and expanded my program to include tick-borne pathogens of the southeastern U.S. Throughout my career a major research emphasis has been to better understand arthropod biology in the context of pathogen transmission with the intent of identifying aspects of each system that can be targeted for the benefit of public health. As a UF Global Fellow, I will apply this framework to improve understanding of malaria transmission in Tanzania, while working with in-country collaborators to build capacity for vector-borne disease research.

Study Region: Sub-Saharan Africa, Tanzania
Mentor: Dr. Rhoei Dinglasan, Associate Professor, Dept. of Infectious Diseases & Immunology, College of Veterinary Medicine

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Tara Mathien, EdD
Unified Early Childhood ProTeach Program, College of Education

For the bulk of my academic career, I have engaged in explorations of high quality and developmentally appropriate practice in early childhood centers across geographic and culturally diverse settings. I am interested in how early childhood educators incorporate new beliefs and practices into their existing schema of education. Adopting new ideas is effective in concert with understanding the culture of an existing environment. My work is centered around action research in which I am working alongside and supporting professional growth of educators within their own programs.

My international experience has varied from Switzerland to China, and most recently, Nepal. I serve as the program advisor for Kiddieland Bilingual Child Care Program in Zurich, Switzerland where I consult with the teachers and school leadership on practices and policies related to curriculum and environment. Additionally, I have presented at an international forum in Nanjing, China, and visited schools in Nanjing and Shanghai to gain further perspectives of teachers. I have collaborated with an educational group in Kathmandu, Nepal to support ongoing professional development needs of teachers. These
global experiences and collaborations have afforded me the data and insights to bolster international perspectives for research related to early childhood teacher education and training.

Study Region: China, Nepal, Switzerland
Mentor: Dr. Brian Reichow, Associate Professor, School of Special Education, School Psychology & Early Childhood Studies, College of Education

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Steph N. Morgan, PhD
Food & Resource Economics Department, Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Stephen Morgan is an Assistant Professor in Food and Resource Economics. He conducts research focused on understanding how the design of agri-environmental policy and economic institutions influences the behavior of producers and other key stakeholders who make critical decisions about natural resource management, sustainable input use, and agricultural technology adoption. Stephen focuses on the design and use of economic experiments to capture the economic incentives and dynamics of challenges faced by agricultural producers and decision-makers in the U.S. and abroad. A central to his research is the consideration of how we can better integrate ecological dynamics into experimental environments to better understand how individuals and groups respond to changes in the natural environment over time. His research can help policymakers understand the incentives created by a changing environment and anticipate human behavioral responses. In 2019, Stephen aims to establish an international and multidisciplinary research program with colleagues in Zambia using economic experiments to study how smallholder farmers can sustainably increase agricultural production and conserve critical forest resources.

Study Region: Zambia, Sub-Saharan Africa
Mentor: Cheryl Palm, Research Professor, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

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Mathews L. Paret, PhD

Associate Professor, Plant Pathology Department, North Florida Research and Education Center, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Paret’s International program is focused on understanding the global diversity of plant pathogenic bacteria, viruses and fungi and its management. Since 2013, he has been conducting research and agricultural development programs in the West African countries of Benin, Togo and Niger. This program has been in collaboration with INRAB (Institut National de Recherches Agronomiques, Benin), the University of Lome, Togo, and INRAN (Institut National de Recherches Agronomiques, Niger). Establishment of plant disease diagnostic labs and IPM centers for vegetable crops has been a key focus of this project. National surveys and diagnostics of plant pathogens on >450 plant samples were conducted using culturing, microscopy, pathogenicity, biochemical, antibody and/or DNA-based assays. This led to the discovery of many plant pathogens including the first report of bacterial wilt of gboma and amaranthus, two popular vegetables in the region, and the characterization of the causal bacterium Ralstonia solanacearum (Sikiro u et al. 2015, Sikiro u et al. 2018). Hands-on training for >200 vegetable farmers, extension workers, students, and lab-personnel were conducted. This program led to change in knowledge, change in practice and improved cash flow for many vegetable farmers in Benin, Togo and Niger.

Study Region: Benin, Togo, Niger, Other West African Countries
Mentor: Dr. Adegoba Adesogan, Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

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Robin Petroze, MD MPH
Department of Surgery, Division of Pediatric Surgery, College of Medicine

Dr. Petroze is an assistant professor in the division of pediatric surgery. She serves as the assistant chair of global surgery within the UF Department of Surgery with a joint appointment in the UF Department of Environmental and Global Health. Dr. Petroze is fellowship-trained in pediatric surgery. Her research focuses on evaluating barriers to care and differential outcomes for pediatric surgery in low and middle income countries (LMIC). She is particularly interested in developing innovative solutions to improving outcomes and participating in the development of multi-institutional outcomes studies for pediatric surgery in East Africa. Additionally, she is interested in collaborative education in global health and developing a framework for global health competencies in residency training.

“My research focuses on collaboratively improving access to surgical services for children around the world. There is a huge disparity between services offered to children as well as the outcome. We have a lot to offer in terms of research, education, and collaboration.”

Robin Petroze
Speaking about the Global Fellows Program

Dr. Petroze received an NIH Fogarty International Fellowship to study access to surgical care, capacity for emergency and essential surgery and educational development in Rwanda. She completed the first WHO comprehensive nationwide assessment of surgical capacity in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Rwanda in 2010 and worked collaboratively with the University of Rwanda to develop and implement a trauma registry at the two university referral hospitals in the country. Working with an international advisory board, Dr. Petroze was instrumental in the development of the Surgeons Overseas Assessment of Surgical Need (SOSAS) study, which has been used to assess neglected surgical disease at the population level in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Nepal.

Dr. Petroze is the recipient of the 2012 American College of Surgeons/Pfizer Surgical Volunteerism Award and the 2015 Association of Women Surgeons Resident of the Year for her global health research and advocacy in Rwanda.

Study Region: Kenya, Rwanda, member countries of the college of Surgeons East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA)
Mentor: Dr. Saleem Islam, Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery, Division Chief, Pediatric Surgery
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Supporting faculty to build knowledge globally.
Jiangxiao Qiu, PhD

School of Forest Resources and Conservation, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

The overarching goal of Dr. Jiangxiao Qiu’s research is to understand and predict how global change drivers including climate change affect human-dominated landscapes, their consequences for ecosystem services (ES) that are vital for human welfare, and pathways towards climate adaptation and mitigation. Such knowledge is crucial for developing solutions for real-world conservation, management and policy challenges. His current major research projects at the University of Florida include: (1) how to balance and manage multiple ES in subtropical humid grassland in a changing climate; (2) how fire, grazing and land management interact to affect ES, and how these interactive effects scale up from local to regional watershed; and (3) how integration of technology hubs and urban agriculture enhance resource efficiency of food-energy-water (FEW) nexus, reduce tradeoffs and improve resilience to climatic stressors and social-economic fluctuations. His research is highly interdisciplinary, and uses approach integrating landscape analysis, biophysical modeling, GIS, remote sensing, field observation and experiment, data synthesis, and social sciences to address basic and applied research questions across a range of spatial and temporal scales. His research has been published in a diverse suite of journals, such as Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Nature Sustainability, Global Ecology and Biogeography, and Ecology Letters.

Study Region: China, Netherlands, France, Sweden, Germany
Mentor: Dr. Yuncong Li, Professor, Department of Soil and Water Sciences, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

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Briley Rasmussen, PhD
School of Art + Art History, College of the Arts

Dr. Rasmussen’s research investigates the networks between the history of art museum education and the social and political climates in which museums operate. Her work considers aspects of the rhetoric around concepts of creativity. She recently completed a book length manuscript *Creative the World Over: The Museum of Modern Art, and the Politics and Practice of Creativity.*

As a Global Fellow Dr. Rasmussen will work with collaborators in the United Kingdom to establish a research project that interrogates historic and contemporary conceptions of creativity and how these have been leveraged in discourses about the value of the arts and museums.

She holds master’s degrees in the History of Art from the Courtauld Institute of Art and in Leadership in Museum Education from Bank Street College of Education, and a PhD from the University of Leicester School of Museum Studies. Before her work in the academy Dr. Rasmussen held position in art museum education at the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, J. Paul Getty Museum, Neuberger Museum of Art, and Los Angeles County Museum of Art.


Study Region: United Kingdom
Mentor: Dr. Laurie Taylor, Chair of Digital Partnerships & Strategies, George A. Smathers Libraries

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Marie Nancy Séraphin, MPH PhD
Department of Medicine, College of Medicine

Marie Nancy Séraphin, is an infectious disease epidemiologist. She holds a BA in Biology and Sociology (minor in Italian) from the University of Miami, FL, and an MPH from Boston University, MA. After her MPH, Dr. Séraphin lived and worked in post-earthquake rural Haiti as monitoring and evaluation officer for a non-profit organization. Her assignments included programs in HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, cholera, and maternal child health. She has published on the hospital delivery practices of rural Haitian women, under-five nutritional status, and the impact of community-based interventions delivered by community health workers to improve these outcomes.

Dr. Séraphin completed a PhD in Epidemiology at the University of Florida (UF) in 2016, followed by two years of post-graduate research at UF’s Emerging Pathogens Institute. Her research focused on understanding the role of population movement and migration on the evolution and transmission dynamics of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Florida. Currently, Dr. Séraphin is investigating the mechanisms of within-host evolution in M. tuberculosis. She combines traditional epidemiology methods, genomics and computational biology to elucidate the impact of evolution on population level transmission estimates and tuberculosis treatment outcome.

Study Region: Ghana
Mentor: Awewura Kwara, MD, MPH&TM, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine

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Tuberculosis is an ancient disease that has been around for generations. Today, it is the number one killer by infectious agent globally, taking the place of HIV. Dr. Séraphin is studying the genetic makeup and transmission of this ancient, deadly disease and will work in Ghana, a region of high incidence for both HIV and Tuberculosis.
Yan Wang, PhD
Department of Urban and Regional Planning, College of Design, Construction and Planning

My research engages the area of urban resilience and the emergent field of urban computing. Specifically, my current research focuses on: (1) investigating disasters’ impact on coupled human and built environment system; (2) developing an intelligent emergency detection and response system; (3) planning for resilient and smart cities; and (4) visualizing and simulating urban environments with geo-visualization/VR/AR. I had a doctoral position in Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech before coming to the University of Florida. I also hold a bachelor degree in construction management and master degree in asset valuation from Beijing Jiaotong University. I am interested in interdisciplinary research related to urban and regional planning, construction, ecology, and data science, and passionate about advising and mentoring both undergraduates and graduate students with an interdisciplinary background.

Study Region: Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, United States
Mentor: Chimay J. Anumba, Dean of College of Design, Construction and Planning

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2018 Fellows

Christopher L. Busey, PhD
School of Teaching and Learning, College of Education

Dr. Busey’s research broadly examines the intersection of race and education across multiple contexts with a specific focus on social studies curriculum and pedagogy, curriculum history, critical race theory, and teacher education. His more current work focuses on [re-] conceptualizing and contextualizing narratives relevant to Afro-Latinx education and Black Diaspora history within K-20 curricular discourses. Dr. Busey’s research also relies upon critical theories of race to examine teacher education practices in addition to the lived experiences of students and educators of color in various educational settings.

He has published over 15 articles and book chapters related to race and education. Dr. Busey is a member of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME), Latin American Studies Association (LASA), and is the 2018 College and University Faculty Assembly (CUFA) Program Chair.

Dr. Busey was formerly an assistant professor of education at Texas State University before coming to the University of Florida.

Study Region: Colombia, Nicaragua, Latin America and the Caribbean
Mentor: Sharon Austin-Wright, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

cbusey@coe.ufl.edu
Stephanie Bohlman, PhD

School of Forest Resources and Conservation, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Dr. Bohlman focuses on forest ecology, especially of tropical forests. Her interest is on how tropical forests respond to climate change and disturbance and the role of tropical forests in landscape, regional and global carbon cycles. Her research is dependent on remote sensing data from satellite, airplanes, and drones to study large-scale patterns of forest function, composition and structure. Additionally, Dr. Bohlman studies the impacts of hydroelectric dam development on riparian and upland terrestrial forests and strategies for tropical reforestation. Before coming to the University of Florida, Bohlman had post-doctoral positions at Princeton University and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Balancing her research program, she is enthusiastic in providing field-based learning experiences for undergraduate and graduate students. She has field courses in central Panama and Quintana Roo, Mexico.

Study Region: Panama, Amazon region of Brazil, Quintana Roo, Mexico
Mentor: Karen Kainer, Professor, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
sbohlman@ufl.edu

Vanessa Hull, PhD

Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Vanessa Hull is an assistant professor in the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (WEC) department at UF (beginning January 2017). She received her MS and PhD in Fisheries and Wildlife from Michigan State University. Her interests include biodiversity conservation, wildlife ecology, and interdisciplinary approaches to natural resource management. Past research, includes examination of human-wildlife interactions between giant pandas and people in southwestern China and analysis of international trends in systems integration for sustainability. Vanessa is interested in expanding on her past international work by examining biocultural approaches to conservation across China, including among ethnic minority groups living in and around protected areas. She is interested in strengthening the ties between UF and Chinese institutions and hopes that her work informs ways that interdisciplinary research can aid in understanding and managing systems of biological and cultural importance in China and around the globe.

Study Region: China
Mentor: John Richard Stepp, Associate Professor, Department Anthropology and Latin American Studies
vhull@ufl.edu
Masanori Fujimoto, PhD

Soil and Water Sciences Department, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Dr. Masa Fujimoto is a Research Assistant Professor in the Soil and Water Sciences Department (SWSD). He has a strong passion in fundamental science and applying it to solving practical issues. He obtained his dual Ph.D. degree in Microbiology / Ecology, Evolutionary Biology & Behavior at Michigan State University in 2012. His postdoctoral work at the University of Michigan involved microbial-mediated nutrient cycles in Lake Michigan. Prior to joining SWSD, he was a Research Assistant Professor at Marquette University, where he conducted research on nutrient removal from wastewater. His current research in Florida focuses on nutrient cycles in inland lakes and Everglades wetland systems. Because water-related issues such as eutrophication of freshwater lakes are shared globally, Dr. Fujimoto is enthusiastic about developing an international collaborative research program with Japanese research institutions regarding water science and management. He is interested in investigating how the approaches for solving similar water-related issues differ between the two countries. He believes that exchanging information, experiences, skills and solutions regarding water-related issues would be beneficial for both countries. This opportunity to be a global fellow will help him toward his goal of becoming a global leader in the field of water sciences and resource management.

Study Region: Japan
Mentor: Mark Brenner, Professor, Department of Geological Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
fujimoto@ufl.edu

Vincent Lecours, PhD

School of Forest Resources and Conservation, Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences

Vincent Lecours is an Assistant Professor in Marine Remote Sensing and Geospatial Analysis. He conducts cross-disciplinary research using geospatial technologies and spatial sciences to answer ecological questions about the marine environment and often contributes to interdisciplinary research by assisting ecologists, biologists, and decision-makers in making the best use of geospatial technologies.
datasets. One of the main goals of his research program is to develop methods to better map marine habitats by integrating theories and approaches from both geomatics and ecology. His research helps put the analysis of spatial data and maps and the interpretation of results on a sound inferential basis, which has critical implications when those data and maps are used in decision-making, for instance in conservation, management, and risk assessment. His contribution to spatial ecology research is of great significance because it highlights and demonstrates the importance of considering spatial context in such fields as marine habitat mapping, and suggests ways to do so. In 2018, he aims to establish an international and multidisciplinary research community studying scale issues in marine habitat mapping. The concept of scale and its proper integration into the habitat mapping workflow have been identified as critical to improve marine habitat mapping methods and efficiency.

Study Region: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Norway
Mentor: Kai Lorenzen, Professor, Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences Program, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences
vlecours@ufl.edu

Ying Xiao, PhD
Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Ying Xiao is an assistant professor of Chinese studies and film and media studies at the University of Florida. Her teaching and research interests primarily concentrate on East Asian film and popular culture, Chinese in Hollywood, popular music, youth culture, sound studies, theories of globalization and transnationalism, as well as gender representation. She is the book author of China in the Mix: Cinema, Sound, and Popular Culture in the Age of Globalization (University Press of Mississippi, 2017) and has published many articles on neoliberalism and Chinese film industry, Chinese hip hop culture, Chinese rock ‘n’ roll film, and Chinese documentaries.

Study Region: China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, USA
Mentor: Maureen Turim, Professor, Department of English
yx241@ufl.edu
Christine Overdevest, PhD

Department of Sociology, Criminology & Law, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Christine Overdevest is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminology & Law at the University of Florida. She obtained her PhD from the University of Wisconsin and has previous work experience with the USDA Forest Service. Christine’s area is regulation and governance studies with a focus on environmental governance and management of sustainability. She has published over 25 articles and a book on environmental governance related topics. Her most recent project is on cotton production and small-holders in developing countries, where sustainability standards are shifting away from “bright-line” standards and assurance systems to systems that foster farmer capacity building and learning. In the last several years, she has collaboratively published work on initiatives to control transnational trade of illegally harvested forest and wood products, focusing on the European Union’s Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Initiative (FLEGT) and worked on collaborative research related to Fair Trade.

Study Region: India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Ghana, Scandinavia, Europe, USA
Mentor: Marilyn (Mickie) Swisher, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

coverdev@ufl.edu

Marek Schwendt, PhD

Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Drug addiction is a chronic relapsing disorder that affects both mental and physical health, quality of personal life and economic standing of the affected individual. It is a truly global problem that does not discriminate against race, cultural background or economic status. While many addiction treatments exist today, they typically do not ‘protect’ against relapse.

As a neuroscientist, I believe that the discovery of new and more efficient ‘anti-relapse’ medications depends on (a) development of more translational
animal models of addiction and (b), applying these models to study the neurobiology underlying drug-induced deficits in brain function and the behavior.

The overarching goal of my research is to employ translational animal model (drug self-administration) to study brain neuroadaptations responsible for increased drug-seeking, as well as for drug-induced memory deficits. Importantly, through collaborations with other research teams in the US and abroad, our laboratory tests novel experimental medications for their ability to ‘normalize’ brain function and behavior disrupted by abused drugs.

Study Region: Czech Republic and neighboring eastern European countries
Mentor: Habibeh Khoshbouei, Professor, Department of Neurosciences, College of Medicine

schwendt@ufl.edu

Plato L. Smith II, PhD
George A. Smathers Libraries, Technology Support & Services

Dr. Plato Smith is the Data Management Librarian at the University of Florida with experience in academic research libraries, digital libraries, and data management. Smith assists in the development of socio-technical (people, policies, technologies, communities) relationships with diverse stakeholders, leads the Data Management and Curation Working Group (DMCWG), contributes to UF Libraries’ Academic Research Consulting & Services (ARCS), and conducts data management instruction and training workshops in efforts to further develop a culture of data management at UF.


Smith’s publications on research collaborations and faculty outreach include Rediscovering EarthCube: Collaborate. Or collaborate not. There is no I (2016) - Outstanding Paper Award 2017 and Where IR you? Using ‘open access’ to extend the reach and richness of faculty research within a university (2008) – Highly Commended Paper Award 2009.

Study Region: United Kingdom
Mentor: Dr. Laurie Taylor, University Librarian, George A. Smathers Libraries, Technology Support & Services/Humanities

plato.smith@ufl.edu
Heather Vrana, PhD

Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Heather Vrana is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Florida (Ph.D, Indiana University 2013) and author of the monograph, *This City Belongs to You: A History of Student Activism in Guatemala, 1944-1996* (University of California Press, 2017). She has also edited an anthology entitled *Anti-Colonial Texts from Central American Student Movements, 1929-1983*, a collection of primary sources from Central American student movements (Edinburgh University Press, 2017). Her articles and reviews have appeared in the Radical History Review, Journal of Genocide Research, Ethnohistory, e-misférica, and Journal of Latin American Geography. She is a member of the Tepoztlán Collective and co-edited of *Revisiting the Guatemalan Revolution*, a volume that reframes one of the Cold War’s seminal events.

Her newest project, *The Idea of Disability and the Making of Modern Central America*, traces the emergence of the category of “the disabled” and excavates the history of disability as a social phenomenon across Central America’s twentieth century. The book emphasizes the development of medical expertise; changes in the locus of responsibility for care of people with disabilities from the religious organizations to the state to the family; public health and social security programs; and models for human rights after the civil wars.

She was Assistant Professor of Latin American History at Southern Connecticut State University (2013-2017) before joining the History Department at UF.

Study Region: Central America, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador
Mentor: Lillian Guerra, Waldo W. Neikirk Professor 2014-2019, UF Research Foundation Professor 2017-2020, Department of History

hvrana@ufl.edu
2017 Fellows

Paula Alexander-Delpech, PhD RN ARNP

Department of Family, Community and Health Systems Science, College of Nursing

Focus on the delivery of culturally appropriate breast cancer awareness initiatives to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) through high-quality, community-based education and contemporary eHealth. She has developed and led several faculty-led study abroad programs to countries in the Caribbean. Most recently, Dr. Alexander-Delpech developed and led a community-based culturally appropriate breast health awareness program in Grenada. The program was guided by a community-based philosophy of health care and social planning, training Lay Community Health Workers (LCHW) in breast health and how to train women to conduct breast self-examinations.

Study Region: Grenada, Caribbean
Mentor: Linda Haddad, Chair, College of Nursing
pdelpech@ufl.edu

Randall Cantrell, PhD

Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Focus on urban housing conditions of socio-economically disadvantaged young adults who often migrate from their village to the capital city in hopes of finding increased opportunity. The goal is to uncover how functional these individuals are when propositioned with minimal acceptable standards for shelter. A key objective is to capture what their views are regarding hope for the future and how they avoid potential temptations related to activities frowned upon by society—especially Muslim society. An ultimate goal is to gauge to what degree they feel they have time and capacity to consider future issues related to marriage, raising a family, and being a constructive member of their community’s and country’s development.

Study Region: Niamey, Niger
Mentor: Tracy Irani, Chair Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Lisa Iglesias, MA  
Department of Drawing and Painting, School of Art and Art History, College of the Arts

Current research focus, grounded in hybridity. As a visual artist and Assistant Professor of Drawing, I am interested in examining historical models and future potentials of disrupting two and three-dimensional discipline binaries and fine art and craft boundaries. Would study historic weaving techniques and patterns, meet practicing artists, and exhibit artwork that engages a fusion of traditional textile crafts with drawing strategies.

Study Region: Norway and Finland  
Mentor: Richard Heipp, Department of Drawing and Painting, School of Art and Art History

liglesias@arts.ufl.edu | www.lashermanasiglesias.com

Richard Kernaghan, PhD  
Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Phenomena in nation-state frontiers with an emphasis on how the movement of people, material things, and terrains play a vital role in shaping legal relations.  
Study Region: Border region of Peru, Colombia, Brazil  
Mentor: Dr. Christopher McCarty, Chair, Department of Anthropology

kernaghan@ufl.edu

Héctor E. Pérez, PhD  
Department of Environmental Horticulture, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Research in seed biology, specifically germination ecology, abiotic stress tolerance, and germplasm conservation focusing on agriculture, climate change and food and natural resource security.  
Study Region: Latin America and Caribbean  
Mentor: Bette Loiselle, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

heperez@ufl.edu | Instagram: seed biology
Jorge Ruiz-Menjivar, PhD
Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Focus on the area of household economics, personal finance, and consumer policies. My current research focuses on financial risk tolerance and other financial constructs and their measurement using modern psychometric theory (e.g., Rasch Measurement Theory and Item Response Theory). As a supporter of interdisciplinary research, I continue an active and healthy participation and research collaborations with scholars affiliated with domestic institutions and organizations in different academic disciplines, such as psychology, psychometrics, child development, and business, among others.

Study Region: Latin America
Mentor: Marilyn (Mickie) Swisher, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences
jhrui@ufl.edu

Biagio Santorelli, PhD
Department of Classics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Exploring the intersections between political thought, rhetoric and education in antiquity. The topic is of interest to scholars both of ancient Rome and modern historians and political scientists because it studies the ways in which ancient theories about rhetoric, political thought and education can help us understand the concepts of “citizenship” and participation in civic engagement in our own times. Critical to our own understanding of the ways in which we construct public policy and conduct political debates, is knowledge of how the Romans trained their public figures.

Study Region: Europe
Mentor: Jennifer Rea, Department of Classics
b.santorelli@ufl.edu

Dr. Craig Smith, PhD
School of Art and Art History, College of the Arts

Explore possibilities of a live, social, relational art event coordinated and hosted by the Malaysia-based social and sports event organizer Global One. The proposed project would link with Global One in the growth of sports in Malaysia by engaging youth and their families in a live, relational art event at the Malaysia Open in 2018-2019. Global One is an executive lifestyle sports marketing consultancy. They have created partnerships with major sports organizations that include golf, motor racing, sailing, tennis, rugby, skiing, athletics (track + field), basketball, and cycling.

Study Region: Kuala Lampur, Malaysia
Mentor: Anna Callouri-Holcombe, School of Art and Art History

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Supporting faculty to build knowledge globally.
Zhihua Su, PhD
Department of Statistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

“I have been struggling on a statistical problem for a month. Working with colleagues in Beijing, I learned that I was using the wrong approach for the solution. They helped me correct my mistake and suggested an appropriate method. I am still fine-tuning this new method and confident it will work in the end.”

Research in developing a class of new tools called envelopes, which provide efficient estimation in multivariate analysis (MVA). MVA is concerned with extracting information from data sets containing measurements on many variables. It is a useful tool for understanding relationships between variables and is widely used in applied sciences. For example, MVA is often used in genetics to find a few relevant genes that are associated with a certain disease from thousands of candidate genes. With the development of modern technology, it is now possible to measure more and more characteristics and potential factors for a subject, resulting in very large data sets. In such situations, standard methods are inefficient and therefore inadequate to identify the key variables, e.g. the important genes responsible for the disease. The envelope model uses dimension reduction techniques to achieve efficient estimation. Study shows that it is more efficient than standard methods in almost all applicable data sets and, in some examples, the envelope model has the potential to achieve massive gains in efficiency. Using the envelope model, the investigators can achieve the same accuracy in analysis with a smaller sample size, making experiments and the data collection process shorter, easier, and less expensive.

Study Region: Beijing, China
Mentor: Hani Doss, Department of Statistics
zhihuasu@ufl.edu
Jianping Wang, PhD
Department of Agronomy, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Develop an international research program to address the questions related to low peanut nitrogen fixation efficiency through international collaboration. The specific research goals for this proposed international research program are to 1) characterize and identify the taxonomy of the peanut native rhizobia collected globally; 2) evaluate nitrogen fixation efficiency of representative peanut native rhizobia strains; and 3) develop effective inoculum formula for enhanced peanut production at low input conditions.

Study Region: South America, India, China
Mentor: Barry Tillman, Department of Agronomy, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
wangjp@ufl.edu
2016 Fellows

Joseph Bisesi, PhD
Department of Environmental and Global Health, College of Public Health and Health Professions

Understand how emerging contaminants, including nanomaterials, plasticizers, and pharmaceuticals, influence disease in both humans and aquatic organisms. While the potential risk of these chemicals are recognized in the US, the impacts of contaminants are not well understood in resource poor populations. Dr. Bisesi has extends his research to include sampling chemicals in Haiti, Kenya and Zambia.

Study Regions: Haiti, Kenya, Zambia
Mentor: Alyson Young, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Center for African Studies.

jbatisi@phhp.ufl.edu

Andrea Dutton, PhD
Department of Geological Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Research focus on the behavior of sea level and polar ice sheets during past warm periods leading to improved understanding of sea-level rise. She travels to field sites around the globe to collect data on the rates, magnitude, and timing of past sea level and climate changes.

Study Regions: Australia, Bahamas, Jamaica, Mexico, Seychelles, USA
Mentor: Ellen Martin, Professor, Department of Geological Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

adutton@ufl.edu
S. Luke Flory, PhD
Agronomy Department, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Ecological research primarily focused on understanding the mechanisms and impacts of non-native plant invasions. He has evaluated the effects of invasions on forest regeneration and herbaceous plant communities, interactions of invasions with fire, and the outcomes of emerging and accumulating pathogens in invaded plant communities. His lab group explores basic and applied plant and ecosystem ecology questions in diverse systems including silvopastures in the Colombian Andes, managed grassland systems in south Florida, and ‘novel ecosystems’ in the Galapagos.

Study Regions: China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador (Galapagos Islands)
Mentor: Bette Loiselle, Professor, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Director, Tropical Conservation and Development Program.

flory@ufl.edu | https://florylab.com

Walter Leite, PhD
School of Human Development and Organizational Studies, College of Education

With an expertise in structural equation modeling for longitudinal data, Dr. Leite works in program evaluation. His focus centers on longitudinal models and statistical methods used to estimate program impacts over time and control for selection bias in program evaluations. His fellowship is intended to work with statisticians from the Federal University of Pará, in Brazil to develop a joint proposal to extend longitudinal item response theory and multivariate growth curve models to describe change in academic achievement across time and estimate the effects of an educational intervention while controlling for selection bias. The partnership will use student data from Brazil and the US to test the methodology.

Study Regions: Brazil, Netherlands, Turkey
Mentor: Susan Natasha Beretvas Professor, Department of Educational Psychology at University of Texas-Austin.

leitewl@ufl.edu
Andrea Lucky, PhD
Department of Entomology and Nematology, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

An evolutionary biologist and biodiversity scientist with a focus on insects, specifically, in the evolution of ants. Relying on insect morphology, molecular genetics, and phylogenetic statistics to study the relationships among different species of ants, the timing of diversification and the subsequent dispersals that have led to the distribution patterns we see today. Recently, Dr. Lucky has integrated her research with public outreach efforts such as inviting citizen scientists to participate in research, and used this approach to expand the geographic range of insect samples.

Study Region: Czech Republic
Mentor: Emilio Bruna, Professor, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

alucky@ufl.edu | www.andrealucky.com

Christine Miller, PhD
Department of Entomology and Nematology, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

An evolutionary biologist focusing on the evolutionary interplay between behavior and morphology across taxa, but focused on the leaf-footed bugs (Hemiptera: Coreidae). These insects provide unparalleled opportunities to understand the evolution of shape in all animals and aid in addressing long-standing puzzles in behavioral evolution. Together with her research team, Dr. Miller investigates such specific topics as evolutionary tradeoffs, sexual selection, and weapon shape evolution. Her fellowship facilitates a Visiting Fellowship to Cambridge University, UK, where she will collaborate with faculty also working on the evolutionary interplay between behavior and morphology. Together, they will seek better understanding of the ecological and evolutionary factors that lead to biological diversification.

Study Regions: Australia, Brazil, Ecuador, Japan, Panama, Singapore
Mentor: Emilio Bruna, Professor, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

cw Miller@ufl.edu | www.millerlab.net
Marit Østebø, PhD
Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

A multidisciplinary research background exploring the relationship between normative frameworks, ideas, models and stories produced by the different actors within the human rights and development machinery and the complex realities that exist on ‘the ground’. Working with a group of researchers at the Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI), the University of Bergen (UiB) and Addis Ababa University (AAU), she explores the impact of political context on Primary Health Care provision in Africa.

Study Regions: Ethiopia, Malawi, Norway, Rwanda, Tanzania
Mentor: Susan Gillespie, Professor, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

marit.ostebo@ufl.edu

Eric Potsdam, PhD
Department of Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Research investigates the grammar of languages spoken in and around the Pacific Ocean region, and their relevance for our understanding of the diversity of human language and theories of language structure. He has worked on several such Austronesian languages, in particular Malagasy, the native language of Madagascar. His most recent work extends to the Polynesian family, a group of closely related and understudied languages spoken in the South Pacific.

Study Regions: Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Madagascar, New Zealand
Mentor: Fiona McLaughlin, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics and Languages, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

potsdam@ufl.edu
Brian Reichow, PhD, BCBA-D
School of Special Education, School Psychology and Early Childhood Studies, College of Education

Current research interests include the translation of clinical research into everyday practices in real-life settings. Dr. Reichow is an ongoing technical advisor for the World Health Organization is currently working with colleagues at the WHO to develop practice guidelines and training materials to increase the identification, management, and treatment of children with developmental disabilities in lower- and middle-income countries.

Study Regions: China, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Nicaragua, Panama, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Zambia
Mentor: Patricia Snyder, Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies, School of Special Education, School Psychology, and Early Childhood Studies, College of Education.

breichow@ufl.edu

Brett Scheffers, PhD
Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

A conservation ecologist with interests in drivers of biological organization in space and time and the effects of human disturbance on these processes. Focusing on the impact of climate change on tropical rainforest ecosystems and conservation, his research is diverse and global in scope, encompassing multiple taxonomic groups across boreal, temperate and tropical ecosystems. This research converges under a single theme – assessing species and habitat vulnerability and resilience under novel climates and disturbances. The Global Fellows Program will support continued research across a network of mountainous sites in three tropical regions (Asia, Americas and Africa). The breadth of this work, in terms of replicated research across the Earth’s tropical regions, has seldom been done and will be attractive to external funding agencies.

Study Regions: Australia, China, Colombia, Madagascar, Philippines, Tanzania
Mentor: Scott Robinson, Professor, Florida Museum of Natural History and Center for African Studies.

brett.scheffers@ufl.edu | www.wec.ufl.edu/faculty/scheffers
Emily Sessa, PhD
Department of Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Sessa’s research program focuses on understanding the ecological and evolutionary processes that have generated global plant diversity; especially, the evolution of ferns. Ferns are the second largest group of vascular land plants after the flowering plants, and play very important roles in many of Earth’s ecosystems. However, ferns are understudied compared to flowering plants, and scientists know relatively little about fern evolution and global patterns of phylogenetics and historical biogeography. In particular, the ferns of Africa are extremely under-studied, and almost nothing is known about how ferns on this continent are related to species in other parts of the world. This makes it extremely difficult to study ferns on a world-wide scale, when data from an entire continent are missing. Addressing this issue is a central focus of Sessa’s research program. To lay a foundation for addressing questions about fern diversity on a global scale, it is important to build partnerships with researchers also interested in African ferns, and Sessa is developing collaborations with researchers in Finland and Spain.

Study Regions: Finland, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, Spain
Mentor: Douglas Soltis, Department of Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

emilysessa@ufl.edu | http://sessalab.biology.ufl.edu
Appendix A

Global Fellows Program
Application Form—Due October 12, 2020

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name

UF ID

Email

Mailing Address

Phone

Academic Department

College

Are you within the first 10 years of your academic career at UF?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Do you have a research assignment?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

2. FACULTY MENTOR

Do you have a faculty mentor?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Name

Email

Department/College

3. CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

Three page maximum, with 11- or 12-point font with 1” margins on all sides.

4. PERSONAL STATEMENT OF INTEREST

The Statement of Interest should be two pages maximum (11- or 12-point font with 1” margins on all sides) describing:

- Why you are interested in the Global Fellows Program;
- Your international research goals;
- Previous international experience and funding;
• How the Global Fellows Program will benefit your career trajectory; and
• Your commitment to attend the workshops and to engage fully in the Global Fellows Program.

5. LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM YOUR CHAIR, SCHOOL DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT HEAD, OR DEAN
   The letter should affirm:
   • The candidate’s international interest, experience and/or research goals
   • The candidate’s strengths as a researcher and relevance of the proposed activity to the mission and goals of the academic unit
   • Support for the candidate to engage fully in the program and fulfil the time commitments required by the Fellowship responsibilities

6. LETTER FROM MENTOR
   Expressing interest and commitment in candidate’s research and international experience.

TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION: Send your application materials to OGRE@ufic.ufl.edu by 5 pm, Friday, October 12, 2020
The OGRE Team
Office for Global Research Engagement

Sandra Russo | Director
Sandra Russo is the Director of the Office for Global Research Engagement and has been with the International Center for more than 20 years. As Director, she works with faculty to facilitate international engagement through networking, grants, and various activities that foster such engagement. She holds a Ph.D. in Agronomy from UF and has experience working in over 40 countries around the world, primarily in Africa and the Middle East. She also is principal investigator on gender and development projects, especially as relates to climate change adaptation, water resources management, and food security including livestock systems.

Sandra leads UFIC’s university-wide initiatives to advance international research. As director, her role to build strategic partnerships to foster more innovative and creative outcomes to UF’s international research efforts. She oversees OGRE’s faculty and doctoral student research development programs; including the Global Fellows Program, the Research Abroad for Doctoral Students Program, and other funding opportunities to sponsor faculty-led international research.

Julie Fesenmaier | Associate Director
Julie joined the OGRE team as Associate Director in November 2016. She brings more than 20 years of experience in connecting faculty research and practice and in supporting collaborative research at several universities including Texas A&M, University of Illinois, and Temple University. Her background in community development, strategic planning, asset mapping, and evaluation design is focused on stakeholder-defined outcomes and building communities of interest and communities of place.

For the Office of Global Research Engagement, Julie promotes international research excellence and supports UF’s international researcher community by connecting new and existing collaborative teams, identifying external funding opportunities, serving as a liaison to UF’s Office of Research, IRB and to other UF offices overseeing international work. Additionally, she leads the Global Fellows Program providing faculty with seed funding and other resources to facilitate international research.
Claire Anumba | Special Projects Coordinator
Dr. Claire Anumba began working with the International Center’s Office for Global Research Engagement (OGRE) as a Special Projects Coordinator in October 2016. Claire works on coordinating research efforts and new projects within UFIC as well as developing a database to map UFIC’s Internationalization efforts and activities. Claire is the focal person for Fulbright on campus, especially for UF faculty wishing to have Fulbright experiences abroad. She is also the coordinator of the RAD program for doctoral students. Claire has lived and worked in Sierra Leone and the UK in different capacities. She holds a Doctorate in Engineering from Loughborough University in the UK, and worked with the University Office of Global Programs at Penn State prior to joining UFIC.

Claudia Zapata | Administrative Assistant
Claudia joined the University of Florida’s International Center in November 2018. Prior to joining the International Center, Ms. Zapata was a member of Florida International University since 2008 having worked for University Compliance Office. In addition to a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management degree, she holds a Master degree in Public Administration and a Certificate in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Claudia provides support for the Dean’s Office and the Office for Global Research Engagement.

Sarah Strohminger | Program Assistant Director
Sarah joined the OGRE team in October 2019. She is pursuing a Masters of Sustainable Development Practice with a special focus on North Africa. She completed her Bachelors of Arts at Flagler College where she studied political science, economics, philosophy and environmental science. She has a passion for natural resource conservation and social justice that propelled her to move to Hawai’i for a year to serve with FoodCorps Hawai’i. Upon returning to Florida, she got involved in state politics to advocate for state environmental policies as a campaign manager. These experiences, along with her various international experiences, support the work of the International Center. Sarah assists with the production of the Dean’s Reports on International Activity and the organization of the Global Fellows Program.