

Sierra B. Pérez

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Education

- 2020 – *Present* **Indiana University Bloomington**
Ph.D., Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior
Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Lau
- 2018 – 2020 **University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**
M.S., Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology
Advisors: Dr. Jim Dalling & Dr. Jennifer Fraterrigo
- 2012 – 2016 **Bryn Mawr College**
B.A., Geology, Environmental Studies (minor), *magna cum laude*
Advisor: Dr. Donald Barber

Research Experience

- 2018 – 2020 **Graduate Research Assistant**
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Coordinated the baseline forest census of the Trelease Woods ForestGEO site. Trained and oversaw ~70 undergraduate research technicians. Designed and managed census database of 32,000 trees.
- 2018 **Research Assistant**
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Censused montane forest plots along a resource-elevation gradient in Fortuna Forest Reserve and Volcán Barú National Park, Panama.
- 2017 – 2018 **Research Technician**
The Jones Center at Ichauway
Collected data and maintained equipment for research on the longleaf pine ecosystem's ecohydrologic functions and feedbacks. Experience measuring stem water potential and sap flux.
- 2017 **Research Assistant**
Luquillo LTER, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras
Established and censused montane forest plots and collected soil samples along a 500-m elevational gradient in El Yunque National Forest. Assisted with other projects: seedling census, forest phenology, stream hydrology, and fungal ecology.
- 2014 – 2015 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**
Bryn Mawr College
Processed sediment cores for research on salt marsh response to accelerating relative sea level rise during the late Holocene. Data published in JT Morris et al., 2016 (*Earth's Future*).

Professional Experience

- 2022 – *Present* **Board of Trustees Fellow**
The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Chapter
Acting board member providing scientific expertise to inform Indiana conservation action.

2016 – 2017 **Data Integrity Analyst**
i2i Institute
Synthesized results from Andean and African sustainable crop development projects for the McKnight Foundation’s Collaborative Crop Research Program.

Teaching Experience

2021 – 2022 **Undergraduate Research Experience: Field Ecology and Evolution**, Indiana University
2019 **Biology in Today’s World**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
2015 **Introduction to Environmental Studies**, Haverford College

Grants & Awards

2023 IU Provost’s Travel Award for Women in Science (\$650)
2023 IU Floyd Memorial Fund in Plant Sciences (\$1,073)
2022 – 2023 IU John R. and Wendy L. Kindig Fellowship (\$20,000)
2022 IU Floyd Memorial Fund in Plant Sciences (\$3,234)
2020 – 2021 IU College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship (\$25,000)
2020 IU Drs. Sidney & Becca Fleischer Research Fellowship (\$2,000)
2020 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mention)
2019 UIUC School of Integrative Biology Harley J. Van Cleave Research Award (\$1,000)
2019 UIUC PEEC Summer Research Grant (\$2,000)

Publications & Presentations

SB Perez & JA Lau. 2023. Feedbacks between plant community properties and resilience under contrasting precipitation extremes. Ecol. Society of America Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.

SB Perez, JM Fraterrigo & JW Dalling. 2021. Interspecific wood trait variation predicts decreased carbon residence time in changing forests. *Functional Ecology*.

MJ Aponte, DC Barber & **SB Perez**. 2018. Response of North Carolina salt marshes to hydraulic modifications, agricultural runoff and accelerated sea level rise. Geol. Society of America Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN.

Skills & Professional Development

Skills Data processing & statistical analysis (R/R Studio), geospatial data collection & analysis (ArcGIS), scientific graphics (Illustrator), database management (FileMaker Pro, Oracle)

Workshops & Short Courses

2020 SESYNC Graduate Leaders in Socio-Environmental Synthesis Workshop
2018 The Jones Center at Ichauway Prescribed Fire Training

Service & Outreach

2021 – *Present* Undergraduate (3) and high schooler (4) research training & mentorship
2021 Contribution to [WFIU Public Radio’s A Moment of Science program](#)
2020 – 2021 IU Biology EcoLunch Discussion Group organizing committee member