

Immersion Program Participants 2015-2016

For more information about the Socio-Environmental Immersion Program, [click here](#). [1]

[Steven Alexander, University of Waterloo](#) [2]

Degrees: PhD (candidate) Social and Ecological Sustainability, University of Waterloo
MS Science Education, Montana State University Bozeman
BS Geology, St. Lawrence University

Current Research: Applying novel multi-method and interdisciplinary approaches to better understand the relationship between diverse governance arrangements, managed ecosystems, and natural resource management outcomes.

[Meghan Avolio, SESYNC](#) [3]

Degrees: PhD Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University
MS Biology, Fordham University
BA Biology, Barnard College

Current Research: The effects of global change drivers on plant populations, communities, and ecosystem function in grasslands and plant biodiversity in cities.

[Noelle Beckman, SESYNC](#) [4]

Degrees: PhD Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior & Minor Statistics, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
BS Biology, Washington and Lee University

Current Research: Mechanisms that influence plant spatial patterns and population spread under global change integrating empirical, statistical, and mathematical approaches.

[Elizabeth Daut, SESYNC](#) [5]

Degrees: PhD Veterinary Pathobiology/Applied Biodiversity Science, Texas A&M
DVM, Cornell University
BS Biology, Virginia Tech

Current Research: Disease risk facing native U.S. wildlife associated with the importation of exotic animals for the pet industry; evaluation of mitigation strategies.

[Jampel Dell'Angelo, SESYNC](#) [6]

Degrees: PhD Environmental Sciences and Technology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona - ICTA

PhD International Cooperation and Sustainable Development, Sapienza Università di Roma - CIRPS

Master in Energy and Environmental Management, Sapienza University of Rome
MS Environment and Development, London School of Economics and Political Science
BS Environmental Economics, Università degli Studi di Siena

Current Research: The institutional drivers and socio-environmental dynamics of large-scale land acquisitions; in particular, the transition from small-scale systems of agricultural production to large-scale land exploitation.

[Stacia Dreyer, University of Washington](#) [7]

Degrees: PhD Environmental Psychology and Behavioral Economics, University of Maine
MEd Environmental Education, Western Washington University
BA Psychology, Truman State University

Current Research: The acceptability of and support for tidal energy in Washington State and the factors that influence acceptability and support; procedural and distributive justice in relation to the development of marine renewable energy.

[Katie Fiorella, Cornell University](#) [8]

Degrees: PhD Environmental Science, Policy & Management, University of California, Berkeley
MPH Epidemiology, University of California, Berkeley
AB Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University

Current Research: Interactions between ecosystem change, livelihoods, food access, and human health; the consequences of declining fish availability around Lake Victoria and gains in smallholder farm production in Western Kenya.

[Anya Galli, University of Maryland](#) [9]

Degrees: PhD (candidate) Sociology, University of Maryland
MA Sociology, University of Maryland
BA Psychology, Women's Studies & Studio Art, St. Olaf College

Current Research: Environmental inequality and industrial pollution in the US; the socio-political determinants of disproportionate emissions in the coal-fired power industry.

[David Gill, SESYNC](#) [10]

Degrees: PhD Natural Resources Management (Resource Economics), University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados
MS Natural Resources Management, Coastal and Marine Resource Management, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados
BS Marine Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Current Research: Using monitoring data from marine protected areas around the world, my research examines the linkages between how marine protected areas are governed and ecological outcomes.

[Vicken Hillis, Arizona State University](#) [11]

Degrees: PhD Ecology, UC Davis
MS International Agricultural Development, UC Davis
BA Economics, Georgetown University

Current Research: Farmer adoption of disease management in perennial crops; mechanisms by which socially-transmitted information shapes farmer decision making and broader agroecological outcomes.

[Allison Howard, University of Maryland](#) [12]

Degrees: PhD Psychology, University of Georgia
MS Psychology, University of Georgia
BA Biology & BS Spanish, Appalachian State University

Current Research: How landscape variables influence animal movement choices as well as how these variables shape the content of animal spatial memory.

[Michelle Johnson, U.S. Forest Service](#) [13]

Degrees: PhD Ecology and Environmental Sciences, University of Maine
MS Natural Resource Planning, University of Vermont
BS Biology, Eckerd College

Current Research: Spatial analyses of environmental stewardship organizations' activities, a qualitative case study of interdisciplinary research & management efforts, and participatory social-ecological modeling.

[Matthew LaFevor, SESYNC](#) [14]

Degrees: PhD Geography, University of Texas at Austin
MA Business Administration (International), Universidad de las Americas, Puebla, Mexico
BA International Studies (Latin America), Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

Current Research: Social and biophysical trends, drivers, and impacts of changes in hillslope cultivation; namely, the abandonment, management, and building of agricultural terraces around the world.

[Joe Maher, SESYNC](#) [15]

Degrees: PhD Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland
MS Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland
BS Political Science and Environmental Studies, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Current research: Energy efficiency policy, valuation of ecosystem services, and issues at the intersection of forestry and climate change

[Philippe Marchand, SESYNC](#) [16]

Degrees: PhD Environmental Science, Policy and Management, University of California, Berkeley
MS, BS Physics, University of Ottawa

Current Research: Describing the foraging and dispersal behavior of organisms through individual-based simulation models that incorporate various types of evidence.

[Paul McCord, Indiana University](#) [17]

Degrees: PhD (candidate) Geography, Indiana University
Masters Geography, Michigan State University
Bachelors Economics, Michigan State University

Current Research: Smallholder decision making and water management within semi-arid environments; adaptive practices within communities near Mount Kenya.

[Heather Randell, SESYNC](#) [18]

Degrees: PhD Sociology, Brown University
Master of Environmental Management (MEM), Duke University
BS Biology, Cornell University

Current Research: The forced migration of rural farmers due to the construction of the Belo Monte Dam in the Brazilian Amazon; socioeconomic and livelihood impacts of displacement; forced migration decision-making process.

[Giovanni Rapaciuolo, UC Berkeley](#) [19]

Degrees: PhD Biodiversity and Global Change, Imperial College London
MS Biology, Imperial College London

Current Research: The relationship among taxonomic, phylogenetic, and trait diversity of New World terrestrial vertebrates and how it may be impacted by future global change.

[Kathryn Sobocinski, NOAA](#) [20]

Degrees: PhD Fish Ecology, College of William & Mary
MS Nearshore Fish Ecology, University of Washington
BA Environmental Studies, Connecticut College

Current Research: How environmental variables influence the distribution and abundance of flatfishes on the Oregon coast; transdisciplinary educational models for graduate education in marine resources.

[Phillip Staniczenko, University College London](#) [21]

Degrees: DPhil Condensed Matter Physics, University of Oxford
MPhys Physics, University of Oxford

Current Research: The effect of deforestation and urbanization on ecological networks representing interactions between species in a community (e.g., food webs, plant-pollinator, and host-parasitoid networks).

[Chris Trisos, SESYNC](#) [22]

Degrees: PhD Zoology, University of Oxford
Masters in Integrative Bioscience, University of Oxford

BS Honours Botany, University of Cape Town
BS Ecology and Economics, University of Cape Town

Current Research: Using phylogenies and citizen science data to estimate rates of colonization and local extinction to understand why some species in the genus *Protea* are more resilient to environmental change.

[Nicola Ulibarri, Stanford University](#) [23]

Degrees: PhD Environment & Resources (focus on environmental governance), PhD Minor in Civil & Environmental Engineering, Stanford University
MSc Nature, Society & Environmental Policy, University of Oxford
BA Social Anthropology, Harvard University

Current Research: Testing collaborative water permitting processes to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability; identifying whether drought planning affected water management practices and impacts in the California drought.

[Jenny Zambrano, SESYNC](#) [24]

Degrees: PhD Biology, University of Illinois at Chicago
BS Biology, Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia

Current Research: The effects of functional neighborhood, climate, and geographical location on tree performance, defined as growth and survival, using spatially-explicit models.

Source URL: <https://www.sesync.org/for-you/educator/immersion-program-participants-2015-2016>

Links

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