

Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt, PhD

POSTDOC RESEARCH ASSOCIATE · ENTOMOLOGY & NEMATOLOGY

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Education

University of Wyoming

PHD ECOLOGY

- Advisor: Dr. Ellen D. Currano

Laramie, WY

August 2022

University of Wyoming

M.S. BOTANY

- Advisor: Dr. Ellen D. Currano

Laramie, WY

July 2018

Metropolitan State University, Denver

B.S. APPLIED GEOLOGY

Denver, CO

December 2015

San Francisco State University

B.A. ART HISTORY

- Focus: Non-Western Art History

San Francisco, CA

May 2009

Professional Experience

- 2023-2025 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**, University of California, Davis
- 2022-2023 **Adjunct Professor**, University of Maine
- 2022-2023 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine
- 2020-2022 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Ecology, University of Wyoming
- 2018-2020 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Program in Ecology, University of Wyoming
- 2016-2018 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Botany, University of Wyoming
- 2017 **LAMP Teaching and Learning Fellow**, University of Wyoming

Publications

Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt, Anshuman Swain, Lauren Shoemaker, Ellen D. Currano. Landscape level variability and insect herbivore outbreak captured within modern forests provides a framework for interpreting the fossil record. *Scientific Reports*.

Anshuman Swain, **Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt**, S. Augusta Maccracken, Ellen D. Currano, Jennifer Dunne, Conrad C. Labandeira, and William F. Fagan. 2022. Effects of sampling bias on the robustness of ecological metrics for fossil plant-damage-type association networks. *Ecology*.

Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt, Emily K. Meineke, Ellen D. Currano. 2022. Insect herbivory within modern forests is greater than at fossil localities. *PNAS*.

Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt, Aaron F. Diefendorf, Kristen Schlanser, Allie Baczynski, Marieke Dechesne, Regan Dunn, Katherine H. Freeman, Ellen D. Currano. 2022. Local differences in paleohydrology more heavily influence plant biomarkers than regional climate change across two Paleogene Laramide Basins, Wyoming, USA. *Paleo*³.

Ellen D. Currano, **Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt**^{*}, S. Augusta Maccracken^{*}, Anshuman Swain^{*}. 2021. Scars on fossil leaves: An exploration of ecological patterns in plant-insect herbivore associations during the Age of Angiosperms. Invited review paper. *Paleo*³.

Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt, Regan E. Dunn, Jason Mercer, Marieke Dechesne, Ellen D. Currano. 2019. Plant and insect herbivore community variation across the Paleocene-Eocene boundary, Hanna Basin WY. *PeerJ*.

^{*} authors contributed equally

IN REVIEW

Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt, Kit M. Hamley, Madeleine Landrum, Andrea J. Tirrell, Alessandro Meregheti, Nikhil R. Rocchini, Meghan M. Spoth, Jacquelyn L. Gill. The miseducation of ecology: Erasing the perceived temporal boundaries and uniting the discipline. *Bioscience*.

Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt, Ellen D. Currano, Regan Dunn, Elizabeth Gjeli, Jarmila Pittermann, Emily Sessa, and Jacquelyn Gill. Ferns as facilitators of community recovery following biotic upheaval. *BioScience*

Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt, Ellen D. Currano. Leaf traits linked to structure and palatability drive gall and mine damage within forested ecosystems. *American Journal of Botany*

Anshuman Swain⁺, **Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt**⁺, S. Augusta Mccracken, Ellen D. Currano, Emily K. Meineke, Naomi E Pierce, William F Fagan, Conrad C Labandeira. The effect of temperature and elevation gradients on insect herbivory: what we can learn from the fossil record? *The American Naturalist* (Invited manuscript).

IN PREP

Anshuman Swain⁺, **Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt**⁺, S. Augusta Mccracken, Ellen D. Currano, Emily K. Meineke, Naomi E Pierce, William F Fagan, Conrad C Labandeira. The influence of temperature on insect herbivory across the Cenozoic: A Review. Submitting to TBD

S. Augusta Mccracken⁺ and **Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt**⁺. The Ecological Legacy of Stratified Canopies. Submitting to *New Phytologist* Tansley Review

⁺ co-first authors

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants (Total: \$42,355)

2021	Payson Scholarship in Botany , Department of Botany, University of Wyoming	\$ 440
2021	Community Foundation of Jackson Hole Edelweiss Fund , Roy J. Shlemon Center for Quaternary Studies, University of Wyoming	\$ 6,040
2020	Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium , University of Wyoming	\$ 20,000
2019	Outstanding women in science award , Roy J. Shlemon Center for Quaternary Studies, University of Wyoming	\$ 5,000
2019	Solheim Award , Botany, University of Wyoming	\$ 1,200
2019	Aven Nelson Fellowship in Systematic Botany , Botany, University of Wyoming	\$ 1,300
2019	Service Award , Botany, University of Wyoming	\$ 200
2018	Dean's Graduate Scholars Award , University of Wyoming	\$ 2,000
2018	Edwin B Payson Scholarship , University of Wyoming	\$ 575
2018	Aven Nelson Fellowship in Systematic Botany , Botany, University of Wyoming	\$ 2,500
2018	Service Award , Botany, University of Wyoming	\$ 300
2018	Aven Nelson Fellowship in Systematic Botany , Botany, University of Wyoming	\$ 2,000
2018	Dennis H Knight Graduate Student Fellowship , Botany, University of Wyoming	\$ 1,000
2017	Botany Service Award , University of Wyoming	\$ 200
2017	Research Grant , Paleontological Society Grant	\$ 500

Presentations

* *presenting author*; # *mentored undergraduate*

INVITED TALKS

Summer 2023. **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**^{*}, Ellen D. Currano, Regan Dunn, Jarmila Pittermann, Emily Sessa, and Jacquelyn Gill. *Ferns communities act as facilitators of community assembly following disturbance*. Invited talk: American Society of Plant Biologists Annual Meeting, Plenary Symposium, Savannah, GA.

Fall 2022. **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**^{*}, Emily Meineke, and Ellen D. Currano. *Insect herbivory within modern forests is greater than fossil localities*. Invited talk: Geologic Society of America 2022 annual meeting, Denver, CO.

Fall 2021. **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**^{*}, S. Augusta Maccracken, Anshuman Swain, and Ellen D. Currano. *Plant-insect interactions across geologic deep-time and modern ecosystems. Are insects hungrier in the modern?*. Invited talk: Entomological Society of America 2021 annual meeting, Denver, CO.

Fall 2020. Ellen D. Currano^{*}, **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**, *Plant-insect interactions throughout geologic history*. Invited talk: Geological Society of America 2020 annual meeting, virtual.

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

Summer 2023. Dana Royer^{*}, Marcus Aurelius Brown, and **Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt**. Leaf shape as a climate proxy: do incomplete leaves retain a strong signal? Botany Conference, Boise, Idaho.

Spring 2023. **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**. Bridging the gap between modern and paleoecology from ferns to plant-insect interactions. School of Biology and Ecology Seminar Series, University of Maine. Orono, ME.

Spring 2022. Kalley Collins^{*,#}, **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**, Ellen D. Currano. What we can learn from plant traits. Presentation: Rotary Club Cody, WY.

Fall 2021. Kalley Collins^{*,#}, **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**, Ellen D. Currano. Isotopic Composition of Leaves in Harvard Forest. Presentation: WRSP Symposium University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

Fall 2021. Adalyn Vergara^{*,#}, **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**, Ellen D. Currano. Effects of the Environment on Plant-Insect Interactions. Presentation: WRSP Symposium University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

Fall 2021. Anshuman Swain^{*}, **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**, S. Augusta Maccracken, Ellen D. Currano, Jennifer Dunne, Conrad Labandeira, Bill Fagan. Effects of sampling bias on robustness of ecological metrics in fossil plant-damage type association networks. Geological Society of America 2021 annual meeting, Portland, OR.

Fall 2021. Anshuman Swain^{*}, **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**, S. Augusta Maccracken, Conrad Labandeira, Bill Fagan, Ellen D. Currano. Understanding plant-insect interactions in the fossil record. Oral Presentation: IU Network Science Institute, Networks 2021, Washington DC

Spring 2021. **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**^{*}. Plant-insect interactions across geologic deep-time and modern ecosystems: are insects hungrier in the modern?. Oral Presentation: University of Wyoming PiE Symposium, Laramie, WY.

Fall 2020. **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**^{*}. Comparing apples to apples: bringing paleobotanical methods into a modern ecological study. Oral Presentation: Shlemon Center Quaternary Center, Laramie, WY.

Fall 2020. Natasha Heins^{*,#}, **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**, Ellen D. Currano. Utilizing leaves to quantify changes in insect herbivory across facies, Harvard Forest, Massachusetts, USA. Presentation: WRSP Symposium University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

Spring 2019. **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**^{*}. Utilizing paleobotanical field collection methods to compare modern leaf and insect herbivore interactions to fossil data sets. Oral Presentation: University of Wyoming PiE Symposium, Laramie, WY.

Fall 2019. **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**^{*}. Comparing apples to apples: bringing paleobotanical methods into a modern ecological study. Oral presentation: University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY.

Fall 2018. **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**^{*}, Ellen D. Currano. Plant and insect herbivore community variation across the Paleocene-Eocene boundary. Oral presentation: Annual GSA Conference, Indianapolis, IN.

Fall 2017. **Lauren E. Azevedo-Schmidt**^{*} and Ellen D. Currano. Paleobotany in the Hanna Basin, WY: Effects of water availability on forest ecosystems during the Paleocene-Eocene in Wyoming. Poster Presentation: CBEP Conference, Snowbird, UT.

Teaching Experience

Sum 2023 INT 500: Communicating Climate Science, Adjunct Professor

University of Maine

Fall 2022 BIO 205: Field Natural History, Adjunct Professor

Sp 2022 LIFE 1003: Current Issues in Biology, Lab instructor

University of Wyoming

Sp 2021 LIFE 1002: Discovering Science, Teaching assistant

Sp 2020 BOT 5000: Graduate Seminar in Ecological Statistics, Instructor

Sp 2018 LIFE 1003: Current Issues in Biology, Lab instructor

Fall 2017 BOT 1101: Paleo's Great Debates, Teaching assistant

Fall 2017 BOT 4775: Forest Ecology, Teaching assistant and lab instructor

Sp 2017 LIFE 1003: Current Issues in Biology, Teaching assistant

Sp 2017 LIFE 1003: Current Issues in Biology, Lab instructor

Fall 2016 LIFE 2023: Biology of Plants and Fungi, Teaching assistant

Relevant Work Experience

Position	Skills	Years
Kitchen Manager	Working well under pressure and deadlines, organization and overseeing of staff, time management, communication, mentoring, able to lead a team, taught new techniques and skill sets	2014-2016
Rock Climbing Route Setter	Technical climbing skills, communication, problem solving, time management, overseeing staff, following safety protocols	2013-2014
Preschool Teacher	Time management, very patient, able to lead team, great organization, working well under pressure	2011-2012

Mentoring

Year	Male	Female	First Generation	Description	Institution
2022-2023	1	3	0	Graduate Student	University of Maine
2018-2022	0	1	1	Graduate Student	University of Wyoming
2021-2022	0	3	1	Undergrad. Research Assistant	University of Wyoming
2021-2021	0	4	0	Undergrad. Research Assistant	University of Wyoming
2019-2020	0	1	0	Undergrad. Research Assistant	University of Wyoming
2018-2019	0	1	1	Undergrad. Field Assistant	University of Wyoming
2017-2018	1	0	0	Undergrad. Field Assistant	University of Wyoming

Research Experience

University of Maine - Climate Change Institute

Orono, ME

ADVISOR: DR. JACQUELYN GILL

2022 - Present

- Postdoc Research: "Rethinking fern communities post disturbance events: Are ferns facilitators of community assemblage rather than pioneer taxa?"

University of Wyoming - Dept of Botany

Laramie, WY

ADVISOR: DR. ELLEN D. CURRANO

2018 - 2022

- Dissertation: "Utilizing modern leaves to calibrate the plant-insect fossil record"

University of Wyoming - Dept of Botany

Laramie, WY

ADVISOR: DR. ELLEN D. CURRANO

2016-2018

- Thesis: "Plant-insect interactions across the Paleocene-Eocene boundary, Hanna Basin, WY"

Metropolitan State University, Denver - Dept of Environmental Science

Denver, CO

ADVISOR: DR. BARB ECHOHAWK

2015-2015

- Undergraduate Research Topic: "Soft sediment coring and the use of x-rays to detect changes in sedimentary structures on a coastline, Davenport CA"

Service & Professional Development

SERVICE

2021-2021 **Program in Ecology**, Co-lead writer of DEI Statement

Laramie, WY

2021-2021 **Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium**, Website design, abstract review

Host: Burke Museum

2019-2022 **Program in Ecology**, Finance Committee Member

UW

2019-2020 **Program in Ecology**, Mentor Mentee Committee Member

2018-2019 **Program in Ecology**, Odyssey Committee Member

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teaching Academy at U. Maine, The Spring 2023 Teaching Academy at the University of Maine is a semester long working group which focuses on teaching styles and practices, focusing on active learning. The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning facilitates this academy.

Grants Academy at U. Maine, The 2022-2023 Grants Academy at the University of Maine is a year-long workshop that supports interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers, providing skill based talks and presentations to further develop grant writing skills.

Learning Actively Mentoring Program (LAMP) at U. Wyoming, I attending the 2017-2018 LAMP workshop in Jackson, Wyoming. This program is an intensive week long workshop focusing on teaching active learning practices to teachers which is then further continued on throughout the academic year.

PEER REVIEW

Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology

PLOS Climate

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Botanical Society of America

Graduate Women in Science

Geological Society of America (GSA)

American Women Geologists (AWG)

International Organization of Paleobotany

Paleontological Society

Girls Who Code

Letters to a Pre-Scientist

Media & Outreach

MEDIA

In Defense of Plants podcast guest on episode 394 (11/06/2022). Host Matt Candeias and I discuss my recent paper *PNAS* publication about plant-insect interactions across geologic and modern time bins.

Science Alert 10/11/2022. article about one of my PhD dissertation chapters. This particular paper found that insect herbivory within modern ecosystems is greater than the past 66.7 million years.

Prehistoric Road Trip. 07/01/2020. Hosted by Emily Graslie of the Brain Scoop and Chief Curiosity Correspondent at the Field Museum in Chicago, this three episode series focuses on paleontologists studying Earth's geologic record. I was featured in the third episode titled *Tiny Teeth, Fearsome Beasts* and highlighted in a *The Rock Stars of Paleontology and Geology*

OUTREACH

Poly Prep Academy guest lecture. 02/10/2023. I had the opportunity and privilege to give a guest lecture to the Poly Prep Academy honors biology class, hosted by Dr. Ramesh Laungani. During this lecture I discussed paleoecology and specifically the role of plants and insect herbivore interactions in a healthy forested ecosystem. This lecture provided me the opportunity to discuss my non-traditional path to academics and my passion for research and teaching.

1000 STEM Women Project. 10/10/2022. This project showcases videos created by scientists who identify as women, to middle school aged students. By introducing a wide variety of science and scientists to students STEM becomes more visible and accessible. [Click here to see my video submission.](#)