

GIOVANNA FIGUEROA

gfigueroa@berkeley.edu

Education

PhD Candidate, Department of Integrative Biology

August 2017 – Present

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

Research Advisor: Dr. Paul Fine

Bachelor of Arts, Integrative Biology; GPA: 3.0/4.0

August 2009 - May 2014

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

Research Interests

• Evolution • Tropical Ecology • Ethnobotany • Ethnoecology • Conservation Biology • Phylogenetics and Systematics

Relevant Courses

• Evolution • Ecosystems of California • Medical Ethnobotany • Evolutionary Medicine • Principles of Phylogenetics • Tropical Plant Systematics (offered by the Organization of Tropical Studies in Costa Rica)

Skills

• Fluent in English, Spanish • Proficient in (Brazilian) Portuguese • Fieldwork • Vegetative/rare plant monitoring • GPS/GIS and RTK mapping • Plant propagation • Use of dichotomous keys • Database use and management

Relevant Experience

Genomic Bioinformatics Course, Montpellier, France

June 2019

Institute of Research and Development

• Trained under Dr. Louise Brousseau

Graduate Student Instructor, Berkeley, CA

August 2017 – May 2019

University of California, Berkeley

• Lead discussions sections for undergraduate students

Courses Taught: Human Biological Variation • Sexual Reproduction • Evolutionary Medicine

Crew Lead, San Clemente Island, CA

September 2016 – April 2017

Soil, Ecology, and Restoration Group

• Oversaw the botany crew's performance and implementation of project goals

• Collaborated on quarterly report writing and map making

• Innovated outplanting success monitoring methods

Research Assistant, San Clemente Island, CA

July 2015 – April 2017

Soil, Ecology, and Restoration Group

• Surveyed rare plant populations (e.g. *Lithophragma maxima*, *Malacothamnus clemintinus*)

• Implemented restoration practices to ensure proper habitat for island endemic flora and fauna, including coordinating outplantings and invasive species removal

• Collaborated with government agencies (e.g. US Navy, US Fish and Wildlife Service)

Field Botanist, Arcata, CA

March 2015 – July 2015

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Humboldt Bay NWR

• Conducted vegetative monitoring to support a coastal dune morphology study

• Identified and mapped populations of rare plants (e.g. *Erysimum menziesii*, *Castilleja ambigua* ssp. *humboldtiensis*)

Fellow, Manaus, Brazil

August 2014

Collaborative Training for the Study of Beta-Diversity in Tropical Forests Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa da Amazônia (INPA)

• Studied the association between ant species infected by *Cordyceps unilateralis* and the plants on which they were found

Updated August 2020

Research Assistant, Berkeley, CA

April 2013 – December 2013

Dept. Environmental Science, Management, and Policy, UC Berkeley PI: Robert Van Steenwyk, PhD.

University of California, Berkeley

- Measured efficacy of various pesticide treatments on local cherry and walnut orchards

Research Assistant, Managua, Nicaragua

May 2012 – August 2012

Minority Health International Research Training PI: Aubree Gordon, PhD, M.P.H.

University of California, Berkeley

- Assisted with the implementation of mobile health devices for use in a household influenza transmission study
- Surveyed health workers to assess the impact of the devices on the study

Research Assistant, Seattle, WA

June 2011 – August 2011

Stipends for Training Aspiring Researchers PI: Thomas Hawn, MD, PhD.

University of Washington, Seattle

- Studied human monocyte response to infection with *Legionella pneumophila*

Field Seasons

- Iquitos, Peru (13 weeks) **2019**
- Iquitos, Peru (6 weeks) **2018**
- Costa Rica (6 weeks) **2018**
- Manaus, Brazil (2 weeks) **2014**

Volunteer Experience

Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

March 2014 – May 2014

- Maintained a medicinal plant garden

Honors & Awards

- 2020 Department of Integrative Biology Summer Research Award, UC Berkeley
- 2020 Graduate Remote Instruction Innovation Fellowship, UC Berkeley
- 2019 Center for Latin American Studies Summer Research Award, UC Berkeley
- 2019 Institute of International Studies Summer Research Award, UC Berkeley
- 2019 Department of Integrative Biology Summer Research Award, UC Berkeley
- 2019 Honorable Mention NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- 2012 UC Berkeley MHIRT Fellow 2012 Biology Scholar Program Member
- 2009 Gates Millennium Scholar

Presentations and Panels

- UC Jepson Herbaria Botany Lunch Series **January 17, 2020**
- Stanford SR-EIP URM Graduate Research Panel **August 3, 2020**

Mentoring

- Alejandra, Universidad Nacional de la Amazonia Peruana - *Iquitos, Peru* **2019**