

Lauren Jenkins

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EDUCATION

Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment

PhD Candidate in University Program in Ecology

Certificate in College Teaching

Advisor: Dr. James S. Clark

Durham, NC

August 2022 - Present

Wheaton College

Bachelor of Science in Biology and Computer Science, Minor in Math

Wheaton, IL

May 2021

- *Cum laude*
- Notable Coursework: Machine Learning, Discrete Math & Functional Programming, Software Development, Data Structures & Algorithms, GIS, Database Systems, Linear Algebra, Vector Calculus, Disease Ecology & Spatial Analysis, Invertebrate Zoology, Microbiology, Bioinformatics

Wheaton College Science Station

Field Intensive Study

Rapid City, SD

June - August 2018

- Studied botany, zoology, and ecology with field experiments in the Black Hills and surrounding National Forests and National Parks.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

IGNITE Engineering Education Program, Duke University

Research Team Evaluator

Durham, NC

September 2025 – Present

- Evaluating the effectiveness of a middle-school engineering outreach program that serves 70+ Durham-area students at The Museum of Life and Science (Durham, NC) that focuses on increasing STEM identity, knowledge, and retention among underrepresented groups.
- Collecting and analyzing mixed-methods data including pre/post surveys, engagement measurements, reflection interviews, and student prototypes to quantify community and engineering identity outcomes.

Missouri Botanical Garden, Global Change and Conservation Lab

Biogeography Post Baccalaureate Researcher

St. Louis, MO

August 2021 - August 2022

- Led an individual research project comparing a pollen-vegetation model and ecological niche model to estimate past glacial refugia and subsequent migration by trees. Supervisor: Dr. Adam B. Smith
- This work was funded through the NSF Research Experience for Post-Baccalaureate Researchers award.

Argonne National Laboratory, Environmental Sciences Division

Environmental Science Consultant

Chicago, IL

September 2020 - August 2023

- Interpreted data on the ecosystem services of solar-pollinator habitats and develop data visualizations in R for future publication. Supervisors: Leroy Walston, Heidi Hartmann

Page Lab, Wheaton College Biology Department

Disease Ecology and Spatial Analysis Research Assistant

Wheaton, IL

August 2020 - May 2021

- Conducted spatial analysis of the habitat associated with raccoon fecal samples from the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Research Advisor: Dr. Kristen Page

Scott Lab, Wheaton College Biology Department

Blanding's Turtle Microbiome Project Research Assistant

Wheaton, IL

August 2018 - March 2020

- Collected samples of the host-associated microbiome of the endangered Blanding's turtles at Cosley Zoo (Wheaton, IL) and Shedd Aquarium (Chicago, IL). Collaborated on a literature review to prepare for a publication of genomic analysis of the host-associated microbiome. Research Advisor: Dr. Rodney Scott

Marquis Lab, University of Missouri St. Louis Biology Department

St. Louis, MO

Conservation Ecology Research Assistant

June - August 2019

- Collaborated with Ph.D. student, Eva Colberg, on her research investigating ants and seed dispersal. Assisted in field research in the woods of eastern Missouri. Designed and conducted an individual research project studying ants and seed dispersal.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCE –**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment**

Durham, NC

ENVIRON 710: Applied Statistical Modeling for Environmental Management

Fall 2022, 2024

Spring 2026

ENVIRON 623: Ecological Diversity and Climate Change

Spring 2023

ENVIRON 89S: Environmental Change in the Big Data Era

Spring 2023

Nicholas School of the Environment Statistics Diagnostic Exams

Summer 2024

BIOLOGY 341: Plant Communities of North Carolina

Fall 2024

ENVIRON 102: Introduction to Environmental Sciences and Policy

Spring 2025

IDS 707: Data Visualization and Storytelling

Fall 2025

Undergraduate Lab Teaching Assistant, Wheaton College Biology Department

Wheaton, IL

Introduction to Botany & Zoology Lab

Spring 2019

Experimental Design & Research

Fall 2019

Ecology & Evolution

Fall 2020

Disease Ecology

Spring 2021

Undergraduate Writing Fellow, Wheaton College English Department

Wheaton, IL

Gender & Global Health

Spring 2020

Physics of Sound

Fall 2020

GUEST LECTURES –**GJAM for Land and Water Geospatial Analysis, Duke University**

March 2023

Paleoecology of North Carolina Plant Communities, Duke University

November 2024

Community Ecology: Forests and Seed Production, Duke University

November 2025

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

SciREN Triangle Networking Event, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

Raleigh, NC

Logistics Lead, Organizing Team

May 2025 - Present

- Lead an organizing team of 15 PhD students in partnership with museum staff to coordinate all event logistics, including strategic planning, workflow management, meeting facilitation, and preparation of event materials.

Educator Liaison, Organizing Team

May - September 2024

- Recruited and coordinated logistics for nearly 300 K-12 educators in North Carolina to participate in a large networking event, connecting them with higher education researchers.

Lesson Planning Participant

September 2023

- Wrote and shared a lesson plan for K-5 students about the traits trees have to respond to climate change through seed dispersal.

Henry J. Oosting Memorial Lecture, Duke University

May - October 2025

Student Organizer

- Coordinated with four faculty members on the organizing committee to plan and execute an endowed lecture, successfully managing logistics and coordination to attract over 100 attendees.

North Carolina SciMatch for Middle School, North Carolina Science Festival

Durham, NC

Scientist Volunteer

March 2025

- Collaborated with a local middle school teacher to develop and deliver interactive virtual lessons on climate change for 4 classes of 8th grade students.

Durham Regional Science Olympiad, North Carolina Science Olympiad

Durham, NC

Volunteer

March 2025

- Served as a judge for 20 high school Science Olympiad team events, collaborating with event leaders, fellow judges, and students to ensure fair and accurate evaluations.

Next Generation Scientists Organizing Committee, New Phytologist

Durham, NC

Local Organizer

November 2023 - August 2024

- Moderated scientific panels with New Phytologist editors, planned logistical arrangements, crafted conference schedule, curated breakout sessions, and assisted in week-of operations of the conference for 125 early career researchers.

Elementary Environmental Mentoring (ELEMENT), Durham Public Schools

Durham, NC

Mentor

December 2023 - May 2024

- Mentored local high school students, assisting them in developing lesson to teach for elementary school summer programs.

Ecology Seminar Planning Committee, Duke University Program in Ecology

Durham, NC

Co-Coordinator

September 2022 - May 2024

- Managed weekly department-wide seminars with local and travelling speakers (~30 annually), coordinated speaker schedules, and facilitated nominations and voting for new speakers.

Duke-Durham SchoolDays, Duke Office of Durham & Community Affairs

Durham, NC

Research Participant

October 2023

- Presented research to two groups of first-generation eighth graders from Durham Public Schools to expose them to the potential of scientific research.

SciComm Video Workshop, Duke University

Durham, NC

Event Organizer

August 2023

- Applied and received \$1,000 of funding from the Dean's Award at Duke Graduate School to organize a two-day science communication video workshop for STEM graduate students at Duke.

Ecology Recruitment Committee, Duke University Program in Ecology

Durham, NC

Co-Coordinator

Spring 2023

- Coordinated logistics with faculty sponsors and their prospective graduate students for recruitment weekend, including arranging transportation, faculty meetings, and social events.

Faith in the Vaccine, Interfaith Youth Core

Student Ambassador

Chicago, IL

June 2021 - May 2022

- Partnered with peers and community groups to increase COVID-19 vaccine accessibility and knowledge in contexts with low vaccination rates.

Campus Garden & Prairie, Wheaton College Student Government

Supervisor

Wheaton, IL

August 2020 - May 2021

- Oversaw the upkeep and all programming for the Wheaton College campus garden, including weekly donations to a local food bank.
- Supervised a group of 45 volunteers to care for and maintain the garden and surrounding native prairie.

Chicago Cultural Atlas

Geospatial Researcher and Collaborator

Chicago, IL

May - August 2020

- Designed maps of Chicago, IL using GIS for contribution to a cultural atlas of the city of Chicago.

Academic and Institutional Technology, Wheaton College

Campus Event Technician

Wheaton, IL

September 2018 - May 2021

- Coordinated with a team of faculty and peers to support sound, video, and projection for various campus events.

PUBLICATIONS

IN PREPARATION:

Jenkins, L., T. Bankston, M. Hu, I. Ibáñez, R. Kays, G. Kunstler, J. Luongo, ... & J.S. Clark. In revision. "Fecundity and terrain-climate interactions define tree niche differences across North America and Europe." *Journal of Ecology*.

Clark, J.S., T. Bankston, M. Bogdziewicz, M. Cailleret, J.J. Camarero, S. Delzon, ... **L. Jenkins**, ... & M. Żywiec. In review. "Despite rapid warming, seed production is not leading poleward migration in North American and European forests." *New Phytologist*.

Jensen, A.J., T. Ackley, M. Alyetama, M.V. Cove, L. Fritzche, B.R. Goldstein, ... **L. Jenkins**, ... & R. Kays. In review. "A global tour of iNaturalist mammal data: status, trends, and outlook for macroecology and conservation." *Journal of Mammalogy*.

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS:

Clark, J.S., R. Andrus, M. Arianoutsou, D. Ascoli, Y. Bergeron, M. Bogdziewicz, ... **L. Jenkins**, ... & M. Żywiec. 2026. "Continental contrasts in climate extremes that control forest recovery." *Global Change Biology*. 32, no. 2: e70738. DOI: [10.1111/gcb.70738](https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.70738)

Jenkins, L., D.T. McKnight, M. Parks, N.W. Byer, F.J. Oliaro, D. Thompson, R. Scott. 2024. "Variable effects of captivity on microbiomes in populations of IUCN-endangered Blanding's turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*)". *Journal of Applied Microbiology*, 135(5), 1xae121. DOI: [10.1093/jambio/1xae121](https://doi.org/10.1093/jambio/1xae121)

Walston, L.J., H.M. Hartmann, L. Fox, J. Macknick, J. McCall, J. Janski, **L. Jenkins**. 2024. "If you build it, will they come? Insect community responses to habitat establishment at solar energy facilities in Minnesota, USA". *Environmental Research Letters*, 19(1), 014053. DOI: [10.1088/1748-9326/ad0f72](https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ad0f72)

CONTRIBUTED TALKS, ABSTRACTS, AND POSTERS

Jenkins, L., Clark, J.S. “Climate refugia in North American and European temperate forests: Local habitat and terrain conditions needed for tree fecundity”. Oral Presentation. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD. August 2025.

Jenkins, L., Clark, J.S. “Mast in the Past: Changes in climate drove large shifts in seed resources since the last Ice Age”. Poster Presentation. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA. August 2024.

Jenkins, L., Clark, J.S. “Mast in the Past: Predicting seed, fruit, and nut abundance since the Last Glacial Maximum using pollen-fecundity relationships”. Poster Presentation. New Phytologist Next Generation Scientists Meeting, Durham, NC. June 2024.

Jenkins, L., Brown, A., Castilla A., Dawson, A., Hoban, S., Robinson, J., Strand, A., Tipton, J., Smith, A.B. “Species distribution models and pollen density models predict different rates of climate tracking across the last 21,000 years.” Oral Presentation. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Montreal, Québec, Canada. August 2022.

Jenkins, L., Brown, A., Castilla A., Dawson, A., Hoban, S., Robinson, J., Strand, A., Tipton, J., Smith, A.B. “Dissonance in predictions from species distribution models and pollen density models across the previous 21,000 years.” Oral Presentation. International Biogeography Society Meeting. June 2022. Online.

Jenkins, L., Colberg E.M., Marquis, R.J. “Ant seed preference for two spring-flowering woodland herbs.” Poster. Wheaton College STEM Day Summer Research Symposium. September 2019.

Jenkins, L., Colberg E.M., Marquis, R.J. “Winnow ant preference for ant-dispersed seeds, bloodroot and wild ginger”. Oral Presentation. University of Missouri–St. Louis Students as Research Scientists Symposium. July 2019.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Teaching on Purpose Fellowship, Duke University: Kenan Institute for Ethics	2026
PhD Computational Summer Fellowship, Duke University: Center for Computational Thinking	2025
Dissertation Research Domestic Travel Award, Duke University	2025
Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation	2024
Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University	2023, 2024
Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation	2022
Research Experience for Post-Baccalaureate Students, National Science Foundation	2021
Beneficial Insects Summer REU at University of Nebraska – Lincoln, National Science Foundation	2020
Students as Research Scientists Research Associate, University of Missouri St. Louis	2019

WORKSHOPS

ComSciCon-Triangle Workshop, Research Triangle Institute International	January 2024
Racial Equity Learning Arc, The Equity Paradigm/Duke University	February - May 2023

Biosphere2 Biogeography, *Biosphere2, Tucson, AZ*

April 2023

Preventing Sexual Harassment and Assault in the Field Sciences, *Field Futures*

March 2023

Decolonizing Ecology with Dr. Madhusudan Katti (NC State), *Duke University*

December 2022

RangeshiftR: modelling spatial eco-evolutionary dynamics in R (virtual), *International Biogeography Society Annual Meeting*

June 2022