Kimberly J. La Pierre

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Yale University, 2007-present
PhD Candidate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

University of California, Irvine, 2003-2007
B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Environmental Analysis and Design Minor

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University, 2007-present
Advisor: Dr. Melinda Smith
Projects: Drivers of grassland community structure and woody encroachment: an assessment of the strength of bottom-up and top-down controls.

Undergraduate Researcher, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine, 2004-2007
Advisor: Dr. Katharine Suding
Projects: Determining the effects of herbivory by the exotic snail *Otala lactea* on the invasion success of the exotic forb *Brassica nigra* to southern California grasslands.

Intern, Island Conservation, Summer 2006
Advisor: Dr. Bernie Tershy
Projects: Developing a database of islands listed as the last remaining habitat of an endangered or critically endangered species and prioritizing these islands in a way that will promote the most successful funding and implementation of invasive species eradication projects.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Plant Diversity and Evolution – EEB 246/247L – Spring 2011
Terrestrial Arthropods – EEB 250/251L – Fall 2009
Diversity of Life Laboratory – EEB 123L – Spring 2009
General Ecology – EEB 220 – Fall 2008
Introduction to Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior – EEB 122 – Spring 2008

PUBLICATIONS

La Pierre, KJ, Yuan, S, Chang, CC, Avolio, MA, Hallett, LM, Schreck, T, Smith, MD. 2011. Explaining temporal variation in aboveground productivity in a mesic grassland: the role of climate and flowering. *Journal of Ecology*. 99(5): 1250-1262.

Adler, PB, Seabloom, E, Borer, E, Hillebrand, H, Hautier, Y, Hector, A, O'Halloran, LR, Harpole, WS, Anderson, TM, Bakker, JD, Biederman, LA, Brown, CS, Buckley, Y, Calabrese, L, Chu, C, Clealand, E, Collins, SL, Cottingham, KL, Crawley, MJ, Davies, KF, DeCrappeo, NM, Fay, PA, Firn, J, Frater, P, Gasarch, EI, Gruner, D, Hagenah, N, Hillerislambers, J, Humphries, H, Jin, VL, Kay, A, Klein, JA, Knops, J, Kirkman, K, **La Pierre, KJ**, Lambrinos, J, Leakey, ADB, Li, W, MacDougall, A, McCulley, RL, Melbourne, BA, Mitchell, CE, Moore, J, Morgan, J, Mortenson, B, Orrock, J, Prober, S, Pyke, DA, Risch, A, Schuetz, M, Stevens, C, Sullivan, LL, Wang, G, Wragg, P, Wright, J. 2011. Productivity is a poor predictor of plant species richness. *Science*. 333(6050): 1750-1753.

Firn, J, Moore, JL, MacDougall, AS, Borer, ET, Seabloom, EW, HilleRisLambers, J, Harpole, WS, Cleland, EE, Brown, CS, Knops, JMH, Prober, SM, Pyke, DA, Farrell, KA, Bakker, JD, O'Halloran, LR, Adler, PB, Collins, SL, D'Antonio, CM, Crawley, MJ, Wolkovich, EM, **La Pierre, KJ**, Melbourne, BA, Hautier, Y, Morgan, JW, Leakey, ADB, Kay, A, McCulley, R, Davies, KF, Stevens, CJ, Chu, CJ, Holl, KD, Klein, JA, Fay, PA, Hagenah, N, Kirkman, KP, and Buckley, YM. 2011. Abundance of introduced species at home predicts abundance away in herbaceous communities. *Ecology Letters* 14:274-281.

La Pierre, KJ, Harpole, WS, Suding, KN. 2010. Strong feeding preference of an exotic generalist herbivore for an exotic forb: a case of invasional antagonism. *Biological Invasions.*12(9): 3025-3031.

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

Grasslands in a Global Context, 2011, *The role of plant traits and their plasticity in determining community and ecosystem responses to alteration in nutrient availability* (Poster)

Ecological Society of America, 2010, *Dominant plant species determine ecosystem response to multiple resource additions across a precipitation gradient*

LTER All Scientists Meeting, 2009, *Drivers of grassland community structure: an assessment of the strength of bottom-up and top-down controls* (Poster)

Ecological Society of America, 2009, *Climate and flower production determine above-ground net primary production in a C_4 grassland* (Poster)

Ecological Society of America, 2008, *Invasion increases activities of soil microbial extracellular enzymes involved in carbon and nitrogen processing in Coastal Sage Scrub* (Poster)

University of California Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees in the Sciences Annual Symposium, 2007, *Stopping Extinctions on Islands* (Poster)

Ecological Society of America, 2006, *The Role of an Exotic Herbivore in Determining the Invasion Success of* Brassica nigra *to Southern California Grasslands* (Poster)

West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference, 2006, *The Effects of Herbivory by an Exotic Snail on the Community Composition of Southern California Grasslands* (Poster)

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Undergraduate Symposium, University of California, Irvine, 2006, *The Effects of Herbivory by an Exotic Snail on the Community Composition of Southern California Grasslands*

University of California Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees in the Sciences Annual Symposium, 2006, *The Effects of Herbivory by an Exotic Snail on the Exotic Forb* Brassica nigra (Poster)

INVITED TALKS

Ecological Society of America, 2011, *The interactive effects of bottom-up and top-down forces vary across a broad grassland productivity gradient* (in OOS, Examining bottom-up and top-down forces: Bringing together aquatic and terrestrial perspectives)

Kansas State University Seminar Series, 2009, *Drivers of grassland community structure: an assessment of the strength of bottom-up and top-down controls*

GRANTS AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship Program
The effects of top-down and bottom-up forces and their interactions on woody encroachment into the Great Plains
Awarded: June 2009-June 2012

Ecological Society of America, Strategies for Ecology Education, Development, and Sustainability Program (SEEDS)
Funded travel to the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America as a SEEDS alumni mentor
Awarded: August 2008

Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies' Center for Field Ecology Pilot Research Grant
Funded pilot research for dissertation project during the summer of 2008
Awarded: May 2008

Ecological Society of America, Strategies for Ecology Education, Development, and Sustainability Program (SEEDS)
Funded travel to the 91st Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America
Awarded: August 2006

Joseph H. Stevens Memorial Award for Outstanding Research in Ecology and Conservation
Awarded: June 1, 2006

West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference, Outstanding Poster Presentation
Awarded: April 29, 2006

University of California Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees in the Sciences Program (UC LEADS)
Funded independent research for two years at the University of California, Irvine and other UC campuses
Awarded: 2005-2007

University of California, Irvine Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Fellowship
The Effects of Herbivory by an Exotic Snail on Competition between Native and Exotic Plants in California Grasslands
Awarded: Fall 2005

Ecological Society of America, Strategies for Ecology Education, Development, and Sustainability Program (SEEDS)
Funded travel to the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research Project in New Mexico
Awarded: November 2005

University of California, Irvine Summer Undergraduate Research Program Fellowship
The Effects of Herbivory on Competition Intensity in California Grasslands
Awarded: Summer 2005

SERVICE

Long-Term Ecological Research Network, Graduate Student Co-Chair, 2010-present

New Haven Reads
Reading tutor, 2009-2011

Ecological Society of America, Strategies for Ecology Education, Development, and Sustainability Program (SEEDS)
Alumni mentor, ESA 2008

Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven, CT
Honors science curriculum development, 2008-2009
After-school tutoring coordinator for the sciences, 2009

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Ecological Society of America