

# Nathan Mietkiewicz, Ph. D.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Earth Lab and CIRES

University of Colorado · Boulder · 4001 Discovery Dr.

✉ Nathan.Mietkiewicz@Colorado.edu ☎ 508 797 2940 🌐 NateMietk 🌐 nathanmietkiewicz.com

## Professional Summary

I am a geospatial scientist and ecologist seeking a research position in a dynamic and broad-thinking lab that allows me to pursue high-caliber science relevant to pressing human-environmental issues. My current research aims to examine how global environmental change, including changed climate and fire cycles, alters ecosystem function and human vulnerability. Specifically, I lead cutting-edge research in wildfire ecology, with particular focus on quantifying, modeling, and predicting the consequences of human-started wildfires to the vulnerability of communities throughout the United States. I work at multiple scales, across disciplines, and with an international community of scientists.

## Language Competencies and Technical Skills

**Applications:** RStudio, Jupyter Notebooks, Amazon Web Services (S3, EC2), ArcGIS Platform, QGIS, IDRISI/Terrset, Adobe CS6 Illustrator,

**Programming:** R (expert), Python (general understanding), R Markdown, Docker, GitHub, UNIX Shell Programming

## Recent Professional Background

### Postdoctoral Research Fellow

2016–present

*Earth Lab and the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado at Boulder*

- Deployed geospatial, reproducible workflows in a salable, cloud-compute environment via Amazon Web Services (AWS) leveraging Docker and GitHub to build stable, collaborative work environments across platforms
- Wrote clean, efficient, reproducible code to analyze big geospatial data
- Built out and optimizing statistical models using a variety of techniques, with focus on machine learning algorithms.
- Mentored/managed undergraduate and graduate level interns and research assistants.
- Authored and co-authored 7 peer-review publications
- Co-authored over \$5 million in research grant proposals

### Adjunct Faculty

2012-2016

*Graduate School of Geography, Clark University, Worcester, MA*

- Taught the undergraduate Forest Ecology seminar
- Developed all course materials, syllabi, laboratories, and testing materials
- Overall effectiveness based on student evaluations was 92%

### Teaching Assistant

2012-2016

*Graduate School of Geography, Clark University, Worcester, MA*

- Taught technical laboratories for graduate and undergraduate class, including Advanced Topics in GIS: Raster GIS (3 semesters), Introduction to Remote Sensing (1 semester), Forest Ecology (1 semester), and Earth System Science (1 semester).
- Overall effectiveness based on student evaluations ranging from 92%-99%, with an average evaluation of 96% over 6 semesters.

## Research Assistant

2013-2016

*Graduate School of Geography, Clark University, Worcester, MA*

- Developed and deployed a successful field campaign located in the back-country of the Colorado Rockies.
- Managed a team of 4 undergraduate and graduate students in remote, mountainous areas for 18 weeks over the course of 2 summers.
- Collected over 2,000 tree cores, 1,000 seedling/sampling samples, and data ranging over 3 projects, resulting in 4 peer-reviewed publications and my dissertation.
- Managed the Forest Ecology Lab, where duties included maintaining, ordering, inventorying, and supporting both computer and field equipment for the research and classroom laboratories.

## Academic Background

<i>Clark University, Worcester, MA, Ph.D. Geography</i>	2016
<i>Clark University, Worcester, MA, M.A., Geography,</i>	2015
<i>Clark University, Worcester, MA, M.S., GIS for Development and Environment,</i>	2013
<i>University of Maine, Orono, ME, B.S., Earth Science,</i>	2009

## Selected peer-reviewed Publications

Balch, J. K., T. Schoennagel, A. Williams, J. Abatzoglou, M. Cattau, **N. Mietkiewicz**, and L. St. Denis. 2018. *Switching on the Big Burn of 2017*. Fire 1.

**Mietkiewicz, N.**, D. Kulakowski, and T. T. Veblen 2018. *Pre-outbreak forest conditions mediate the effects of spruce beetle outbreaks on fuels in subalpine forests of Colorado*. Ecological Applications 28:457-472.

**Mietkiewicz, N.**, D. Kulakowski, D. Rogan, and P. Bebi. 2017. *Long-term change in sub-alpine forest cover, tree line and species composition in the Swiss Alps*. Journal of Vegetation Science. 28:951-964. DOI: 10.1111/jvs.12561

Schoennagel, T., J. K. Balch, H. Brenkert-Smith, P. E. Dennison, B. J. Harvey, M. A. Krawchuk, **N. Mietkiewicz**, P. Morgan, M. A. Moritz, R. Rasker, M. G. Turner, and C. Whitlock. 2017. *Adapt to more wildfire in western North American forests as climate changes*. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. 114:4582-4590.

**Mietkiewicz, N.** and D. Kulakowski. 2016. *Relative importance of climate and mountain pine beetle outbreaks on the occurrence of large wildfires in the western US*. Ecological Applications:10.1002/eap.1400