

Biosketch

Renata Diaz grew up surrounded by the fields of eastern Colorado and the forests of New England, in a family of enthusiastic puzzle solvers and natural historians. During her undergraduate work in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University, she developed a keen interest in the interplay between theoretical, computational, and empirical modalities in ecology. For her senior thesis, she combined field experiments with a mathematical model to predict how the joint effects of large mammalian herbivores, small mammalian seed predators, and historical legacies of human-wildlife interactions modulate the spatial distribution of trees in East African savannas. From 2015 to 2017, she continued to explore dimensions of ecology as a research assistant in the Staver Lab at Yale University (2015-2016), a field intern with the Ecology of Bird Loss Project (2016), and a spatial data analysis intern in the Global Change Ecology lab at the Missouri Botanic Garden (2017). In 2017, she joined the Ernest and weecology labs at the University of Florida to pursue a PhD in macroecology, combining field work associated with The Portal Project with data- and computationally- intensive synthesis, software development projects, and intellectually adventurous theoretical pursuits.