

Jimena Golcher-Benavides

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EDUCATION

2015-2021	PhD in Ecology. Program in Ecology, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY. Advisor: Dr. Catherine E. Wagner.
2012-2015	MSc. in Biological Sciences at University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany. Advisors: Dr. Axel Meyer & Dr. Mark van Kleunen.
2006-2011	Bachelor of Biological Sciences, emphasis on Tropical Biology, National University (UNA), Heredia, Costa Rica.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2022– present	Postdoctoral Research Dr. Michael J. Weber and Dr. Michael J. Moore Iowa State University, cooperating agencies: Iowa DNR, and Illinois Natural History Survey, Illinois River Biological Station, La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, and Southern Illinois University Carbondale. <i>One year position extended through grant funding obtained by JGB.</i>
Summer 2022	Postdoctoral Research Dr. Catherine E. Wagner, University of Wyoming (remote work position).
2021-2022	Visiting Assistant Professor Biology Program, Lees-McRae College.
2015-2021	Graduate Research PhD Dissertation Thesis “Eco-evolutionary drivers of diversity in East African cichlid fishes” Committee members: Dr. Catherine E. Wagner (PhD Advisor), Dr. Peter B. McIntyre, Dr. Robert O. Hall, Dr. Amy C. Krist, Dr. Carlos Martínez del Río & Dr. Craig W. Benkman. <i>Field work, data, and specimen collection in four expeditions to Lake Tanganyika, Tanzania 2016-2019.</i>
2019-2020	Graduate Research “Monitoring Critical Habitat for Fish Fauna” The Nature Conservancy’s Tuungane Project advised by Craig Leisher, Director of Monitoring and Evaluations at The Nature Conservancy and Dr. Peter B. McIntyre, Cornell U.
2012-2015	Graduate Research MSc Thesis “The effects of predation on the stability of a color polymorphism in Midas cichlids from Nicaraguan crater lakes” Universität Konstanz, Germany. Dr. Axel Meyer & Dr. Mark van Kleunen. <i>Field work providing aquatic biodiversity survey data for the Water Authority in Managua, Nicaragua.</i>
2013	Graduate Research Universität Konstanz, Germany. Dr. Helen Gunter.
2012	Undergraduate Internship Veterinary School (TiHo) Hannover, Germany.
2011	Undergraduate Internship Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama.
2009-2011	Undergraduate Research Organization for Tropical Studies and Environmental impact assessment with Universidad Nacional (UNA).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022 – Fall	Guest Lecturer “Introducing hybrid fishes into fisheries conservation” Iowa State University Fisheries Science Dr. Michael Moore.
2022 – Spring	Instructor Lees-McRae College BIO 361 Genetics lecture and lab sections (15 <i>students</i>), BIO 211 General Zoology lecture (18 <i>students</i>) and lab sections (19 <i>students</i>), and BIO 122 Introduction to Evolution lecture (28 <i>students</i>).
2021 – Fall	Instructor Lees-McRae College BIO 114 Introductory Biology for Majors I Two lecture sections (48 <i>students</i>) and three lab sections (57 <i>students</i>).
2021 – Spring	Guest Lecturer Two lectures “Animal World: Fishes” Lees-McRae College General Zoology Dr. Porter.
2021 – Spring	Guest Lecturer Oklahoma State University Introduction to Natural History Dr. Duchardt.
2020 – Fall	Guest Lecturer Adams College Gen. Biology Dr. Gibson-Reinemer.
2020 – Spring	Teaching Assistant (TA) University of Wyoming Gen. Ecology Dr. Barber. In charge of lectures on evolutionary ecology and biodiversity.
2019 – Fall	TA University of Wyoming Marine Biology Dr. North. In charge of lectures on biodiversity metrics.
2018 – Spring	TA University of Wyoming Genetics Dr. Weinig. In charge of lectures on population genetics, ecological speciation and two study groups.
2016 & 2017	TA University of Wyoming Evolution Dr. Wagner. In charge of lectures on evolutionary research in zoological and geological museums.
2015 – Fall	Lab Instructor & Lecture TA University of Wyoming Biology Dr. J. Willford and Dr. North in charge of two General Biology laboratory sections.
2013 – 2014	TA University of Konstanz Zoology Dr. Kleineidam & Dr. Woltering (2014) Dr. Gunter (2013) in charge of two study groups.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION & TRAINING

2021- 2022	Learning Actively Mentoring Program Summer Institute - University of Wyoming
2021	Virtual Machine Learning using Python Workshop WEST 11-15 January 2021
2021	Virtual OTS Scientific Illustration 27 January-12 February 2021
2020	Virtual Safe Zone Training – University of Wyoming – 10 August 2020
2017	National Science Foundation Grantsmanship Workshop 14 October 2017
2017	Bodega Applied Phylogenetics Workshop Application 11-18 March 2017
2017	Occupancy Workshop 20-24 March 2017

MENTORING

2022-2023	Training of students in fisheries Iowa State University & INHS Illinois River Biological Station
2022	Miguel Sanchez LMC Undergraduate research.
2019 – 2021	Shadow T. McKim UW Undergraduate research & manuscript preparation.
2016 – 2020	Msafiry George (Tanzania) Undergraduate academic writing.
2020 – Summer	Carlos Muñoz (Colombia) Academic writing.
2020 – Spring	Nathan T. Barrus UW Undergraduate research.
2018 – Spring	Thyme L. Cook & Reid Olson UW Undergraduate research experience.

2017 – *Summer* Brittany Nordberg | UW Undergraduate research experience.
 2013 – *Fall* Gabriel Brenes | (Nicaragua) ENACAL Water Enterprise Staff Assistant.
 2011 – *Fall* Francesca Protti & Miguel Chaves | (CR) Undergraduate academic writing.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZER & INSTRUCTOR EXPERIENCE

2020 – *Spring* **Virtual Intro to Digital Illustration** | Program in Ecology – *Organized and taught.*
 2019 – *Summer* **Statistical Analyses and Advanced R Programming for Fisheries** | Tanzanian Fisheries at Research Institute. *Organized and co-taught with Jessica Rick, with help of Masumbuko Semba and Jesse Alston in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.*
 2018 – *Summer* **Intro to R Computer Programming** | Tanzanian Fisheries at Research Institute. *Organized and co-taught with J. Rick, with help of M. Semba in Kigoma, Tanzania.*
 2016 – *Spring* **Career panel for graduate students** | Program in Ecology – *organized with Dr. Lisa Barret at University of Wyoming Laramie, WY.*
 2015 – *Summer* **Intro to Scientific Illustration using vector art** | Program in Ecology – *organized and taught at University of Wyoming Laramie, WY.*

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

	Total:
	\$206,831.36
2023	Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife Service Examining drivers of temporal variation in hybridization outcomes in bigheaded carp in the Upper Mississippi River\$151,869.00
2021	LAMP Science Initiative Summer Institute and Year-long training.....\$2,500.00
2021	Workshop Participation Grant, UW.....\$400.00
2021	The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Stipendium.....\$2,000.00
2020	Biodiversity Institute 2020 Research Enhancement Grant, UW.....\$28,018.00
2020	Frederic E. Clements Award, UW.....\$1,000.00
2019	Women in Conservation Biology, Ecology and Education Fellowship\$1,000.00
2018	Department of Botany Student Awards.....\$300.00
2018	Dean's Graduate Scholars Award, Arts & Sciences UW\$2,500.00
2018	Center for Global Studies Harris Research Endowment, UW.....\$2,500.00
2018	Departmental awards, Department of Botany UW\$300.00
2018	Wilhelm and Ragnhild Solheim Memorial Scholarship,UW\$1000.00
2017	Rosemary Grant Award, Society for the Study of Evolution\$2,500.00
2017	Bodega Applied Phylogenetics Workshop, Department of Botany UW.... \$1,000.00
2017	Aven Nelson Award, Department of Botany UW\$2,000.00
2017	Own-it Award, Celebrating UW Women in STEM Graduate student
2014	Graduate tuition- Tropical Ecology – Org. Tropical Studies (OTS)
2013	CONICIT-Costa Rican Government Science Incentive.....\$7,944.36
2012	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Tuition & Stipendium
2010	Tuition & Research Experience for Costa Rican Students, OTS/CRUSA

PUBLICATIONS

- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, P.B. McIntyre, C. D. Brock and C. E. Wagner. 2023. Depth as an axis of community organization in Lake Tanganyikan cichlids, East Africa. Manuscript in prep. for journal: *Ecological Monographs*.
- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, P.B. McIntyre, E.G.M. Mandeville and C. E. Wagner. 2023. Ecology as driver of genetic differentiation in Lake Tanganyikan cichlids. Manuscript in prep. for journal: *Evolution*.
- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, S. M. McKim*, and C. E. Wagner. 2023. Aggression bias in *Tropheus brichardi* population “Kalemie”. Manuscript under review: *Evolution** Undergraduate student co-author.
- Rick, J.R., C.D. Brock, A.L., Lewanski*, **J. Golcher-Benavides**, and C. E. Wagner. 2023. Reference genome choice and filtering thresholds jointly influence phylogenies. Manuscript accepted with minor revisions in journal: *Systematic Biology** graduate student co-author.
- Golcher-Benavides, J.** 2023. Environmental DNA in the classroom: a case study. Digging-Deeper Center for Teaching and Learning Appalachian College Association <https://ctl.acaweb.org/digging-deeper/environmental-dna-in-the-classroom-a-case-study/>
- Porter, C.K., **J. Golcher-Benavides**, and C. W. Benkman. 2022. Seasonal patterns of dietary partitioning in vertebrates. *Ecology Letters*. 25(11): 2463-2475, DOI:10.1111/ele.14100
- Lewanski, A.L.*, **J. Golcher-Benavides**, J.A. Rick, and C. E. Wagner. 2022. Variable hybridization between two Lake Tanganyikan cichlid species in recent secondary contact. *Molecular Ecology*. 31(19):5041-5059, DOI: 10.1111/mec.16636 *Graduate student co-author.
- Golcher-Benavides, J.** and C. E. Wagner. 2019. Playing out Liem's Paradox: opportunistic piscivory in the Lake Tanganyikan cichlid fishes. *The American Naturalist*. 194(2):260-7, DOI: 10.1086/704169
- Torres-Dowdall, J.*, **Golcher-Benavides, J.***, Machado-Schiaffino, G. and A. Meyer. 2017. The role of rare morph advantage and conspicuousness in the stable gold-dark colour polymorphism of a crater lake Midas cichlid fish. *Journal of Animal Ecology*. 86:1044–1053, DOI: 10.1111/1365-2656.12693. *Co-first authorship.
- Golcher-Benavides, J.** and M. Protti Quesada. 2011. Fish Species Richness in Lowland Streams with a Geothermal Input Phenomenon, Sarapiquí de Heredia. Open Access ISRN Ecology. *ISRN Ecology*. Volume 2011: 695492, DOI:10.5402/2011/695492.

SCIENTIFIC TALKS & POSTERS

- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, Szott, E.A., Turney, D.D., Witzel, Z.J. Lamer, J.T., Whitledge, G.W., Moore, M.J., and M.J. Weber. 2023. Otolith microchemistry to study recruitment of bigheaded carp in the Upper Mississippi River. Invasive Carp Research Session 153rd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society Grand Rapids, MI (talk)
- Golcher-Benavides, J.** 2023. Moore and M.J.Weber. Natal origin and recruitment dynamics of Silver Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) in the Upper Mississippi River. 2023 TWS/ AFS Joint Winter Meeting, Ames IA (poster)
- Golcher-Benavides, J.** 2022. Genetics in the real world: Exploring undergraduate student's perception of learning in an experiential learning context. Learning Actively Mentoring Program Poster Session (poster)
- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, and C. Leisher. 2021. Survey comparisons. The Nature Conservancy Tuungane Global and Africa Fish Conservation Interdisciplinary Team Meeting. (30 min talk)

- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, Mandeville, E.G., McIntyre, P.B.M, and C.E. Wagner. 2021 Predictors of population genetic differentiation in Lake Tanganyikan cichlids. Virtual Asilomar American Society for Naturalists Meeting (talk)
- Golcher-Benavides, J.** and C.E. Wagner. 2019. Eco-evolutionary drivers of cichlid fish diversity. Invited Speaker in Research Seminar Series. Center for Limnology and Marine Biology, Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR) (talk)
- Golcher-Benavides, J.** and C.E. Wagner. 2019. Talk at Departmental Botany/Ecology Seminar Series University of Wyoming "Eco-evolutionary drivers of cichlid fish diversity." (10 min talk)
- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, P.B. McIntyre, C. Brock, and C.E. Wagner. 2019. Poster presentation at Wyoming Goes Global, University of Wyoming. "Is cichlid fish community diversity energy-driven in Lake Tanganyika."
- Golcher-Benavides, J.** and C.E. Wagner. 2018. PhD Proposal Talk in Program in Ecology University of Wyoming "Diversity and coexistence in East African Cichlids." (50 min talk)
- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, P.B. McIntyre, C. Brock, and C.E. Wagner. 2018. Poster presentation Student Symposium Program in Ecology, University of Wyoming. "Examining patterns of community diversity within an adaptive radiation."
- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, P.B. McIntyre, C. Brock, and C.E. Wagner. 2017. Talk at the Guild of Rocky Mountain Ecologists and Evolutionary Biologists Meeting at UC Mountain Research Station, Colorado "Resource availability as driver of community assembly in Lake Tanganyika." (15 min talk)
- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, Torres-Dowdall, J., Machado-Schiaffino, G., and A. Meyer. 2015. Talk at CIMAR and UNA Costa Rica (UNA) "Midas cichlids viewed from the predators perspective." (50 min talk)
- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, Torres-Dowdall, J., Machado-Schiaffino, G. and A. Meyer. 2015. Poster at National Biology Meeting EAWAG Zürich, Switzerland "Midas cichlids viewed from the predators perspective".
- Golcher-Benavides, J.**, Torres-Dowdall, J., Machado-Schiaffino, G. and A. Meyer. 2014. Poster at "Midas cichlids viewed from the predators perspective." Evolution Meeting 2014 North Carolina
- Golcher-Benavides, J.** and M. Protti-Quesada. 2011. Talk at the National Biology Meeting, in San José, Costa Rica. "Fish species richness in Caribbean lowland streams." (talk)

PEER REVIEW SERVICE, MEMBERSHIPS & OUTREACH

Peer review Journal of Evolutionary Biology (2023), Hydrobiologia (2020), Journal of Great Lakes Research (2019), Functional Ecology (2017), and International Journal of Tropical Biology and Conservation (Rev. Biol. Trop. 2016-2022).

Active memberships | American Fisheries Society (2023), Society for the Study of Evolution (2023), Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (2023).

Outreach

- 2022** "Wimblu" Podcast guest discussing biodiversity and evolution with Alessandra Baltodano. March 2022 (en español).
- 2021** "Patagonia Film and lecture" Discussing Patagonia's documentary "Drop" during Welcome Week 2021.
- 2021** "Freshwater fish conservation" guest lecture at European High School, CR.
- 2020** "Aquatic biodiversity and cichlid fishes" guest lecture at European High School, CR.
- 2019** Tutor at Program in Ecology Odyssey for incoming students, Wyoming 2019.
- 2019** "Lake Tanganyika Underwater" Speaker at Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association in Colorado, 2017 and 2019.
- 2019** "Cichlid fish diversity" public talk at Laramie Audubon Society, Wyoming.

- 2019** “Science Café” public talks at Sublette and Albany County Public Libraries in Wyoming.
- 2019** Panelist at Shepard Symposium on Social Justice-Panel on Science-Policy Interface.
- 2018 & 2019** “Fish evolution in East Africa” exhibition for Fossil Fish Day at UW Geological Museum.
- 2016** “Conducting research in Lake Tanganyika” public talk at the American Fisheries Society -University of Wyoming Chapter.
- 2021** Publication of 4th Grade Educational Material- Module 1: Fish adaptations to thrive underwater: <http://freshwater.wyomingbiodiversity.org>
- 2021** Organizer at “I Simposio #CienciaTica 2021” Friday, 15 January 2021.
- 2020** Organizer and mentor at PiE Mentor Mentee Program.
- 2020** Contributor for “Guidelines and advice for incoming UW graduate students”.
- 2019** Organizer at Fossil Fish Day at the UW Geological Museum.
- 2018** Organizer at Symposium, VIIth Student Symposium Program in Ecology.
- 2018** Organizer at Fossil Fish Day at the UW Geological Museum 2018 and 2019.
- 2017** Organizer at Symposium, VIth Student Symposium Program in Ecology.
- 2017** Judge for the Wyoming State Science Fair 2017.
- 2017** Master of Ceremonies for UW International Students Office events.
- 2016** Organizer at student talks in Departmental Seminar Series.
- 2016** University of Wyoming – Mentor at Latina Youth Conference.
- 2016** University of Wyoming – Organizer at Women in Math, Science and Engineering.
- 2016** Judge for the Wyoming State Science Fair 2016.
- 2015** Guide for High School Students Irazú Volcano National Park.

INTERESTS & LANGUAGES

Interests | Citizen Science | Ecology | Evolution | Ichthyology | Conservation | Stable isotopes | Data Science | Genomics | Ichthyology collections | SCUBA CMAS* PADI Advanced Open Water 100+ hours of experience in scientific diving | Fishing | Birdwatching | Data Visualization | Art | iNaturalist (+3,000 obs.)

Languages | Spanish, English & French (fluent) | German (intermediate) | Swahili (basic)