

## Kristin H. Braziunas

Ecosystem Dynamics and Forest Management  
TUM School of Life Sciences  
Technical University of Munich  
Hans-Carl-von-Carlowitz-Platz 2  
85354 Freising, Germany

[kristin.braziunas@tum.de](mailto:kristin.braziunas@tum.de)  
<http://kristinbraziunas.netlify.com>

Twitter: @KBraziunas  
Cell: +49 1522 3827349

### EDUCATION

- 2018-2021    **Ph.D.**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Integrative Biology (major), Quantitative Ecology and Modeling (minor)  
Dissertation: *Operationalizing resilience of social-ecological systems to changing climate and fire in US Northern Rocky Mountain forests*  
Phi Kappa Phi. Advisor: Dr. Monica G. Turner
- 2016-2018    **M.S.**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Integrative Biology  
Thesis: *Looking beyond the mean: Drivers of variability in postfire stand development of Rocky Mountain conifers*  
Phi Kappa Phi. Advisor: Dr. Monica G. Turner
- 2004-2008    **B.A.**, Oberlin College, Environmental Studies (major), Philosophy (minor)  
Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi. Advisor: Dr. John E. Petersen

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 2022-Present    Postdoctoral Researcher, Ecosystem Dynamics and Forest Management Group, Technical University Munich
- 2017-2021    Graduate Research Assistant, Integrative Biology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2016-2017    Graduate Teaching Assistant, Integrative Biology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2016    Research Specialist, Integrative Biology, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Project: *Parameterizing the process-based model iLand for forests in Yellowstone*
- 2007-8    Senior Operator, Living Machine, Environmental Studies, Oberlin College  
Project: *Measuring wastewater metabolism and nutrient concentrations*
- 2007    Tutor/Grader, Philosophy, Oberlin College. Courses tutored: Deductive Logic

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2008-16    Lieutenant/EMT, Oberlin Fire Department, Oberlin, OH  
Promoted in 2013 (hired as Firefighter/EMT)
- 2014-15    Program Director, Cleveland Water Alliance, Cleveland, OH
- 2010-14    Assistant Director, The Oberlin Project, Oberlin, OH  
Promoted in 2011 (hired as Energy Policy Committee Fellow)

2008-11      Program Coordinator, Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly (POWER),  
Oberlin, OH

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Peer Reviewed Publications (In Review/In Press/Published)*

- Díaz-Yáñez, O., Y. Käber, T. Anders, F. Bohn, **K. H. Braziunas**, J. Brûna, R. Fischer, S. M. Fischer, J. Hetzer, T. Hickler, C. Hochauer, M. J. Lexer, H. Lischke, M. Mahnken, P. Mairota, J. Merganič, K. Merganičová, T. Mette, M. Mina, X. Morin, W. Rammer, C. P. O. Reyer, S. Scheiter, D. Scherrer, and H. Bugmann. In Press. Tree regeneration in models of forest dynamics: a key priority for further research. *Ecosphere*.
- Senf, C., L. Geres, T. Richter, **K. H. Braziunas**, F. Glasmann, R. Seidl, and S. Seibold. In Revision. Spaceborne remote sensing effectively maps species richness across taxonomic groups. *Remote Sensing Applications: Society and Environment*.
- Braziunas, K. H.**, L. Geres, T. Richter, F. Glasmann, C. Senf, D. Thom, S. Seibold, and R. Seidl. 2024. Projected climate and canopy change lead to thermophilization and homogenization of forest floor vegetation in a hotspot of plant species richness. *Global Change Biology* 30(1):e17121.
- Daniels, M. C., **K. H. Braziunas**, M. G. Turner, T. F. Ma, K. C. Short, and A. R. Rissman. 2024. Multiple social and environmental factors affect wildland fire response of full or less-than-full suppression. *Journal of Environmental Management* 351:119731.
- Braziunas, K. H.**, N. G. Kiel, and M. G. Turner. 2023. Less fuel for the next fire? Short-interval fire delays forest recovery and interacting drivers amplify effects. *Ecology* 104(6):e4042.
- Kiel, N. G., **K. H. Braziunas**, and M. G. Turner. 2023. Peeking under the canopy: anomalously short fire-return intervals alter subalpine forest understory plant communities. *New Phytologist* 239:1225-1238.
- Braziunas, K. H.**, D. C. Abendroth, and M. G. Turner. 2022. Young forests and fire: Using lidar-imagery fusion to explore fuels and burn severity in a subalpine forest reburn. *Ecosphere* 13(5):e4096.
- Turner, M. G., **K. H. Braziunas**, W. D. Hansen, T. J. Hoecker, W. Rammer, Z. Ratajczak, A. L. Westerling, and R. Seidl. 2022. The magnitude, direction and tempo of mountain forest change in a warmer world with more fire. *Ecological Monographs* 92(1):e01485.
- Braziunas, K. H.**, R. Seidl, W. Rammer, and M. G. Turner. 2021. Can we manage a future with more fire? Effectiveness of defensible space treatment depends on housing amount and configuration. *Landscape Ecology* 36:309-330.
- Rammer, W., **K. H. Braziunas**, W. D. Hansen, Z. Ratajczak, A. L. Westerling, M. G. Turner, and R. Seidl. 2021. Widespread regeneration failure in forests of Greater Yellowstone under scenarios of future climate and fire. *Global Change Biology* 27:4339-4351.
- Albrich, K., W. Rammer, M. G. Turner, Z. Ratajczak, **K. H. Braziunas**, W. D. Hansen, and R. Seidl. 2020. Simulating forest resilience: a review. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 29(12):2082-2096.

Turner, M. G., **K. H. Braziunas**, W. D. Hansen, and B. J. Harvey. 2019. Short-interval severe fire erodes the resilience of subalpine lodgepole pine forests. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116(23):11319-11328.

**Braziunas, K. H.**, W. D. Hansen, R. Seidl, W. Rammer, and M. G. Turner. 2018. Looking beyond the mean: Drivers of variability in postfire stand development of conifers in Greater Yellowstone. *Forest Ecology and Management* 430:460-471.

Hansen, W. D., **K. H. Braziunas**, W. Rammer, R. Seidl, and M. G. Turner. 2018. It takes a few to tango: Changing climate and fire regimes can cause regeneration failure of two subalpine conifers. *Ecology* 99(4):966-977.

#### *Reports*

**Braziunas, K. H.** and M. G. Turner. 2022. Less fuel for the fire: How will drought amplify effects of short-interval fire? Final Report. Joint Fire Science Project Graduate Research Innovation Award Project ID: 20-1-01-6.

**Braziunas, K. H.** and M. G. Turner. 2020. Testing LiDAR for mapping canopy and surface fuels in Grand Teton National Park. Final Report. United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Agreement number: P17AC01466.

### **RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2020-2022    | “Less fuel for the fire: How will drought amplify effects of short-interval fire?” Joint Fire Science Program Graduate Research Innovation Award (\$25,000). Student PI.   |
| 2019-Present | “Anticipating and Envisioning Future Landscapes of Greater Yellowstone,” Camp Monaco Prize 2019, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (\$100,000). Graduate student participant.  |
| 2020-2021    | P.E.O. Ventura Neale Trust Endowed Scholar Award, International Chapter of the P.E.O. Competitive fellowship for women doctoral/medical students. (\$15,000)   |
| 2018-2020    | “Testing LiDAR for mapping canopy and surface fuels in Grand Teton National Park”, National Park System Cooperative Research and Training Programs Grant, United States Department of the Interior (\$56,400). Student PI. |
| 2016-17      | Incoming Student Graduate Research Fellowship, Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$20,000)   |
| 2008         | Blank Fellowship, Environmental Studies, Oberlin College (\$3,000)   |

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2019 | Student Research Grants Competition, Graduate School, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$1,200) |
| 2019 | Graduate Summer Research Award, Integrative Biology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$3,500)  |
| 2017 | Phi Kappa Phi   |

2017	Honorable Mention, Graduate Research Fellowship Program, National Science Foundation
2016-18	John Jefferson Davis Travel Award, Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Received five times: \$3,000)
2010	Firefighter of the Year, Oberlin Fire Department
2009	Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming, National Wildlife Federation. Project: <i>Oberlin Light Bulb Brigade</i>
2008	Joyce Gorn Memorial Prize in Environmental Studies, Oberlin College
2008	Phi Beta Kappa
2008	Sigma Xi

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

### *Academic Seminars*

2022	“Anticipating future forests: Resilience, risk, and ecosystem services under changing climate and fire.” Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Seminar, Division of Biology, Kansas State University.
2021	“Operationalizing resilience of social-ecological systems to changing climate and fire in US Northern Rocky Mountain forests.” PhD Exit Seminar, Integrative Biology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### *Outreach and Public Talks*

2023	“Short-interval high-severity reburns change the playing field for forest recovery.” Webinar, Co-presenter: Tyler Hoecker, Northern Rockies Fire Science Network. Recording: <a href="https://www.nrfirescience.org/event/short-interval-high-severity-reburns-change-playing-field-forest-recovery">https://www.nrfirescience.org/event/short-interval-high-severity-reburns-change-playing-field-forest-recovery</a>
2021	“Sources of ignition: Becoming a fire ecologist.” 3 invited talks, Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) Madison Chapter DH, Madison Chapter DV, and Annual Convention of Wisconsin State Chapter.
2021	“Young forests and fire: Using LiDAR-imagery fusion to explore fuels and fire severity in a subalpine forest reburn.” Webinar, Co-presenter: Diane Abendroth, Northern Rockies Fire Science Network. Recording: <a href="https://www.nrfirescience.org/event/young-forests-and-fire-using-lidar-imagery-fusion-explore-fuels-and-fire-severity-subalpine">https://www.nrfirescience.org/event/young-forests-and-fire-using-lidar-imagery-fusion-explore-fuels-and-fire-severity-subalpine</a>
2019	“Western forests in an uncertain future: How will changing climate and increasing fire activity affect forested and human landscapes in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem?” Public Talk, Environmental Studies and Biology, Oberlin College.

## CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS (presenting author only)

**Braziunas, K. H.,** L. Geres, T. Richter, F. Glasmann, C. Senf, D. Thom, S. Seibold, and R. Seidl. 2023. Climate rather than forest change drives 21st-century declines in forest understory diversity in a protected mountain landscape. (Oral presentation). Annual

Meeting of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland (GfÖ), Leipzig, Germany, September 12-16.

- Braziunas, K. H.,** L. Geres, T. Richter, F. Glasmann, C. Senf, D. Thom, S. Seibold, and R. Seidl. 2023. The future forest floor: Coupled 21st-century climate and forest change project thermophilization and homogenization in a mountain landscape. (Oral presentation). IALE World Congress, Nairobi, Kenya, July 10-15.
- Braziunas, K. H.,** D. Abendroth, and M. G. Turner. 2020. Young forests and fire: Using LiDAR to explore relationships between fuels and fire severity in a subalpine forest reburn. (Virtual ePoster presentation\*). IALE-North America Annual Meeting, Virtual Remote Conference, May 10-14. \*Originally oral presentation, format changed due to COVID19.
- Braziunas, K. H.,** R. Seidl, W. Rammer, and M. G. Turner. 2019. Can we manage a future with more fire? Fuels treatments dampen increasing fire risk in the wildland urban interface. (Oral presentation). US-IALE Annual Meeting, Fort Collins, CO, April 7-11.
- Braziunas, K. H.,** R. Seidl, W. Rammer, A. R. Rissman, and M. G. Turner. 2018. Can we manage a future with more fire? Effects of defensible space and spatial configuration on local and landscape-level fire severity. (Poster). Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, August 5-10.
- Braziunas, K. H.,** W. D. Hansen, R. Seidl, W. Rammer, and M. G. Turner. 2018. Looking beyond the mean: Drivers of variability in postfire stand development of Rocky Mountain conifers. (Poster). US-IALE Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 8-12.
- Braziunas, K. H.,** W. D. Hansen, R. Seidl, W. Rammer, and M. G. Turner. 2017. Age alone is not enough: Multiple drivers control postfire stand development in Rocky Mountain conifers. (Oral presentation). Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, August 6-11.
- Braziunas, K. H.,** W. D. Hansen, R. Seidl, and M. G. Turner. 2017. Adapting the process-based model iLand to simulate subalpine forest dynamics in Greater Yellowstone. (Poster). Wisconsin Ecology 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Symposium, Madison, WI, April 4-5. (*Winner best content*)
- Braziunas, K. H.,** W. D. Hansen, R. Seidl, and M. G. Turner. 2016. Adapting the process-based model iLand to simulate subalpine forest dynamics in Greater Yellowstone. (Poster). 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Grand Teton National Park, October 4-6.
- Braziunas, K.,** J. E. Petersen, C. Frantz, and R. Shammin. 2008. Compact fluorescent light bulb exchange programs as a potentially cost effective and socially beneficial approach to offsetting carbon emissions locally. (Oral presentation). Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Raleigh, NC, October 11.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### *Teaching Assistant*

2016, 2017     Introductory Biology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2 semesters)

### *Guest Lectures*

- 2021 “Subalpine forest ecology and fire dynamics.” Wildfire, Erosion, and Hazard. Geology and Geological Engineering, Colorado School of Mines.
- 2019 “Introduction to landscape ecology.” Systems Ecology, Environmental Studies Program, Oberlin College.
- 2019 “Ecosystem modeling.” Principles of Landscape Ecology, Forest and Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## **MENTORING**

### *Graduate Students*

- 2023-Present Isabelle Klein, MS Student, Technical University of Munich. MS Thesis Co-Supervisor  
Isabella Ostovary, PhD Student, ETH Zürich, and Lisa Merkens, PhD Student, Technical University of Munich. Ongoing mentorship initiated in “Bridging Brilliance: Women Mentoring Women in Science” event at GfÖ Conference.
- 2019-2020 Katherine Charton, PhD Student, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Graduate student mentor through Zoology Introductions for New Grads (ZING).

### *Supervised Undergraduate Field and Research Assistants*

- 2021 Nick Tipper, Ashland University  
Julia Warren, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2019-2020 Claire Finucane, University of Wisconsin-Madison

## **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

- 2019 Remote Pilot Certificate, Part 107 for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Federal Aviation Administration
- 2015 Blue Card Incident Commander
- 2015 Fire Investigation Technician, International Association of Arson Investigators
- 2014 Fire Safety Inspector, Ohio Department of Public Safety
- 2013 Fire Officer I, Cuyahoga Community College
- 2012 Firefighter II, Ohio Department of Public Safety
- 2010 Firefighter I, Ohio Department of Public Safety
- 2010 Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, Ohio Department of Public Safety
- 2009 Volunteer Firefighter, Ohio Department of Public Safety

## **SERVICE AND APPOINTMENTS**

- 2020-Present Member, IALE-North America Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee
- 2017-Present Peer Reviewer: Conservation Letters, Ecology, Ecosphere, Flora, Forest Ecology and Management, Forestry, Forests, Global Environmental Change, Landscape Ecology, Nature Communications, PLOS One, Proceedings of the National

	Academy of Sciences, Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, Science of the Total Environment
2023-2024	Primary Proposal Peer Reviewer, Joint Fire Science Program
2020-2021	Member, Racial Justice Task Force, Integrative Biology Graduate Student Organization, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2014-2021	Steering Committee Member and Fellowship Subcommittee Chair, Oberlin Environmental Education Alumni Association, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH
2020	Student Representative, IALE-North America Online Conference Organizing Committee, 2020 IALE-North America Annual Meeting
2019-2020	Graduate Student Representative, Polar/Arctic Ecosystems and Ecological Modeling Faculty Search Committee, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2018-2020	Graduate Student Representative, IALE-North America Executive Committee
2018-19	Nominations Committee, Phi Beta Kappa, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2016-17	Treasurer, Zoology Graduate Student Organization, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2009-16	Treasurer, Board of Directors, Bill Long Foundation, Oberlin, OH
2015	Vice Chair, Public Utilities Commission, City of Oberlin, OH
2014-15	Member, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District External Advisory Committee, Cleveland, OH
2013-15	Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission, City of Oberlin, OH
2012-15	Board member, Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly (POWER), Oberlin, OH

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING**

2020-Present	Invited member, Working Group on “Creating a unified approach to evaluate regime shift detection methods,” Funded by Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution
2022	Invited participant, “Workshop on Regeneration Modeling of European Tree Species,” Funded by PROCLIAS and ETH Zurich, Davos, Switzerland
2020	“A call to action: Striving for racial justice in academic biology,” 7-part webinar series, Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER)
2020	“LANDIS-II Training,” 4-day virtual workshop, The Landis-II Foundation
2020	“Bystander Intervention: Stepping in With Care and Confidence,” UW-Madison Office of Human Resources
2020	“Understanding Your Experiences and Identities,” Foundational diversity and inclusion training, UW-Madison Office of Human Resources
2019	“Searching for Excellence and Diversity: Faculty Search Workshop,” Women in Science & Engineering Leadership Institute (WISELI), UW-Madison

- 2019 “Geospatial Modeling with NASA Earth Observations using Google Earth Engine and R,” Led by NASA DEVELOP, Workshop at US-IALE annual meeting in Fort Collins, CO
- 2018 “From Drone to Landscape – UAS Data Processing” Workshop, Led by Center for Geospatial Analytics, North Carolina State University, Workshop at US-IALE annual meeting in Chicago, IL
- 2018 “Basics of LiDAR Data Workshop,” 2-day workshop, Wisconsin State Cartographer’s Office, Held at UW-Milwaukee
- 2016 “Graduate Assistants’ Equity Workshop,” Division of Diversity, Equity, and Educational Achievement, UW-Madison
- 2016 National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Data Institute (6-day training on working with NEON and other spatio-temporal data), Boulder, CO

## **SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE AND RESEARCH FEATURES**

- 2022 “GRIN Profile: Kristin Braziunas.” 2021 JFSP Progress Report. Joint Fire Science Program Governing Board.  
([https://www.firescience.gov/Publications/2021\\_JFSP\\_Progress\\_Report.pdf](https://www.firescience.gov/Publications/2021_JFSP_Progress_Report.pdf))
- 2022 “Researcher in the Park.” Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller Memorial Parkway: Vital Signs 2020 by Holly McKinney  
(<https://www.nps.gov/grte/learn/nature/upload/2020-GRTE-Vital-Signs-Web-access-final.pdf>)
- 2019 “Resilience of Yellowstone’s forests tested by unprecedented fire.” UW-Madison News by Kelly Tyrrell (<https://news.wisc.edu/resilience-of-yellowstones-forests-tested-by-unprecedented-fire/>)
- 2018 “Fires in the West may be changing the future of forests.” Video produced by UW-Madison. Highlighted on Joint Fire Science Program Friday Flash on 21 Sept 2018. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dD8VLS5F2Xo>)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Ecological Society of America

Ecological Society of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland (GfÖ)

North American Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE-North America)