

Michael James Landis
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landislab.org · [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=...)
Last updated: Jun 15, 2024

Education

2015 PhD Integrative Biology
Designated Emphasis in Computational & Genomic Biology
University of California, Berkeley, CA
2005 BS Computer Science
California State University, Long Beach, CA

Employment

2019— Assistant Professor
Department of Biology
Department of Computer Science & Engineering (*courtesy appointment*)
Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Research Experience

2016—2019 Postdoctoral fellow, Yale University, New Haven, CT
2016 Postdoctoral researcher, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
2010—2015 Graduate researcher, University of California, Berkeley, CA
2009—2010 Bioinformatician, Children’s Hospital of Oakland, Oakland, CA

Research Interests

I research relationships between evolutionary processes and patterns through a combination of biological, computational, and statistical approaches. My biological interests include phylogenetics, historical biogeography, the evolution of ecological interactions, phenotypic evolution, and epidemiology. My methodological interests include stochastic processes, statistical model design, Bayesian inference, deep learning, and programming. My work typically involves designing new probabilistic models and inference methods to test evolutionary hypotheses in biological and simulated datasets.

Fellowships & Awards

2019 Yale Donnelley Postdoctoral Environmental Fellowship (*resumed*)
2017—2018 NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
2016 Yale Donnelley Postdoctoral Environmental Fellowship
2016 Ernst Mayr Award (*Early Career Award from Society of Systematic Biologists*)
2015 UC Berkeley Integrative Biology Summer Research Award
2012, 2015 UC Berkeley Computational Biology Travel Award
2013 National Evolutionary Synthesis Center Graduate Student Fellowship
2012 Google Summer of Code Student Fellowship

External grants

2023—2028 NSF/NIH-EEID: “Phylogenetic modeling of viral transmission dynamics at the human wildlife interface in Uganda” Awarded \$2.54M to PIs Milich (Lead), Landis, Wang (\$901k to Landis)
2023—2028 NSF-DBI: “POSE: Phase I: Evolving RevBayes into an Open Source Ecosystem for Phylogenetics.” Requested \$300k to PIs Heath (Lead), Redelings, Brown, Landis (\$32k to Landis)

2021—2024 NSF-DEB 2040347: “Modeling the Origin and Evolution of Hawaiian Plants”
Awarded \$1.12M to PIs Landis (Lead), Zapata, Wagner, Rønsted (\$547k to Landis)

Internal grants

2024—2025 Here & Next Tier 3: “University-Wide Interdisciplinary Research Initiative on Vector-Borne Disease Systems” Awarded \$208k to PIs Adalsteinsson (Lead), Landis, Boon (\$40k to Landis)
2022—2024 WUSTL ITF: “The Human-Wildlife Interface: Disease Dynamics and Pandemic Prevention” Awarded \$116k to PIs Milich (co-Lead), Landis (co-Lead), Wang (\$25k to Landis)

#: grad student; ‡: postdoc; *: shared first; §: shared senior; group member (**bold**)

Manuscripts – Accepted

- 2024 1. **‡Soewongsono AC, Landis MJ**. 2024. A diffusion-based approach for simulating forward-in-time state-dependent speciation and extinction dynamics. arXiv 2402.00246. *Accepted at Bulletin of Mathematical Biology*.
2. **‡Mendes FHK, Landis MJ**. 2023. PhyloJunction: a computational framework for simulating, developing, and teaching evolutionary models. bioRxiv 2023.12.15.571907. *Accepted at Systematic Biology*.
3. **#Swiston SK, Landis MJ**. 2023. Testing relationships between multiple regional features and biogeographic processes of speciation, extinction, and dispersal. bioRxiv 2023.06.19.545613. *Accepted at Systematic Biology*.

Manuscripts – Published

- 2024 1. **‡Thompson A**, Liebeskind B, Scully EJ, **Landis MJ**. 2024. Deep learning approaches to viral phylogeography are fast and as robust as likelihood methods to model misspecification. *Systematic Biology*. 73:183–206.
- 2023 2. Kawahara AY, Storer C, Carvalho APS, Plotkin DM, Condamine F, **‡Braga MP**, ..., **Landis MJ**, ..., Lohman DJ (88 authors). 2023. Evolution and diversification dynamics of butterflies. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* doi:10.1038/s41559-023-02041-9.
3. Quintero IM, **Landis MJ**, Jetz W, Mörllön H. 2023. The build-up of the present-day tropical diversity of tetrapods. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 120:e2220672120.
4. Nielsen SV, Vaughn A, Leppälä, **Landis MJ**, Mailund T, Nielsen R. 2023. Bayesian inference of admixture graphs on Native American and Arctic populations. *PLoS Genetics* 19:e1010410.
- 2022 5. Dismukes W, **‡Braga MP**, Hembry DH, Heath TA, **Landis MJ**. Cophylogenetic methods to untangle the evolutionary history of ecological interactions. *Annual Reviews of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics* 53:275–298.
6. Donoghue MJ, Eaton DAR, Maya-Lastra CA, **Landis MJ**, Sweeney PJ, Olson, ME, Cacho NI, Moeglin MK, Gardner JR, Heaphy NM, Castorena M, Segovia Rivas A, Clement WL, Edwards EJ. 2022. Replication radiation of a plant clade along a cloud forest archipelago. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* doi:10.1038/s41559-022-01823-x.
7. Barido-Sottani J, Justison JA, Borges R, Brown JM, Dismukes W, do Rosario Petrucci B, Fabreti Guimarães L, Höhna S, **Landis MJ**, Lewis PO, May MR, Mendes FK, Pett W, Redelings BD, Tribble CM, Wright AM, Zenil-Ferguson R, Heath TA. 2022. Lessons learned from organizing and teaching virtual phylogenetics workshops. *Bulletin of the Society of Systematic Biologists* doi:10.18061/bssb.v1i2.
8. Wendt EW, Malabarba LR, **‡Braga MP**, Boeger WA, **Landis MJ**, Carvalho TP. Phylogeny, species delimitation, and ecological and morphological diversity of Characithecium (Monogenoidea: Dactylogyridae). 2022. *Parasitology* 149: 700–716.

9. **Landis MJ**, Quintero I, Muñoz MM, Zapata F, Donoghue MJ. Phylogenetic inference of where species spread or split across barriers. 2022. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 119: e2116948119.
10. Tribble CM, Freyman WA, Lim JY, **Landis MJ**, Barido-Sottani J, Kopperud BT, Höhna S, May MR. 2022. RevGadgets: an R Package for visualizing Bayesian phylogenetic analyses from RevBayes. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 13: 314–323.
- 2021 11. Höhna S, **Landis MJ**, and Huelsenbeck JP. 2021. Parallel power posterior analyses for fast computation of Bayes factors in phylogenetics. *PeerJ*: 9:e12438.
12. **†Braga MP**, Janz N, Nylin S, Ronquist F, and **Landis MJ**. 2021. Phylogenetic reconstruction of ancestral ecological networks through time for pierid butterflies and their host plants. *Ecology Letters* 24: 2134–2145.
13. **Landis MJ**, Edwards EJ, and Donoghue MJ. 2021. Modeling phylogenetic biome shifts on a planet with a past. *Systematic Biology*. 70: 86–107.
14. **Landis MJ**, Eaton DAR, Clement WL, Park B, Spriggs EL, Sweeney PW, Edwards EJ, and Donoghue MJ. 2021. Joint phylogenetic estimation of geographic movements and biome shifts during the global diversification of Viburnum. *Systematic Biology*. 70: 67–85.
- 2020 15. **†Braga MP**, **Landis MJ**, Nylin S, Janz N, and Ronquist F. 2020. Bayesian inference of ancestral host-parasite interactions under a phylogenetic model of host repertoire evolution. *Systematic Biology* 69: 1149–1162.
Awarded Best Paper in Systematic Biology in 2020.
16. Field DJ, Berv JS, Hsiang AY, Lanfear J, **Landis MJ**, Dornberg A. 2020. Timing the extant avian radiation: The rise of modern birds, and the importance of modeling molecular rate variation. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 440: 159–181.
17. Kim AS, Zimmerman O, Nelson CA, Basore K, Zhang R, Desai C, Bullock C, Durnell L, Deem SL, Oppenheimer J, Shapiro B, Wang T, Coyne CB, Handley SA, **§Landis MJ**, **§Fremont DH**, and **§Diamond MS**. 2020. A sequence insertion in the Mxra8 receptor of Bovinae family members confers resistance to alphavirus infection. *Cell Host & Microbe* 27: 428-440.
18. Quintero I and **Landis MJ**. 2020. Interdependent phenotypic and biogeographic evolution driven by biotic interactions. *Systematic Biology* 69: 739–755.
- 2018 19. **Landis MJ**, Freyman WA, and Baldwin BG. 2018. Retracing the Hawaiian silversword radiation despite phylogenetic, biogeographic, and paleogeographic uncertainty. *Evolution* 72: 2343–2359.
20. Park B, Sinnott-Armstrong M, Schlutius C, Zuluaga, J-CP, Spriggs EL, Simpson RG, **Landis MJ**, Sweeney PW, Eaton DAR, and Donoghue MJ. 2018. Sterile marginal flowers increase visitation and fruit set in the hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*, Adoxaceae) at multiple spatial scales. *Ann. Bot.* 123: 381-390.
- 2017 21. **Landis MJ** and Schraiber JG. 2017. Pulsed evolution shaped modern vertebrate body sizes. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 114: 13224–13229.
22. Höhna S, **Landis MJ**, Heath TA. 2017. Phylogenetic inference using RevBayes. *Current Protocols in Bioinformatics* 57:6.16.1–6.16.34.
23. **Landis, MJ**. Biogeographic dating of speciation times using paleogeographically informed processes. 2017. *Systematic Biology* 66:128–144.
- 2016 24. Höhna S, **Landis MJ**, Heath TA, Boussau B, Lartillot N, Moore BR, Huelsenbeck JP, and Ronquist F. 2016. RevBayes: Bayesian phylogenetic inference using graphical models and an interactive model-specification language. *Systematic Biology* 65:726-736.
- 2015 25. Schraiber JG and **Landis MJ**. 2015. Sensitivity of quantitative traits to mutational effects and number of loci. *Theoretical Population Biology* 102:85–93.
- 2014 26. Höhna S, Heath TA, Boussau B, **Landis MJ**, Ronquist F, and Huelsenbeck JP. 2014. Probabilistic graphical model representation in phylogenetics. *Systematic Biology* 63:753–771.

27. **Landis MJ** and Bedford T. 2014. Phylowood: interactive web-based animations of biogeographic and phylogeographic histories. *Bioinformatics* 30:123–124.
- 2013 28. **Landis MJ**, Matzke NJ, Moore BR, and Huelsenbeck JP. Bayesian analysis of biogeography when the number of areas is large. 2013. *Systematic Biology* 62:789–804.
29. ***Landis MJ**, *Schraiber JG, and Liang M. 2013. Phylogenetic analysis using Lévy processes: finding jumps in the evolution of continuous traits. *Systematic Biology* 62:193–204.

Perspectives – Published

- 2023 1. Upham NS, **Landis MJ**. 2023. Genomics expands the mammalverse. *Science*. 380: 358-359.

Book Chapters – Published

- 2020 1. Landis MJ. Biogeographic dating of phylogenetic divergence times using priors and processes. 2020. In Ho SYW (ed.), *The Molecular Evolutionary Clock: Theory and Practice*. Springer.

Research Software

RevBayes, phylogenetic inference using graphical models	revbayes.github.io
phyddle, deep learning for phylogenetic models	github.com/mlandis/phyddle
BayArea, Bayesian biogeographic inference for many areas	github.com/mlandis/bayarea
pulsR, simulate and fit macroevolutionary trait models	github.com/Schraiber/pulsR
creepy-jerk, Bayesian inference of evolutionary jumps in traits	github.com/mlandis/creepy-jerk
Phylowood, interactive biogeographic animations	mlandis.github.io/phylowood

Presentations – Invited

*: graduate student-invited

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| 2024 | Biology Seminar, Texas A&M University |
| 2023 | Integration of Speciation Seminar, European Society of Evolutionary Biologists (virtual)
Phyloseminar, Society of Systematic Biologists (virtual)
Standalone Meeting for the Society of Systematic Biologists, UNAM, Mexico City |
| 2022 | Meeting of Systematics, Biogeography, and Evolution (virtual)
*Melinda Denton Endowed Seminar on Plant Systematics, University of Washington
*Ecology and Evolution Seminar, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (virtual)
Biodiversity Research Center Seminar, University of British Columbia, Vancouver (virtual) |
| 2021 | European Society of Evolutionary Biologists, Satellite Meeting (virtual)
Biology Seminar, University of Nebraska, Lincoln (virtual)
Statistics Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis (virtual) |
| 2020 | Biology Seminar, University of Missouri, St. Louis (virtual)
Living Earth Collaborative Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis (virtual) |
| 2019 | St. Louis Ecology, Evolution & Conservation Seminar, Lewis & Clark Community College
Biological Sciences Seminar, Auburn University |
| 2018 | Plant Biology Seminar, University of Georgia
Evolution & Systematics Seminar, University of Connecticut
Phyloseminar (virtual)
Department of Biology Seminar, University of Oregon
Department of Biology Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis |
| 2017 | Symposium on Computational Paleobiology, Geological Society of America, Seattle
Systematics Seminar, Swedish Museum of Natural History |
| 2016 | Computational Genomics Seminar, Temple University |
| 2015 | Symposium on Parametric Biogeography, Evolution Conference in Guarujá, Brazil |
| 2013 | Phylogenetics & Evolutionary Biology Seminar, North Carolina State University
Workshop on Mathematics for an Evolving Biodiversity, University of Montréal |

Center for Population Genomics Seminar, UC Davis

Presentations – Contributed

2023	Evolution Conference in Albuquerque
2022	International Biogeography Society Conference (virtual)
2022	Evolution Conference (virtual)
2021	Evolution Conference (virtual)
2020	Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium (virtual)
2019	Evolution Conference in Providence Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies Seminar
2017	External Advisory Board Meeting, Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies Evolution Conference in Portland
2016	Ernst Mayr Symposium, Evolution Conference, Austin
2013	Evolution Conference in Snowbird Center for Theoretical Evolutionary Genomics, UC Berkeley
2012	Center for Theoretical Evolutionary Genomics, UC Berkeley Evolution Conference in Ottawa

Professional Reviews

Journals	American Journal of Botany, Annals of Botany, Bioinformatics, BMC Evolutionary Biology, Evolution, Genome Biology & Evolution, Journal of Biogeography, Methods in Evolution & Ecology, Molecular Biology & Evolution, Molecular Phylogenetics & Evolution, Nature Communications, New Phytologist, Paleobiology, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA, Science, Systematic Biology, Trends in Ecology & Evolution, Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society
Grants	NSF reviewer, SSB Ernst Mayr applications, SSB graduate award grants

University Service

2019—	Steering Committee, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Steering Committee
2019—	Admissions Committee, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Steering Committee

Departmental Service

2023—	Member, Biology Faculty Excellence Task Force
2022—2023	Member, Hiring Committee for Genetics & Genomics Faculty
2022	Member, Hiring Committee for Urban Biology & Environmental Justice Faculty
2019—	Member, Spector & Quatrano Awards Committee
2019—	Member, WUSTL Biology Curriculum Committee
2012—2013	Co-chair, Integrative Biology Graduate Student Assembly, UC Berkeley

Society Service

2023—	Co-organizer for Society for Systematic Biologists Mentoring Program
2023	Co-creator of new Society for Systematic Biologists Mentoring Program
2022—	Associate Editor for Systematic Biology
2021—	Member of Society for Systematic Biologists Legacy Committee (SSB history, etc.)
2021—2023	Faculty mentor for WUSTL Chapter within the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science
2021—2023	One-off ERC mentor for Evolution meeting
2019—2022	Council member for Society for Systematic Biologists
2018—2022	Editorial board member for Systematic Biology
2019	Symposium organizer for Society of Systematic Biologists on The Bright Side of Phylogenetics

Teaching & Courses

- 2020—2024 Instructor, BIOL 4220, Practical Bioinformatics, WUSTL
4 units, 10-12 undergrad students, 2-3 PhD students
[not taught 2023 due to Covid-19 exemption]
- 2021, 2024 Instructor, BIOL 580, EEB Graduate Seminar, WUSTL
2 units, 5-10 PhD students

Guest Instructor

- 2022 Invited Lecturer, EEB 103, Statistical Phylogenetics & Speciation, UC Davis
- 2016 Invited Lecturer, BIOL 1425, Phylogenetic Biology, Brown University
- 2014 Invited Lecturer, IB 87, Bioinformatics, UC Berkeley
- 2013 Invited Lecturer, EEB 101, Macroevolution, UC Davis

Teaching Assistance

- 2012 Teaching Assistant, IB200A, Principles of Phylogenetics, UC Berkeley
- 2011 Teaching Assistant, IB164, Human Genetics and Genomics, UC Berkeley

Research Lab Mentoring & Advising

WUSTL Postdoctoral Scholar

- 2023— Albert Soewongsono, Mathematical Phylogenetics
- 2021— Fábio Mendes, Computational Phylogenetics
Starting as Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University
- 2019—2021 Mariana Braga, Insect-Plant Co-Evolution
Starting as Assistant Professor at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

ORISE Postdoctoral Scholar (academic mentor)

- 2021— Ammon Thompson, Statistical Epidemiology

WUSTL PhD Student (advised)

- 2021— Sarah Swiston, EEB
- 2022— Sean McHugh, EEB
- 2024— Raymond Castillo, EEB

WUSTL Undergraduate

- 2023— Lilja Quinn, Biology
- 2023— Tanvi Gorre, Biology
- 2023 Jonathan Liu, Biology & Mathematics
- 2022—2023 Yu (Sunny) Zichen, Mathematics & Computer Science
- 2021—2023 Walker Sexton, Biology
- 2021—2023 Mihir Shah, Biomedical Engineering
- 2021 Ernie Ramos, Mathematics

UC Berkeley Undergraduate

- 2013—2015 Bryan Wang, Mathematics
- 2012—2014 Jaya Narasimhan, Computer Science

Research Lab Member Awards & Fellowships

- 2022 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to Sarah Swiston

2022	WUSTL ExCELS International Postdoctoral Presentation Winner to Fábio Mendes
2021	McNair Scholars Fellowship to Ernie Ramos
2021	Swedish Research Council International Postdoc Fellow to Mariana Braga
2021	ORISE Postdoctoral Fellowship to Ammon Thompson
2020	Systematic Biology Publisher's Award to Mariana Braga [doi:10.1093/sysbio/syaa019]

PhD Program Mentoring & Advising

WUSTL PhD Student (rotation)

2024	Grace Coppinger, EEB
2023	Raymond Castillo, EEB
2023	David Hernandez, EEB
2023	Clinton Jules, CSE
2022	Preston Pennington, EEB
2021	Sean McHugh, EEB
2020	Sarah Swiston, EEB
2020	Justin Baldwin, EEB
2020	Aryeh Miller, EEB

WUSTL dissertation committee member

2023—	Sean McHugh, EEB
2023—	Eduardo Aguirre Mazzi, EEB
2023—	Cheyenne Morris, PMB
2022—	Ethan Abercrombie, EEB
2022—	Sarah Swiston, EEB
2022—	Justin Baldwin, EEB
2022—	Aryeh Miller, EEB
2022—	Changxu Fan, Pathology & Immunology
2022—	Jenna Lin, BBSB
2021—	Brock Mashburn, EEB
2021—	Jhan Salazar, EEB
2023—2024	Yeganeh Sekhavati, Anthropology
2020—2024	Wen-Hsi Kuo, EEB
2020—2022	Erika Schumacher, EEB
2019—2021	Rachel Lyman, MOBOT
2020	Qi Wang, Statistics

Visiting Scholars

2023—	Matheus Nogueira Pontes, PhD student, UFABC, Brazil
2019	Emilia Wendt, PhD student, UFRGS, Brazil

Outreach

2024	Organizer & Instructor, Phylogenetic Biogeography Workshop, St. Louis
2021	Instructor, Stay-at-Home RevBayes Workshop (virtual)
2020	Instructor, Stay-at-Home RevBayes Workshop (virtual)
2018—2019	Instructor, Molecular Evolution Workshop, Woods Hole
2019	Instructor, Bodega Phylogenetics Workshop, UC Davis
2019	Instructor, RevBayes Workshop, Yale University, New Haven
2017	Instructor, Fossil tip-dating with RevBayes, GSA Meeting, Seattle
2017	Instructor, Biogeography with RevBayes, SSB Meeting, Baton Rouge
2017	Instructor, Introduction to RevBayes, Yale, New Haven

2014—2016	Teaching Assistant, Molecular Evolution Workshop, Woods Hole
2015	Instructor, RevBayes Workshop, UC Berkeley
2014, 2015	Instructor, Bodega Phylogenetics Workshop, UC Davis
2014	Instructor, Applied Phylogenetics Workshop, NESCent
2014, 2015	Guest Lecturer, Berkeley High School Science Outreach
2014	Guest Lecturer, Bay Area Scientists in Schools
2009—2010	Tutor, 826 Valencia volunteer for English Language Learners

Professional Societies

2010—	Society of Systematic Biologists
2012—	Society for the Study of Evolution
2018—	International Biogeography Society
2021—	Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science
2017—2020	Geological Society of America

Professional Experience

2005—2008	IT Consultant, Varsity Technologies, San Francisco, CA
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Advisors

PhD	John P. Huelsenbeck Department of Integrative Biology UC Berkeley
Postdoctoral	Tracy A. Heath Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology Iowa State University
Postdoctoral	Michael J. Donoghue Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Yale University