

# LUCAS P. MEDEIROS

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Biology Department - Redfield Building, Room 116

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Last updated on July 15, 2025

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**

*2024 - present*

Postdoctoral Investigator

Supervisors: [Heidi Sosik](#) and [Michael Neubert](#)

**University of California Santa Cruz**

*2022 - 2024*

Postdoctoral Scholar

Supervisors: [Stephan Munch](#) and [Eric Palkovacs](#)

## EDUCATION

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**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

*2018 - 2022*

Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering

Advisor: [Serguei Saavedra](#)

Thesis: *[Understanding and predicting responses of ecological communities to perturbations](#)*

**University of São Paulo**

*2015 - 2017*

M.S. in Ecology

Advisor: [Paulo Guimarães Jr](#)

Thesis: *[Coevolution in mutualistic networks: gene flow and selection mosaics](#)*

**University of São Paulo**

*2014 - 2017*

B.S. in Applied and Computational Mathematics

**University of São Paulo**

*2009 - 2013*

B.S. in Biological Sciences

Advisor: [Paulo Guimarães Jr](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

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*Papers can be accessed from [my website](#).*

### Submitted:

3. **Medeiros, L. P.**, Neubert, M. G., Sosik, H. M., and Munch, S. B. (Under review). A nonequilibrium framework for community responses to pulse perturbations. <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2025.05.14.654148v1>
2. Honda, I. A., **Medeiros, L. P.**, Thompson, C. R. S., Britten, G. L., Runge, J. A., and Ji, R. (Under review). Seasonal trophic controls drive population variability in a foundational marine copepod.

1. Lerm, R., **Medeiros, L. P.**, Thompson, D., Ehlers Smith, D., and Downs, C. (Under review). Bird communities show resilience to an extreme weather event, drought, across a large savanna protected area.

## Published:

11. **Medeiros, L. P.**, Sorenson, D. K., Johnson, B. J., Palkovacs, E. P., and Munch, S. B. (2025). Revealing unseen dynamical regimes of ecosystems from population time-series data. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 122(24), e2416637122. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2416637122>  
UCSC press release: [A data-driven model to help avoid ecosystem collapse](#)  
PNAS commentary: [Predicting regime shifts and beyond](#)
10. **Medeiros, L. P.** and Saavedra, S. (2023). Understanding the state-dependent impact of species correlated responses on community sensitivity to perturbations. *Ecology*, 104(8), e4115. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.4115>
9. Camacho, L. A., Andreazzi, C. S., **Medeiros, L. P.**, Birskis-Barros, I., Emer, C., Reigada, C., and Guimarães Jr, P. R. (2023). Cheating interactions favor modularity in mutualistic networks. *Oikos*, 2023(3), e09176. <https://doi.org/10.1111/oik.09176>
8. **Medeiros, L. P.**, Allesina, S., Dakos, V., Sugihara, G., and Saavedra, S. (2023). Ranking species based on sensitivity to perturbations under non-equilibrium community dynamics. *Ecology Letters*, 26(1), 170-183. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.14131>  
MIT press release: [A better way to tell which species are vulnerable](#)
7. **Medeiros, L. P.\***, Song, C.\*, and Saavedra, S. (2021). Merging dynamical and structural indicators to measure resilience in multispecies systems. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 90(9), 2027–2040. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.13421> (\*equal contribution)
6. **Medeiros, L. P.**, Boege, K., Del-Val, E., Zaldívar-Riverón, A., and Saavedra, S. (2021). Observed ecological communities are formed by species combinations that are among the most likely to persist under changing environments. *The American Naturalist*, 197(1), E17–E29. <https://doi.org/10.1086/711663>
5. Saavedra, S., **Medeiros, L. P.**, and AlAdwani, M. (2020). Structural forecasting of species persistence under changing environments. *Ecology Letters*, 23(10), 1511-1521. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.13582>
4. Pires, M. M., O'Donnell, J. L., Burkle, L. A., Diaz-Castelazo, C., Hembry, D. H., Yeakel, J. D., Newman, E. A., **Medeiros, L. P.**, De Aguiar, M. A. M., and Guimarães Jr, P. R. (2020). The indirect paths to cascading effects of extinctions in mutualistic networks. *Ecology*, 101(7), e03080. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3080>
3. Cenci, S., **Medeiros, L. P.**, Sugihara, G., and Saavedra, S. (2020). Assessing the predictability of nonlinear dynamics under smooth parameter changes. *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, 17(162), 20190627. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2019.0627>
2. **Medeiros, L. P.**, Garcia, G., Thompson, J. N., and Guimarães Jr, P. R. (2018). The geographic mosaic of coevolution in mutualistic networks. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(47), 12017-12022. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1809088115>
1. Dáttilo, W., Lara-Rodríguez, N., Jordano, P., Guimarães Jr, P. R., Thompson, J. N., Marquis, R. J., **Medeiros, L. P.**, Ortiz-Pulido, R., Marcos-García, M. A. and Rico-Gray, V. (2016). Unraveling Darwin's entangled bank: architecture and robustness of mutualistic net-

works with multiple interaction types. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 283(1843), 20161564.  
<https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2016.1564>

## AWARDS

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|  |      |
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| Principles of Community Award -<br>Fisheries Collaborative Program (UC Santa Cruz)                                 | 2024 |
| Vito Volterra Award for Best Student Oral Presentation -<br>Theoretical Ecology Section of the ESA 2021 Conference | 2021 |
| Best M.S. Thesis of the year in Ecology -<br>University of São Paulo   | 2017 |

## FELLOWSHIPS

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|  |               |
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| Ph.D. Fellowship - <a href="#">Martin Family Society of Fellows for Sustainability</a><br>(MIT Environmental Solutions Initiative)                                       | 2021 - 2022   |
| Ippen Fellowship for Travel Support - Massachusetts Institute of Technology  | 2020 and 2021 |
| Ph.D. Scholarship - Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship (declined)   | 2018          |
| Laboratory Technician Scholarship - São Paulo Research Foundation  | 2017 - 2018   |
| M.S. Scholarship - São Paulo Research Foundation   | 2015 - 2017   |
| M.S. Scholarship - National Council for Scientific and Technological Development<br>(For the 1st place in the M.S. admissions in Ecology at the University of São Paulo) | 2015          |
| Scientific Initiation Scholarship - São Paulo Research Foundation  | 2014          |

## TEACHING

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|  |             |
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| Instructor for Modeling for Conservation and Management of Natural Populations -<br>BIOE-215 (UC Santa Cruz)<br><i>Created lecture and homework material, lectured, and graded assignments</i> | Spring 2024 |
| Instructor for Instituto Serrapilheira's Quantitative Ecology Field Course<br>(Brazilian Amazon)<br><i>Supervised graduate student's field projects</i>  | July 2023   |
| TA for Probability and Causal Inference - 1.010<br>(Massachusetts Institute of Technology)<br><i>Planned and conducted recitations</i>   | Fall 2021   |
| TA for Ecological Dynamics and Modeling - 1.873<br>(Massachusetts Institute of Technology)   | Spring 2021 |

*Conducted tutorials/discussions and graded problem sets*

TA for Probability and Causal Inference - 1.010  
(Massachusetts Institute of Technology) *Fall 2020*  
*Graded problem sets*

TA for Ecological Dynamics and Modeling - 1.873  
(Massachusetts Institute of Technology) *Spring 2020*  
*Conducted tutorials/discussions and graded problem sets*

TA for Probability and Causal Inference - 1.010  
(Massachusetts Institute of Technology) *Fall 2019*  
*Graded problem sets*

TA for EcoEscola Field Course  
(University of São Paulo) *January 2017*  
*Supervised undergraduate student's field projects*

TA for Southern-Summer School on Mathematical Biology  
(ICTP-SAIFR) *January 2016*  
*Supervised graduate student's modeling projects*

TA for Diversity, Natural History and Conservation of South American Vertebrates  
(University of São Paulo) *Fall 2015*  
*Moderated discussions and graded problem sets*

TA for R Language for Data Analysis in Ecology  
(University of São Paulo) *March 2014*  
*Moderated tutorials and graded problem sets*

## MENTORING

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Loreane Dias (University of São Paulo)  
*Co-advisor of PhD thesis (Advisor: Paulo Inácio Prado)* *January 2024 - present*

Thomas Meerwijk (Wageningen University)  
*Co-advisor of Master's thesis (Advisor: Masha van der Sande)* *January 2024 - July 2024*

Participated in the mentoring program of the  
ESA Theoretical Ecology Section *2023 - present*

## PRESENTATIONS

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Invited talk - Biology Department Seminar  
(Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) *April 2025*

Invited talk - Review of the Cooperative Institute for Marine Ecosystems and Climate  
(Scripps Institution of Oceanography) *May 2024*

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|---|-----------------------|
| Conference talk - Ecological Society of America<br>(Portland, OR)   | <i>August 2023</i>    |
| Invited talk - Emerging Scholars in Integrative Biology<br>(Boston University)                                      | <i>March 2023</i>     |
| Conference talk - American Society of Naturalists<br>(Pacific Grove, CA)  | <i>January 2023</i>   |
| Workshop talk - 20th Annual UCSC & Stanford Species Interactions Workshop<br>(UC Santa Cruz)                        | <i>December 2022</i>  |
| Invited talk - Symposium on market squid<br>(NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center)                               | <i>November 2022</i>  |
| Ph.D. thesis defense - Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering<br>(Massachusetts Institute of Technology) | <i>May 2022</i>       |
| Invited talk - Physics of Living Systems<br>(Massachusetts Institute of Technology)                                 | <i>May 2022</i>       |
| Invited talk - EcoEncontros at University of São Paulo<br>(Virtual)   | <i>December 2021</i>  |
| Invited talk - Ecological Resilience Webinar of the British Ecological Society<br>(Virtual)                         | <i>September 2021</i> |
| Conference talk - Ecological Society of America<br>(Virtual)  | <i>August 2021</i>    |
| Invited talk - Evolutionary and Ecological Systems Biology talks<br>(Massachusetts Institute of Technology)         | <i>September 2020</i> |
| Poster presentation - MIT Quantitative Ecology Meeting<br>(Massachusetts Institute of Technology)                   | <i>January 2020</i>   |
| Conference talk - American Society of Naturalists<br>(Pacific Grove, CA)  | <i>January 2020</i>   |
| Invited talk - Simple Person's Applied Math Seminar<br>(Massachusetts Institute of Technology)                      | <i>September 2019</i> |
| Invited talk - Opening lectures of the Graduate Program in Ecology<br>(University of São Paulo)                     | <i>March 2018</i>     |
| Invited talk - EcoEscola<br>(University of São Paulo)   | <i>January 2017</i>   |
| Poster presentation - Evolution   |                       |

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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Subject Editor at *Oikos* 2024 - present

Reviewed manuscripts for the following journals ([Web of Science](#)):

*Ecology* (1), *Ecological Complexity* (1), *Ecology Letters* (6),  
*Ecological Monographs* (1), *Journal of Animal Ecology* (1),  
*Methods in Ecology and Evolution* (1), *Nature Communications* (1),  
*Oikos* (4), *PLOS Computational Biology* (1) 2018 - present

Main organizer of symposium on Population Fluctuations in Ecology  
 at the ESA 2023 Conference (Portland, OR)

*Speakers: Karen Abbott, Jeff Gore, Tanya Rogers, and Daniel Wieczynski* August 2023

Conducted and presented modeling/data analyses for the  
 Squid Fishery Advisory Committee in collaboration  
 with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

February 2023 - May 2024

Conducted modeling/data analyses for Covid-19 BR Observatory  
 in collaboration with several Brazilian researchers  
 (<https://covid19br.github.io>)

March - May 2020

Judged talks/posters for prizes at 2 ASN and 1 ESA conference

2020 - 2023

Helped organizing the annual Fritz Muller Seminar Series  
 (University of São Paulo, <https://fritzmuller.weebly.com>)

2014 - 2018

**OCEANOGRAPHIC CRUISES**

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*Main duties: sample seawater to analyze biological variables, deploy oceanographic instruments, and analyze real-time oceanographic data.*

R/V Armstrong (AR88) - 6 days at sea ([NES-LTER project](#))

April 2025

R/V Atlantic Explorer (AE2426) - 6 days at sea ([NES-LTER project](#))

November 2024

**COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS**

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*Codes can be accessed from [my GitHub](#).*

R (advanced)  
 Python (basic)  
 C (basic)  
 Git and GitHub  
 LaTeX  
 Microsoft Office

## LANGUAGES

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English (fluent)  
Portuguese (native)  
Spanish (basic)