

# Quentin D. Read

Using big open data to understand how humans influence the natural world

SESYNC  
1 Park Place, Suite 300  
Annapolis, MD 21401 USA

Email: [qread@sesync.org](mailto:qread@sesync.org)  
Website/Blog: [quentinread.com](http://quentinread.com)  
GitHub, StackOverflow: [qdread](#)

## Professional appointments

**National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center**, Annapolis, MD  
(University of Maryland)

2020– Data scientist  
2019-2020 Data scientist (50% time); Postdoctoral fellow (50% time)  
2018-2019 Postdoctoral fellowship: “Food waste and the environment”  
Mentor: Dr. Mary Muth (RTI International, Research Triangle Park, NC)

2016-2018 **Michigan State University**, East Lansing, MI  
Postdoctoral researcher, Department of Forestry; Ecology, Evolutionary  
Biology, & Behavior Program  
“Intraspecific trait variation and community structure at a continental scale”  
Advisors: Dr. Phoebe Zarnetske (MSU) and Dr. Sydne Record (Bryn Mawr  
College)

## Current roles and responsibilities

- Provide data science consulting for socio-environmental research teams, including data analysis, management, and visualization in R and Python
- Support research users of a high-performance computing cluster
- Maintain the R package [rslurm](#), and develop new features
- Maintain, update, and write content for [SESYNC's cyberhelp website](#)
- Develop lessons for [data science curriculum](#), including modules on git and online data
- Teach data science courses and training modules to students and researchers
- Pursue a research program modeling the impacts of the food system on human and natural communities, using techniques from ecology, environmental science, and economics

## Education

2011-2016 **University of Tennessee**, Knoxville, TN  
Ph.D., Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  
Dissertation: “Individual variation in plant traits drives species interactions, ecosystem functioning, and responses to global change”  
Advisor: Dr. Nathan Sanders  
Short courses: Boreal Forest Ecology (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) and Fundamentals of Ecosystem Ecology (Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies)

2005-2009 **University of North Carolina**, Chapel Hill, NC  
B.S. with highest distinction, Environmental Science

## Skills and languages

Data processing, visualizing, and analysis in R, including tidyverse, R Markdown, and package development  
Bayesian modeling with Stan

Spatial analysis and modeling with GDAL and R  
 Working knowledge of Python and Julia  
 High-performance parallel computing using Linux server  
 Using git/GitHub for version control and remote collaborations  
 Fluent in spoken and written German; communicate effectively in spoken and written Spanish

## Grants

2019	“Connecting local, regional, and continental scale drivers to biodiversity across NEON through the lens of intraspecific trait variation and disturbance.” NSF Macrosystems Biology, NEON-Enabled Science (senior personnel)	\$536,800
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## Publications

OA = open access; \* = first author is an undergraduate whom I mentored

2020	Grady, J. M., <b>Q. D. Read</b> , S. Record, N. Rüger, P. L. Zarnetske, A. I. Dell, S. P. Hubbell, S. T. Michaletz, A. Shenkin, and B. J. Enquist. 2020. Life history scaling and the division of energy in forests. <i>bioRxiv</i> 2020.06.22.163659. DOI:10.1101/2020.06.22.163659. (preprint)
2020	<b>Read, Q. D.</b> , S. Brown, A. D. Cuéllar, S. M. Finn, J. A. Gephart, L. T. Marston, E. Meyer, K. A. Weitz, and M. K. Muth. 2020. Assessing the environmental impacts of halving food loss and waste along the food supply chain. <i>Science of the Total Environment</i> 712:136255. DOI:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.136255. (OA)
2020	<b>Read, Q. D.</b> , P. L. Zarnetske, S. Record, J. M. Grady, A. M. Wilson, A. O. Finley, A. M. Latimer, J. K. Costanza, K. D. Gaddis, K. M. Dahlin, M. L. Hobi, S. V. Ollinger, S. L. Malone, and S. Pau. 2020. Beyond counts and averages: relating geodiversity to dimensions of biodiversity. <i>Global Ecology and Biogeography</i> . DOI: 10.1111/geb.13061.
2020	Record, S., K. M. Dahlin, P. L. Zarnetske, <b>Q. D. Read</b> , S. L. Malone, K. D. Gaddis, J. M. Grady, J. Costanza, M. L. Hobi, A. M. Latimer, S. Pau, A. M. Wilson, S. V. Ollinger, A. O. Finley, and E. Hestir. Remote sensing of geodiversity as a link to biodiversity. Book chapter in <i>Remote Sensing of Biodiversity: Using spectral signals to understand the biology and biodiversity of plants, communities, ecosystems and the tree of life</i> . J. Cavender-Bares, J. Gamon, and P. Townsend, eds. Springer International. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-33157-3
2019	Muth, M. K., C. Birney, A. Cuéllar, S. M. Finn, M. Freeman, J. N. Galloway, I. Gee, J. A. Gephart, K. Jones, L. Low, E. Meyer, <b>Q. D. Read</b> , T. Smith, K. A. Weitz, and S. Zoubek. 2019. A systems approach to assessing environmental and economic effects of food loss and waste interventions in the United States. <i>Science of the Total Environment</i> 685:1240-1254. DOI:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.06.230. (OA)
2019	Zarnetske, P. L., <b>Q. D. Read</b> , S. Record, K. Gaddis, S. Pau, M. Hobi, S. L. Malone, J. K. Costanza, K. M. Dahlin, A. Latimer, A. M. Wilson, J. M. Grady, S. Ollinger, A. O. Finley. 2019. Towards connecting biodiversity and geodiversity across scales with satellite remote sensing. <i>Global Ecology and Biogeography</i> . DOI:10.1111/geb.12887. (OA)
2019	Henning, J. A., <b>Q. D. Read</b> , N. J. Sanders, and A. T. Classen. 2019. Fungal colonization of plant roots is resistant to nitrogen addition and resilient to dominant species losses. <i>Ecosphere</i> . DOI:10.1002/ecs2.2640. (OA)
2018	Grady, J. M., <b>Q. D. Read</b> , S. Record, P. L. Zarnetske., B. Baiser, K. Thorne, and J. Belmaker. 2018. Size, niches, and the latitudinal diversity gradient. <i>Teaching</i>

- 2018 **Read, Q. D.**, J. M. Grady, P. L. Zarnetske, S. Record, B. Baiser, J. Belmaker, M.-N. Tuanmu, A. Strecker, L. Beaudrot, and K. M. Thibault. 2018. Among-species overlap in rodent body size distributions predicts species richness along a temperature gradient. *Ecography*. DOI:10.1111/ecog.03641 (OA)
- 2018 **Read, Q. D.**, B. Baiser, J. M. Grady, P. L. Zarnetske, S. Record, and J. Belmaker. 2018. Tropical bird species have less variable body sizes. *Biology Letters* 20170453. DOI:10.1098/rsbl.2017.0453
- 2018 **Read, Q. D.**, J. A. Henning, A. T. Classen, and N. J. Sanders. 2018. Aboveground resilience to species loss but belowground resistance to nitrogen addition in a montane plant community. *Journal of Plant Ecology*. DOI:10.1093/jpe/rtx015
- 2018 Welshofer, K. B., P. L. Zarnetske, N. K. Lany, and **Q. D. Read**. 2018. Short-term responses to warming vary between native vs. exotic species and with latitude in an early successional plant community. *Oecologia*. DOI:10.1007/s00442-018-4111-9
- 2017 **Read, Q. D.**, J. A. Henning, and N. J. Sanders. 2017. Intraspecific variation in traits reduces ability of trait-based models to predict community structure. *Journal of Vegetation Science*. DOI:10.1111/jvs.12555
- 2017 Hendershot, J. N.\*, **Q. D. Read**, J. A. Henning, N. J. Sanders, and A. T. Classen. 2017. Consistently inconsistent drivers of patterns of microbial diversity and abundance at macroecological scales. *Ecology*. DOI:10.1002/ecy.1829 (OA)
- 2017 Butler, E. E., A. Datta, ..., **Q. D. Read**, ..., and P. B. Reich. 2017. Mapping local and global variability in plant trait distributions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. DOI:10.1073/pnas.1708984114
- 2016 **Read, Q. D.**, S. M. Hoban, M. B. Eppinga, J. A. Schweitzer, and J. K. Bailey. 2016. Accounting for the nested nature of genetic variation across levels of organization improves our understanding of biodiversity and community ecology. *Oikos* 125:895-904. DOI:10.1111/oik.02760 *Editor's Choice*.
- 2016 Van Nuland, M. E., R. C. Wooliver, A. A. Pfennigwerth, **Q. D. Read**, I. M. Ware, L. Mueller, J. A. Fordyce, J. A. Schweitzer, and J. K. Bailey. 2016. Plant-soil feedbacks: connecting ecosystem ecology and evolution. *Functional Ecology*. DOI:10.1111/1365-2435.12690
- 2016 Yoon, S. A.\* and **Q. D. Read**. 2016. Consequences of exotic host use: impacts on Lepidoptera and a test of the ecological trap hypothesis. *Oecologia*. DOI:10.1007/s00442-016-3560-2
- 2015 Schussler, E. E., **Q. D. Read**, G. Marbach-Ad, K. Miller, and M. Ferzli. 2015. Preparing biology graduate teaching assistants for their roles as instructors: an assessment of institutional approaches. *CBE-Life Sciences Education* 14:1-11. DOI:10.1187/cbe.14-11-0196 (OA)
- 2014 **Read, Q. D.**, L. C. Moorhead, N. G. Swenson, J. K. Bailey, and N. J. Sanders. 2014. Convergent effects of elevation on functional leaf traits within and among species. *Functional Ecology* 28:37-45. DOI:10.1111/1365-2435.12162 *nominated for the British Ecological Society's Haldane Prize for Young Investigators*
- 2013 Gorman, C. E., **Q. D. Read**, M. E. Van Nuland, and others. 2013. Species identity influences belowground arthropod assemblages via functional traits. *Annals of Botany Plants* plto49. DOI:10.1093/aobpla/plto49 *Editor's Choice*. (OA)

- 2013 Van Nuland, M. E., E. N. Haag, J. A. Bryant, **Q. D. Read**, and others. 2013. Fire promotes pollinator visitation: implications for ameliorating declines of pollination services. *PLoS One* 8:e79853. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0079853 (OA)
- 2012 Clark, J. S., B. D. Soltoff, A. S. Powell, and **Q. D. Read**. 2012. Evidence from individual inference for high-dimensional coexistence: long term experiments on recruitment response. *PLoS One* 7:e30050. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0030050 (OA)

### In review/revision/accepted

- Read, Q. D.** and M. K. Muth. Financial costs and environmental benefits of four food waste interventions: is food waste reduction a “win-win?” *Resources, Conservation & Recycling*, in revision.
- Prager, C. M., X. Jing, J. A. Henning, **Q. D. Read**, P. Meidl, S. Lavorel, N. J. Sanders, M. Sundqvist, D. A. Wardle, and A. T. Classen. Climate and multiple dimensions of plant diversity regulate ecosystem carbon exchange along an elevational gradient. *Ecosphere*, accepted.
- Rewcastle, K. E., J. A. Henning, **Q. D. Read**, R. E. Irwin, N. J. Sanders, and A. T. Classen. Effect of plant removal on mineralization with elevation: moderate effects on rates but substantial effects on variation. *Ecology*, in review.
- Stuble, K. L., **Q. D. Read**, L. D. Chick, and M. Rodríguez-Cabal. Here be dragons: Antagonistic interspecific interactions constrain diurnal temporal shifts as a means of coping with warming. *Ecology*, in preparation.
- Knott, J., **Q. D. Read**, S. Record, and P. L. Zarnetske. Patterns of biodiversity across the National Ecological Observatory Network. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, in preparation.
- Brown, S., **Q. D. Read**, M. K. Muth, and L. T. Marston. Reducing water scarcity by reducing food loss and waste. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, in preparation (invited for special issue).

### Teaching and curriculum development

- 2020 Co-designed and co-taught day-long whirlwind data science class for SESYNC postdoctoral researchers
- 2020 Co-delivered guest lecture on data synthesis in food-energy-water nexus research, Global Stewards graduate seminar, University of Maryland
- 2020 Co-taught SESYNC 2020 [Computational Summer Institute](#), a week-long online data science course
- 2020 Designed and led workshop on best practices for collaboration with GitHub
- 2018 Designed graduate teaching module: “Using NEON data to test macroecological hypotheses”
- 2017 Co-instructor of record, Metacommunity Ecology, MSU
- 2016 Graduate teaching assistant, Models in Biology, UT-Knoxville
- 2015-2016 Graduate teaching assistant, Conservation Biology, UT-Knoxville
- 2015 Designed and led workshop on graphing with R and ggplot2
- 2015 Guest lecture (led a mock trial), Conservation Biology, UT-Knoxville
- 2014 Designed and led workshops on advanced topics in statistics with R
- 2013-2014 Member of panel developing and reforming curriculum of undergraduate

- introductory biology courses, UT-Knoxville
- 2013 Guest lecture on climate change and communities, General Ecology, UT-Knoxville
- 2012-2014 Graduate teaching assistant, General Ecology, UT-Knoxville
- 2012 Guest lecture on biogeochemistry, General Ecology, UT-Knoxville
- 2011-2012 Graduate teaching assistant, Introduction to Biodiversity, UT-Knoxville

## **Mentoring**

- 2020 Remotely mentored two Bryn Mawr College undergraduates on an R package development project, funded by NSF Macrosystems Biology grant
- 2017-2018 Mentored 4 undergraduates through Summer Research Opportunities Program and High Performance Computing Center, MSU
- 2012-2015 Mentored 8 undergraduate field and lab assistants, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
- 2013-2015 Mentored 3 undergraduate lab assistants, UT-Knoxville

## **Honors and awards**

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|------|---|--------|
| 2015 | University of Tennessee Science Alliance graduate award   | \$3000 |
| 2015 | NSF travel grant to deliver biology education seminar at Notre Dame   | \$500  |
| 2014 | Outstanding Outreach and Community Service award, UT-Knoxville Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology                   |        |
| 2013 | Dr. Jean H. Langenheim Endowed Graduate Fellowship in the Ecology and Evolution of Plants, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory | \$6000 |
| 2013 | UTK Graduate Student Senate travel award  | \$500  |
| 2013 | Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship  |        |
| 2012 | Dr. Lee R. G. Snyder Memorial Fellowship, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory  | \$700  |

## **Invited talks**

- 2020 “Reducing food waste to benefit environment and society: how, why, and in what context?” Duke University Program in Ecology seminar series, Durham, NC
- 2018 “Food waste impacts on biodiversity.” Commission on Environmental Cooperation Food Loss and Waste Measurement Experts Group Meeting, Arlington, VA
- 2017 “Challenges in the functional trait approach to community ecology (and ways to overcome them).” German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv), Leipzig, Germany
- 2017 “Intraspecific variation and community assembly.” National Ecological Observatory Network, Boulder, CO (talk co-delivered with John Grady)
- 2016 “Individual variation in organismal traits: predicting patterns in space and time from local to global scales.” Michigan State University Department of Forestry, Hanover Forest Science Seminar Series, East Lansing, MI
- 2015 “C3UBE undergraduate biology curriculum reform.” University of Notre Dame, Biology Education Seminar, Notre Dame, IN

- 2014 “Roots, leaves, and soils facing global change.” Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory Seminar, Gothic, CO
- 2014 “Plant traits & interactions altered by warming at different elevations.” Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge, TN

## Conference presentations

- 2019 **Read, Q. D.**, J. A. Gephart, A. D. Cuéllar, ... and M. K. Muth. “Which supply chain stages should we target to reduce food loss and waste and benefit the environment?” Ecological Society of America-United States Society for Ecological Economics, Louisville, KY
- 2018 **Read, Q. D.**, S. Record, K. M. Dahlin, P. L. Zarnetske, and others. “Measuring geodiversity to explain biodiversity: what is the effect of spatial grain and spatial 'consciousness?'” US-International Association of Landscape Ecology, Chicago, IL
- 2017 **Read, Q. D.**, J. M. Grady, P. L. Zarnetske, S. Record, and others. “Intraspecific variation reflects drivers of rodent community assembly across the National Ecological Observatory Network.” Ecological Society of America, Portland, OR
- 2015 **Read, Q. D.**, N. J. Sanders, and A. T. Classen. “A globally replicated experiment shows that long-term environmental filters constrain plant response to increased temperature and loss of foundation species.” Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD

## Software

- 2020 Brunson, J. C. and **Q. D. Read**. 2020. ggalluvial: Layered Grammar for Alluvial Plots. R package version 0.12.2.0001. <https://corybrunson.github.io/ggalluvial/>
- 2020 **Read, Q. D.**, A. Yue, I. E. Fluck, B. Baiser, J. M. Grady, P. L. Zarnetske, and S. Record. Ostats: Pairwise community-level niche overlap statistics. R package, in development. <https://github.com/NEON-biodiversity/Ostats/>
- 2019 Marchand, P., I. T. Carroll, M. Smorul, R. E. Blake, and **Q. D. Read**. 2019. rslurm: Submit R Calculations to a 'Slurm' Cluster. R package version 0.5.0. <https://cyberhelp.sesync.org/rslurm/>

## Online content

- 2020 **Read, Q. D.** “The carbon footprint of R code, and how to reduce it.” 02 Dec. 2020, SESYNC Cyberhelp blog. <https://cyberhelp.sesync.org/blog/energy-footprint-of-r.html>
- 2020 **Read, Q. D.** “Advanced git Techniques.” Sep. 2020, SESYNC Cyberhelp online lesson. <https://cyberhelp.sesync.org/advanced-git-lesson/>
- 2020 **Read, Q. D.**, K. L. Hondula, and R. E. Blake. “Resources to help you learn GitHub Pages.” 10 Sep. 2020, SESYNC Cyberhelp blog. <https://cyberhelp.sesync.org/blog/github-pages-resources.html>
- 2020 **Read, Q. D.** “Tips for a smooth R(Studio) workflow and reproducible R code.” 13 Aug. 2020, SESYNC Cyberhelp blog. <https://cyberhelp.sesync.org/blog/reproducible-r-workflow.html>
- 2020 **Read, Q. D.** and I. T. Carroll. “Online Data with R.” Jul. 2020, SESYNC Cyberhelp online lesson. <https://cyberhelp.sesync.org/online-data-with-R-lesson/>
- 2020 Muth, M. K. and **Q. D. Read**. “Effects of COVID-19 meat and poultry plant

- closures on the environment and food security." 7 Jul. 2020, RTI Insights blog. <https://www.rti.org/insights/covid-19-effect-meat-supply-chain>
- 2020 Blake, R. E., R. Beilinson, N. Motzer, K. L. Hondula, and **Q. D. Read**. "Resources and tips for elevating your team science in an all-virtual world." Mar. 2020. <https://www.sesync.org/resources-and-tips-for-elevating-your-team-science-in-an-all-virtual-world>
- 2020 **Read, Q. D.** "How do I resolve merge conflicts in git/GitHub/GitLab?" 23 Mar. 2020, SESYNC Cyberhelp blog. <https://cyberhelp.sesync.org/blog/git-conflict-resolution.html>
- 2020 **Read, Q. D.** "Using the rslurm package to run code in parallel." 13 Jan. 2020, SESYNC Cyberhelp blog. <https://cyberhelp.sesync.org/blog/using-rslurm-parallel.html>
- 2019 Hondula, K. L. and **Q. D. Read**. "ggplot tricks not to forget about." 25 Sep. 2019, SESYNC Cyberhelp blog. <https://cyberhelp.sesync.org/blog/ggplot-roundup.html>

## Professional service

- 2020 Peer reviewer of R package for [RopenSci.org](https://ropensci.org): *pixelclasser*
- 2019– Maintainer of the R package *rslurm* ([cyberhelp.sesync.org/rslurm](https://cyberhelp.sesync.org/rslurm))
- 2019 Review panelist, SESYNC immersion postdoctoral fellowship program
- 2017 Co-organizer of oral session at Ecological Society of America meeting: "Challenges and opportunities for investigating ecological communities across space and time: insights from coordinated research networks."
- 2013– Peer reviewer for the following journals: *Scientific Reports*, *Biogeosciences*, *Ecography*, *Remote Sensing of Environment*, *Systematic Biology*, *Resources Conservation & Recycling*, *Annals of Botany*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Energies*, *Nature Climate Change*, *Journal of Biogeography*, *Oikos* (2×), *Ecological Applications*, *Ecology*, *Journal of Ecology* (2×), *Global Ecology and Biogeography* (2×), *Plant Ecology*, *Ecological Monographs*, *Ecology Letters* (2×), *Annals of Botany Plants*, *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, *Ecography*, *Biotropica*, *Functional Ecology* (3×), *Journal of Plant Ecology*, *PeerJ* (2×), *Ecology and Evolution*, *PLoS One* (2×), *Ecosphere*, *New Phytologist* (2×), *Global Change Biology* (3×)

## Community outreach

- 2016– Maintain a personal science blog ([blog.quentinread.com](https://blog.quentinread.com))
- 2016– Answer community programming questions on StackOverflow
- 2018 Organized event and gave presentation on citizen science opportunities, MSU Science Festival
- 2017 Gave public research talk, MSU Biology On Tap
- 2014 Organized and coordinated Darwin Day Tennessee
- 2013 Coordinated advertising for Darwin Day Tennessee
- 2012 Discussed my research and assisted 7<sup>th</sup>-grade students with climate change projects
- 2011-2015 Volunteered at kids' science education events at the University of Tennessee and the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory