

# Quentin D. Read

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

SESYNC  
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## 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*, accepted.
- 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.
- Marston, L. T., **Q. D. Read**, S. Brown, and M. K. Muth. Reducing water scarcity by reducing food loss and waste. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 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.

### 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**

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