

# Jennifer Zavaleta Cheek

307 E. Illinois Urbana, IL 61801 | C: 214-636-7180 | jzcheek@illinois.edu | JenniferZavaletaCheek.com

## EDUCATION

---

<b>University of Michigan, School for Environment and Sustainability (Ann Arbor, MI)</b> <b>Ph.D. of Natural Resource Policy and Behavior</b> Honors: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program	August 2019
<b>Texas Tech University (TTU), Department of Natural Resources (Lubbock, TX)</b> <b>Master of Science in Wildlife, Aquatic, and Wildland Science Management</b> Honors: Texas Tech's Student of Integrated Scholarship (2013), Fulbright Scholar	May 2012
<b>Claremont McKenna College (Claremont, CA)</b> <b>Bachelor of Arts in Government with a Leadership Sequence (Honors)</b> Honors: The Philip Roland Prize for Best Thesis in Public Administration and Public Policy for "Improving the Status of Indigenous Women in Peru" (2010)	May 2010

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

---

<b>University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)</b>		
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	\$150,000	2015 – 2018
Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowship	\$45,000	2018 – 2019
*Dow Environmental Sustainability Doctoral Fellowship	\$50,000	2016 – 2019
*World Bank Grant	\$22,000	2017
*Borlaug Fellowship in Global Food Security (US Dept. of Ag.)	\$23,000	2017 – 2018
*Rackham International Research Award	\$5,000	2016
*Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant	\$4,500	2015
*Weinberg Fellowship for Population, Development, and Climate Change	\$7,500	2015
<b>Texas Tech University (Lubbock, TX)</b>		
Prairie Biotic Institute Grant	\$1,000	2012
Ogallala Commons Intern	\$1,500	2012
<b>Claremont McKenna College (Claremont, CA)</b>		
John E. Allen Academic Alumni Merit Award	\$20,000	
Dunbar Fellowship	\$1,000	2009 – 2010
McKenna International Summary Internship Scholarship	\$5,000	2008
Brock Scholarship	\$1,000	2008
Jack Star Fellowship for Strategic Studies	\$1,000	2007 – 2008

\*Monies earned for dissertation

## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

---

**Zavaleta Cheek, J.** Women's Income Diversity and Food Security. *World Development*. (In review).

Eklund, J., **J. Zavaleta Cheek**, L. Andriamaro, T. Mihanta Bakoliarimisa, C. Galitsky, O. Rabearivololona, D. J. Rakotobe, H. O. Ralison, L. O. Randriamiharisoa, J. Rasamoelinarivo, D. Rasolofoson, J. Ratsirarson, A. Razafimpahanana, E. M. Temba, A. Pyhälä, and D. C. Miller. Conservation Practitioner Insights on Investments to Halt Biodiversity Loss in Madagascar. *Conservation Letters*. (In review).

Sterling, E. J., A. Sigouin, E. Betley, **J. Zavaleta Cheek**, J. Solomon, K. Landrigan, A. L. Porzecanski, N. Bynum, B. Cadena, K. Clements, R. Finchum, M. Geresy, M. Groom, A. Gomez, T. Loffeld, D. Miller, D. Rakotobe, M. Rao, R. Roberts, X. Shinbrot, E. Willigan, and M. S. Jones. The State of Capacity Development Evaluation in Conservation and Natural Resource Management. *Oryx Special Issue on Capacity Development*. (In review).

Bell, A., **J. Zavaleta**, F. Mataya, and Patrick Ward. 2018. Do as they did: peer effects explain adoption of conservation agriculture in Malawi. *Water* 10, 51; doi: 10.3390/w10010051

Watkins, C., **J.C. Zavaleta**, S. Wilson, and S. Francisco. 2017. Developing a community of practice for interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral natural resources management. *Conservation Biology* Volume 32, No. 1, 60–71. doi:10.1111/cobi.12982

**Zavaleta, J. C.**, D. A. Haukos, B. Grisham, C. Boal, and C. Dixon. 2016. Restoring shinnery oak prairies with herbicide and grazing in New Mexico. *Southwestern Naturalist* 61(3): 225-232.

Andersson, K., D. Lawrence, **J. C. Zavaleta**, and Manuel R. Guariguata. 2015. Governing Resources: The socioeconomic impact of forestry expansion in Chile. *Environmental Management* 57(1): 123-136.

Donoso, P. and **J. C. Zavaleta**. 2014. Propuesta preliminar de incorporación de nuevos sitios de investigaciones socioecológicos de largo plazo en la Red LTSER de Chile. *Bosque* 35 (3): 459-466.

Donoso, P. J, Frene, C., M. Flores, C. E. Oyarzún, M. C. Moorman, and **J. C. Zavaleta**. 2014. Balancing water supply and old-growth forest conservation in the lowlands of south central Chile through an adaptive co-management approach. *Landscape Ecology* 29: 245-260.

Cheek, C.A., S. Hilavity, K. Mogue, B. Perkins, M. Pyron, C. Ryan, **J. Zavaleta** (alphabetical), G. Perry, and C. Boal. 2013. Vertical Structure Use by Juvenile Stout Iguanas (*Cyclura pinguis*) on Guana Island, B.V.I. *IRCF Reptiles and Amphibians* 20 (3): 112-118.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

---

\*Grisham, B., **J. Zavaleta**, A. Behney, P. Borsdorf, D. Lucia, D. Haukos, and C. Boal. 2016. Population Conservation and Management of Lesser Prairie Chickens in Sand Shinnery Oak-Grasslands. *In Ecology and Conservation of Lesser Prairie-Chickens*. No. 48, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL. 371 pp.

\*Haukos, D. and **J. Zavaleta**. Habitat. 2016. *In Ecology and Conservation of Lesser Prairie-Chickens*. D. Haukos and C. Boal (eds). No. 48, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL. 371 pp.

*\*Awarded Scientific Publication of the Year (2016) from Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society*

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

---

Miller, D. C., **J. Zavaleta Cheek** (Lead Author), P. Newton, C. Wildburger, T. Sunderland, and P. A. Jagger. Chapter 1. Introduction: Forests, Trees, and Poverty. (forthcoming). Global Forest Expert Panel Assessment Report on Forests and Poverty. Submitted to International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), United Nations.

Jagger, P. A. **J. Zavaleta Cheek** (Coordinating Lead Author), D. C. Miller, P. Shyamsundar, O. Razafindratsima, T. Sunderland, C. Ryan. (forthcoming). Chapter 2. Key Concepts for Understanding Forest-Poverty Dynamics. (forthcoming). Global Forest Expert Panel Assessment Report on Forests and Poverty. Submitted to International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), United Nations.

Gabay, M., J. A. Oldekop, D. Humphrets, J. Kamoto, D. Mutta, N. Rai. C.Song, J. Timko, L. V. Rasmussen, **J. Zavaleta Cheek** (Lead Author), and D. Stoian. (forthcoming). Chapter 4. Socioeconomic and biophysical conditions influencing forest-poverty dynamics. Global Forest Expert Panel Assessment Report on Forests and Poverty. Submitted to International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), United Nations.

Shyamsundar, P., **J. Zavaleta Cheek**, D. C. Miller, L. V. Rasmussen, J. Oldekop, L. Sauls, P.P Krishnapriya, J.T. Erbaugh and K. Sullivan-Wiley. (forthcoming). Chapter 6. Alleviating Poverty and Sustaining Forests: Anticipating Global Forces of Change. Global Forest Expert Panel Assessment Report on Forests and Poverty. Submitted to International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), United Nations.

**Zavaleta, J.**, and D. Haukos. 2013. Annotated bibliography of the lesser prairie-chicken: including identification of information needs and knowledge gaps. Final Report to the Western Governors Association and Lesser Prairie-Chicken Interstate Working Group. 549 pp.

Boal, C., B. Grisham, D. Haukos, **J. Zavaleta**, and C. Dixon. 2013. Understanding the Ecology, Habitat Use, Phenology, and Thermal Tolerances of Nesting Lesser Prairie-Chickens to Predict Population Level Influences of Climate Change. USGS Technical Publication.

**Zavaleta, J. C.** and P. A. Maloney. 2012. Five damaging assumptions made by government agents and landowners about grazing in sand shinnery oak communities. *Rangeland Ecology and Management*. Submitted to Prairie Biotic Institute.

## **PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION**

---

**Zavaleta Cheek, J.** (Co-Editor and Author) Forests and Poverty Special Issue in *Forest, Policy, and Economics*.

**Zavaleta Cheek, J.** and P. Corbett. Moving Beyond Economic Empowerment: a Supplemental Pathway to Improve Self-Help Groups and Enhance Women's Empowerment in Rural India. Target Journal: *Peasant Studies*.

**Zavaleta Cheek, J.** Between a Shock and a Hard Place: What Assets and Livelihood Strategies Help People Rebound from Shocks Faster. Target Journal: *Nature and Sustainability*.

**Zavaleta Cheek, J.,** L. V. Rassmusen, N. Lambrecht, A. Jones, and A. Chhatre. Forest Distribution and Access Influence Dietary Diversity in India. Target Journal: *Nature Food*.

**Zavaleta Cheek, J.,** J. Eklund, D.C. Miller, J. Brooks, N. Merten, and K. Han. Theory of Change for Capacity Development to Enhance Long-Term Biodiversity Conservation in Madagascar. Target Journal: *Conservation Biology*.

**Zavaleta Cheek, J.** Women and Food Security: Quantifying Pathways, Tradeoffs, and Feedbacks. Target Journal: *Food Policy*.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

---

**University of Illinois, Postdoctoral Researcher (Champaign-Urbana, IL)** August 2019 – Present

- Serve on Expert Panel on Forest and Poverty and serve as coordinating lead and contributing author on four chapters in report and co-editor of special issue for *Forest, Policy, and Economics*.
- Develop a theory of change to assess the long-term impact of 2,200 biodiversity conservation projects from the MacArthur Foundation, using natural language processing, card sorting activities, and process tracing
- Collaborate with international team and coordinate workshops in Peru, Bhutan, and Madagascar
- **Impact:** Develop a framework and principles to guide future investments in conservation for long-term impact

**University of Michigan, Ph.D. Candidate and Student (Ann Arbor, MI & Hyderabad, India)** August 2014 – 2019

- Directed a team of 42 people, working in 8 languages, to collect 1,200 household surveys each month for a year across 80 villages in central India to create a 15,000 survey dataset
- Led 120 interviews in approximately 30 villages sometimes across three languages
- Coordinated and led 8 training workshops and administered all financial reimbursements
- **Impact:** Co-produced original, year-long dataset with four NGOs in Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture Network

**International Food Policy Research Institute, Consultant (Lilongwe, Malawi)** January – August 2016

- Designed lesson plans and led a five-day training for 10 participants on interview techniques and ethnographic decision-tree modeling for NASFAM, an agricultural extension NGO in Lilongwe, Malawi
- Managed data collection and analyze over 120 interviews in southern Malawi
- **Impact:** Workshop facilitator with 50 stakeholders from government and NGOs to discuss applications of conservation agriculture research

**Fulbright Program, Universidad Austral de Chile (Valdivia, Chile)** March – November 2013

- Developed a management plan for Valdivian watershed; evaluated Chile's Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research Network; and analyzed tree plantations' impact on poverty
- Conducted over 30 interviews in Spanish of campesinos, university employees and NGO volunteers, and provided mentorship on thesis committee
- **Impact:** Co-produced management plan and presented research findings at three conferences in Spanish

**Kansas State University, Research Consultant (Manhattan, KS)** May 2012 – March 2013

- Compiled systematic literature review on lesser prairie-chickens and annotated a bibliography for 300 articles
- Compared research, identified gaps in the literature, and produced final report on management recommendations for intra-state conservation plan

- **Impact:** Technical report on the status of knowledge of the lesser prairie-chicken was used in federal court proceedings to determine federal listing of the Endangered Species Act and in developing management plan

**TTU Department of Natural Resources, Graduate Research Assistant (Lubbock, TX)** August 2010 – May 2012

- Conducted research about prairie chicken habitat; trapped, collared, and used telemetry to locate birds
- Thesis entitled: “Community Response to use of Prescribed Grazing and Herbicide for Restoration of Sand Shinnery Oak Grasslands”
- As intern for Ogallala Commons, I conducted a program evaluation on the efficacy of “Land Owner Days”
- **Impact:** Advanced conservation planning efforts by presenting findings about assumptions to landowners, including to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

**Claremont McKenna College, Research Assistant (Claremont, CA)** September 2006 – May 2010

- Contributed to a book that explored how economic development strategies create conditions that reduce the likelihood of inter-group violence in developing countries
- Compared effectiveness of social safety nets in Latin America for peer review publication
- Awarded grant to research U.S. Security in Pakistan: Understanding Military and Mosque

**Instituto Invertir, Intern (Lima, Peru)** June – August 2009

Recipient of McKenna International Summer Internship Award

- Searched for grant opportunities and wrote proposals to support projects such as Bid Challenge Peru and Líder Acción, which promotes entrepreneurial development; translated web pages, promotional materials, and grants
- **Impact:** Helped translate and give feedback on 20 business plans developed by Peruvian entrepreneurs

**Heritage Foundation, Center for Int'l Trade and Economics, Intern (Washington, DC)** September– December 2008

- Managed a full time internship (40 hours/week) while taking 12 credit hours during the evening
- **Impact:** Contributed to editing *Index of Economic Freedom for 2009* by checking all of the numbers and writing background information for countries Sweden through Zimbabwe

## DOMESTIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**Mentor for Undergraduate Researchers** September 2019 – present

- Managed three students on independent research projects related to financing women’s empowerment programs and forest projects; reviewing methods to evaluate qualitative causal models; and comparing men’s and women’s seasonal diets and food security
- Create individualized research plans for students and host individual meetings (5 hours/week)

**Mentor for Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) students** September 2017 –August 2019

- Managed five students on independent research projects and supported over a dozen conference presentations
- Led group lectures and individual meetings (15 hours/week)
- Cultivated a learning environment; organized professional development opportunities

**ESL Tutoring with Literacy of Lubbock, Head Teacher** September 2010 – May 2012

- Led classes for a group of 10 students (5 hours/week)
- Developed curriculum on grammar and vocabulary through lectures and group activities

**Texas Tech Athletics Academic Services, General Tutor** January 2011 – May 2012

- Tutored in all subjects, taught test taking skills, and assisted in organizing assignments (6 hours/week)
- Developed management plans to self-organize tasks to turn in assignments on time and prepare for tests

**School on Wheels NGO, Head Student Coordinator/ Tutor** October 2007 – May 2010

- Coordinated between homeless shelters in the community, Kravis Leadership Institute on campus, School on Wheels national organization, and tutors at the Claremont Colleges
- Advertised tutoring opportunities, led information sessions, and coordinated schedules

## INTERNATIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**India** 2017

- Developed five effective research managers during eight, four-day workshops by teaching them leadership, critical thinking, and conflict resolution skills
- Created a reciprocal learning environment, encouraged feedback on survey to improve data quality

- Malawi** 2015
- Trained ten development professionals on ethnographic decision tree modeling methods during a five-day workshop
- Chile** 2013
- Trained undergraduate student on qualitative methods and served as thesis co-advisor

## SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

---

**Society of Policy Scientists** 2010 – Present

**Vice President of the Society** 2016 – 2019

- Serve on Executive Council from 2016-2019 and 2020-2023; coordinate and communicate Society business
- Chaired of the Annual Institute hosted by Brown University in 2017 and Claremont McKenna College in 2016
- Led Coordinating Committee to choose an Institute theme, wrote request for proposals, managed abstracts, and determined agendas for each Institute

**Doctoral Organizing Committee (Student Council)** 2017 – 2019

**Chair (Leader) and Seminar Co-Chair**

- Elected lead Ph.D. Student Council, fostered community, and advocated for Ph.D. students in our department
- As Committee Chair I organized weekly professional development seminars, monthly social events, and an annual speaker series

**Rackham Professional Development Leader** 2017 – 2019

Selected to participate in new initiative to evaluate professional development needs for graduate students across campus

- Developed two professional development programming events for Ph.D. students, a series on how to effectively communicate science and workshops on how to write successful funding proposals

**Reviewer** 2017 – present

- Review submissions for *World Development*, *Policy Sciences Journal*, and *Small Scale Forestry*

## PRESENTATIONS (First Author Only)

---

**Zavaleta Cheek, J.**, Quantifying the multiple pathways, tradeoffs, and feedbacks that women can influence their families' food security in rainfed regions of India. 4<sup>th</sup> Global Food Security Conference (Rescheduled for December 2020). Le Corum, Montpellier, France

**Zavaleta Cheek, J.**, J. Eklund, D.C. Miller, J. Brooks, N. Merten, and K. Han. Theory of Change for Capacity Development to Enhance Long-Term Biodiversity Conservation in Madagascar. International Symposium for Society and Resource Management (ISSRM). July 11-26, 2020. Virtual Conference.

**Zavaleta Cheek, J.** Between a Shock and a Hard Place: Survival Analysis of how forest-dependent people rebound from shock. Forests Livelihood Assessment Research and Engagement (FLARE). August 22, 2019. Ann Arbor, MI.

**Zavaleta Cheek, J.** Women and Food Security: Quantifying Pathways, Tradeoff, and Feedbacks. Forests Livelihood Assessment Research and Engagement (FLARE). August 23, 2019. Ann Arbor, MI.

**Zavaleta, J. C.** Problem Orientation: Depending on Women as Pathway to Food Security. Policy Sciences Annual Institute at the World Bank. November 2, 2018. Washington DC.

**Zavaleta, J. C.** Impacts of Natural Resource Dependence on Women's Empowerment Food Security. FLARE Annual Meeting. October 22, 2018. Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Zavaleta, J. C.** Unpacking Livelihood Diversification's Effect on Food Security: a Closer Look at Gender, Season, and Financial Management. Invited Seminar at International Food Policy Research Institute. July 24, 2017. New Delhi, India

**Zavaleta, J. C.** Unpacking Women's Decision Process of Income Diversification in Rural India. International Symposium on Society and Resource Management. June 24, 2017. Umeå University, Sweden.

**Zavaleta, J. C.** Farmer's Decisions to Participate in Conservation Agriculture. Policy Sciences Annual Institute. October 26, 2016. Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA.

- Zavaleta, J. C.** Adaptation Through Diversification in Rain-fed Regions of India. International Symposium on Society and Natural Resources Management. June 25, 2015. Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI.
- Zavaleta, J. C.** Safety in Diversification (Climate Change Adaptation in India). Policy Sciences Annual Institute. November 13, 2015. World Bank, Washington DC.
- Zavaleta, J. C.** Lessons learned from working in a watershed in Chile. Water Symposium. February 6, 2015. University of Michigan, MI.
- Zavaleta, J. C.** and P. Donoso. Understanding values and adaptive co-management in Llancahue, a Valdivian watershed. Society of Policy Scientists Institute. September 27, 2014. Brown University, Providence, RI.
- Zavaleta, J. C.** P. Donoso, and C. Frene. Dimensiones humanas en la conservación de la selva Valdiviana: La cuenca Llancahue y su potencial y relevancia para estudios socioecológicos de largo plazo. November 5, 2013. Puerto Varas, Chile.
- Zavaleta, J. C.**, B. Grisham, C. Boal, and D. Haukos. Invertebrates of sand shinnery oak communities influence on lesser prairie-chicken brood survival. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. February 22, 2013. Houston, Texas, United States.
- Zavaleta, J. C.**, P. Maloney, and D. Haukos. Understanding the human component of conservation in the sand shinnery oak grasslands. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. February 22, 2013. Houston, Texas, United States.
- Zavaleta, J. C.** Five myths of landowners and conservation practices: a case study in shinnery oak communities Presented at the Policy Sciences Institute. October 18, 2012. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.
- Zavaleta, J. C.**, D. Haukos, and C. Boal. Prescribed grazing and herbicide as a tool for restoration of sand shinnery oak grasslands. Texas Tech Annual Biological Sciences Symposium. March 31, 2012. Lubbock, Texas, United States.
- Zavaleta, J. C.** Land Rights in Peru, Considering the Fate of Rural Women. The Policy Sciences Institute. October 14, 2011. New Haven, Connecticut, United States.
- Zavaleta, J. C.**, D. Haukos, and C. Boal. Community response to use of prescribed grazing and herbicide for restoration of sand shinnery oak grasslands. Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. February 22, 2012. Fort Worth, Texas, United States.