

Elizabeth M. August-Schmidt

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she/her/hers

DATA ANALYST • LABOR ORGANIZER • PLANT ECOLOGIST

Data savvy labor organizer and educator with a background in ecological restoration and plant community ecology. Creative and conscientious leader with experience developing organizing strategy, improving organizing efficiency through smart data analysis and communicating with the public. Qualifications include:

- Research and data analysis
- Excellent written and oral communication
- Public speaking
- Labor and community organizing
- Project management
- Personnel management

Computing Skills: SQL, Microsoft Access, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, JMP, R, MacOS, Windows

Languages: French (proficient in reading and speaking), Spanish (proficient in reading and speaking)

EXPERIENCE

Lead Data Organizer | Student Researchers United UAW

2020-present

Coordinated all research and data-related aspects of successful campaign to organize 17,000 student researchers across 10 campuses of the University of California and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab.

Built and improved internal data infrastructure to collect, store and distribute data to organizers and the California Public Employment Relations Board.

Designed and managed data system upgrade integrating organizing and reporting data flows for all UAW-represented units at UC, including Locals 2865 and 5810 and Student Researchers.

2019-2020

Data Analyst and Staff Organizer | UAW 2865

Wrote database queries to expedite data entry, facilitate on the ground organizing and analyze membership trends.

Oversaw large and small new employee orientations where ~60% become new union members.

Spearheaded data analysis, organizing, grievances and local legislative efforts to address the faulty rollout of the UC Path payroll system, ultimately changing the law to guarantee student workers the right to timely pay.

2017-2018

Lecturer | University of California, Santa Barbara

Environmental Studies & Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology Departments

Taught upper division *Foundations of Ecosystem Restoration* class.

Designed and delivered interactive lectures to 78 (2017) and 96 (2018) students.

Organized multiple guest lectures and a panel of five professionals in diverse careers related to ecological restoration.

Crafted assessments applying ecological theory to the practice of restoration.

2018

Organizer | UCSB Student-Workers Union, UAW 2865

Coordinated local communications on controversial labor issues.

Planned engagement events to win fair pay and protections against harassment.

Developed and implemented organizing strategy resulting in 14% growth in membership for two consecutive quarters.

Built organizational capacity by recruiting and training new volunteer organizers.

2011-2018

Researcher | D'Antonio Lab at University of California, Santa Barbara

Coordinated and led research teams to collect field data in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and conduct lab analyses on plant community composition, N-cycling, and recruitment.

Mentored 12 undergraduate students in ecology research, including following one project through to publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

2016-2017

Legislative Liaison | UCSB Graduate Student Association, Santa Barbara, CA

Researched state and federal legislation relevant to UC students and access to higher education. Lobbied in Sacramento for higher education funding and the ability for UC student research assistants to unionize as part of the University of California Student Association.

2012-2016

Teaching Assistant | University of California, Santa Barbara

Guided tours of active restoration sites on the UCSB campus and taught students to assess restoration success according to reference sites and project goals (2013, 2016).

Moderated discussions of scientific literature informing the management of California's wildlands and guided field trips to California's unique habitat types (2014).

Led field and laboratory identification of local birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals using their ecology and taxonomy (2012).

2006-2009

Strategist | Google, Mountain View, CA

Managed Google Checkout online help website and customer communications, including writing and editing help articles, streamlining user experience, integrating help content into the technical user interface, and coordinating a project across 3 international offices.

EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara

2011 - 2018

PhD in Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology

Dissertation: *Mechanisms of community assembly in a dry Hawaiian woodland*

Advisor: Professor Carla D'Antonio

2008-2010

Merritt College, Oakland

Certificate in Landscape Horticulture

1999-2003

University of California, Berkeley

BA in Linguistics and Honors in Celtic Studies

Distinction in General Scholarship (equivalent to *cum laude*)

GPA: 3.77

LEADERSHIP

Sergeant-at-Arms | UAW 2865 Executive Board

2018 – 2019

Coordinated statewide union representing 19,000 workers across 9 UC teaching campuses.

2016 – 2018

Member, Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women | UCSB

Researched university policy and resources available to graduate student parents.

Co-authored report outlining findings and recommending key changes to university policy.

2016 – 2018

Founding Member, Beyond Research Collective | EEMB Dept., UCSB

Organized fellow graduate students in the EEMB department to positively affect the challenging socio-political and environmental landscape by empowering and supporting career scientists.

2012 – 2015

Member, Graduate Student Advisory Committee | EEMB Dept., UCSB

Organized fellowship application and career development workshops for fellow graduate students.

PUBLICATIONS

3 publications, including 2 papers in peer reviewed journals, *Pacific Science* (first author) and *Plant Ecology*, and one co-authored book chapter in *Foundations of Restoration Ecology* 2nd ed.

TALKS

14 research presentations at national and international conferences including annual meetings of the Ecological Society of America (ESA), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) (Brazil), the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution (CSEE) (Canada), and the Hawaii Conservation Conference.

AWARDS

5 conference travel grants | CSEE (2018), SER and UCSB (2017), ESA and AGU (2016)

Graduate Research Fellowship | National Science Foundation (2013)

Graduate Fellowship | Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology Dept, UCSB (2011)

Research Experience for Undergraduates Fellowship (NSF) | Suding Lab, UC Berkeley (2010)