# **EMERSON AREHART**

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#### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Biology 2021

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Dissertation Title: Quantifying the Fitness Benefit of Learning

Advisor: Fred Adler

### B.A., Mathematics (minor in Journalism)

2008

University of Nevada, Reno, NV

#### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Postdoctoral Fellow 2022-Present

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

- Combining behavioral ecology and cognitive/social science approaches to understanding social behavior in humans and other organisms
- Applying collective behavior theory to the human dimensions of conservation

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

- 5. **Arehart, E.**; Reimer, J.R.; Adler, F.R. Strategy Sectors: Partitioning Environmental Parameter Space to Find Optimal Strategies. *In prep*<sup>†</sup>.
- 4. **Arehart, E.**; Adler, F.R. A Minimal Model of Learning. *In prep*<sup>†</sup>.
- 3. Meredith H.R., **Arehart, E\***, Grantz, K\*, ... Keegan, L.T. A coordinated strategy for a modeling-based decision support tool for COVID-19 in Utah, USA. *Emerging infectious diseases, 27(5)*.
- 2. **Arehart, E.**; Jin, Tangxin; Daniels, B.C. Locating decision-making circuits in a heterogeneous neural network. *Frontiers in Applied Mathematics and Statistics*; 09 May 2018
- 1. Kuzma, H. A.; **Arehart, E.**; Louie, J. N.; Witzleben, J. L. The ear, the eye, earthquakes and feature selection: listening to automatically generated seismic bulletins for clues to differentiating between true and false events. *European Geophysical Union General Assembly Reports*; April 2012

#### CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

**Arehart, E.** When does the ability to learn benefit foragers?

Invited Talk. Penn Symposium on Tools, Beliefs, and Behaviors, University of Pennsylvania May 2021

Arehart, E. Strategy Maps: How optimal foragers balance risk, reward, exploration, and learning

Invited Talk. MindCORE seminar series, University of Pennsylvania

December 2020

**Arehart, E**. Quantifying the fitness benefit of sensory learning as a function of environmental complexity. Winner of the Alfred J. Lotka Prize.

Poster. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY

August 2019

**Arehart, E.** and Dentinger, B. Genome Sequencing and Population Genetics of an endangered Chilean mushroom, *Boletus loyo* 

Poster. Environment & Sustainability Research Symposium, University of Utah

February 2019

Kuzma, H.A.; Arehart, E. Listening to Seismic Events: Is the ear easier to train than the eye?

Poster. Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Organisation Science and Technology Conference, Vienna, Austria

Jun

**June 2011** 

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates authors contributed equally; †Indicates manuscript available upon request

**Arehart, E.** Mutating Math: Approaches to developing effective tools for modeling and solving in complex systems.

Invited Talk. Department of Geophysics, UC Berkeley

May 2009

### **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- 2020 Mountaineer Fellowship for Graduate Research, University of Utah (\$14,000)
- 3i (Immunology, Inflammation, and Infectious Disease) Seed Grant, Graduate Research Assistant Enhancing Transmission Models of COVID-19 with New Data Sources (\$25,000)
- 2019 Alfred J. Lotka Prize for Best Theoretical Ecology Poster at Ecological Society of America conference
- 2018 Global Change and Sustainability Center Research Grant, Primary Investigator Conservation and Sustainability of Chile's Prized Wild Edible Mushroom, Boletus loyo, (\$3,000)
- 2016 Global Change and Sustainability Center Fellowship, University of Utah (\$21,000)
- 2003 Nevada Millennium Scholar full undergraduate scholarship, State of Nevada (\$32,000)

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2020	Teaching Assistant: Statistics for Biologists (Graduate Level), University of Utah (BIOL 6500)
Spring 2019	Teaching Assistant: Urban Ecology (Graduate Level), University of Utah (BIOL 5440/CMP 6610)
Fall 2018	Teaching Assistant: Entomology, University of Utah (BIOL 5445)
Fall 2017	Teaching Assistant: Mycology, University of Utah (BIOL 5425)
Fall 2017	Teaching Assistant: Mathematical Modeling for Biologists, University of Utah (BIOL 5910)

#### SELECT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Graduate Research Assistant**

2020

Project: Enhancing Transmission Models of COVID-19 with New Data Sources, 3i Seed Grant (L. Keegan, PI, University of Utah)

- Informed state policy as a member of Utah's COVID-19 modeling task force
- Using population genomic approaches to estimate cryptic transmission of COVID-19 in Utah

#### **Graduate Research Assistant**

2018-2021

Project: Salivary Protein Influence on Taste and Feeding, NIH Research Project Grant (A. M. Torregrossa, PI, SUNY Buffalo)

- Contributed to experimental design, performed power analyses, and grant writing
- Performed statistical analysis of data, extended results with mathematical models, and writing publication

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

2017

Project: How complex systems cope with noise: Balancing centralized and decentralized control, Army Research Office Grant (F. R. Adler, PI, University of Utah)

 Surveyed literature on the generative role of stochasticity in biological systems, and how biological systems cope with incomplete information in uncertain environments

Consulting 2010-2016

#### Self-employed, Reno, NV and Austin, TX

I developed and implemented creative solutions to complex technical and business problems. Select projects:

- Lab7.io: Designed interface and wrote documentation for genomics pipeline platform
- Genformatic LLC: Consulted on security algorithm design for transmitting confidential genomic data
- Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Organization: Developed a novel auditory interface for discerning

potential nuclear test events from earthquakes

#### **Content Writer**

## Impact Mill (formerly eEcosphere), Austin, TX

2016

• Wrote articles about complex environmental topics for a general audience

#### **Technical Writer**

Spredfast, Austin, TX 2014

• Streamlined existing content, generated new documentation and developed support strategy for merging software companies. Projects completed in ½ of allotted time.

#### **Data Scientist**

# BetaZi Predictive Analytics, Truckee, CA

2011-2012

• Designed front- and back-end data flow, data processing, and user interfaces for statistical analysis software

### Game Designer

### International Game Technology (IGT), Reno, NV

2008-2010

- Designed and calculated math for casino games
- Led a diverse team of 20+ artists and engineers to develop and deliver games in record time

#### ACADEMIC SERVICE AND OUTREACH

2019-2020	Chair of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee, School of Biological Sciences, University of
	Utah
2019	Graduate Student Representative for School of Biological Sciences to SACNAS (Society for the
	Advancement of Chicano and Native American Students) Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii
2018-2019	Graduate Student Invited Speaker Organizer, School of Biological Sciences, University of Utah
2018-2019	Graduate Student Admissions Committee, School of Biological Sciences, University of Utah
2017	STEM Ambassador, University of Utah
2017	8th Grade Science Fair Student Mentor, Salt Lake Center for Science Education
2017	Lead Instructor, Empowering Youth Through Stem Outreach, Glendale Public Library, Salt Lake
	City

#### FIELD EXPERIENCE

2019	Urban microbial survey (Stirling, Scotland)
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Funded by Diageo Corporation

Surveyed mold and bacterial growth near industrial facilities in an urban/suburban area

#### 2019 Loyo mushroom collecting expedition (Valdivia, Chile)

Funded by a Global Change and Sustainability Center Grant to E. Arehart, with additional support from the Natural History Museum of Utah

Collected specimens of a rare mushroom; used for first genome sequencing of the species, and data used to achieve IUCN Red List status for the species

### 2018 Collecting Expedition (Dja Preserve, Cameroon)

Funded by the University of Utah and Natural History Museum of Utah Collected specimens in remote areas of Congo Basin rainforest

#### 2017 Beekeeping Documentary (Camaguey, Cuba)

Funded by National Geographic – Young Explorer Grant to Adrian Curbelo Diaz Consulted on beekeeping techniques and honeybee biology for a documentary film crew

### 2006-2007 Wetland Restoration (Nevada)

Otis Bay Ecological Consultants

Led amphibian and plant surveys on public and private wetland restoration sites, including Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Soldier Meadows, and McCarran Ranch

#### SELECTED TRAINING

2020	Workshop: Adaptive Management Tutorial, National Institute for Mathematical and Biological
	Synthesis, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
2018	Workshop: Data-Driven Modeling of Collective Behavior, Mathematical Biosciences Institute,
	Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
2017	Workshop: Data-Driven Modeling of Collective Behavior and Emergent Phenomena in Biology,
	Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute, Durham, NC

### STUDENTS MENTORED

- Jake Baldauf (Brigham Young University, Summer 2020-Spring 2021) Undergraduate Research Assistant, COVID-19 genomic epidemiology
- Morgan Kelley (University of Utah, Summer 2020) Undergraduate Research Assistant, within-host viral selection
- Brendan Black (University of Utah, Fall 2018)
   Undergraduate Research Project, cooperation and conflict in hematopoietic stem cells