BRIELLE (KWARTA) THOMPSON

University of Missouri
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EDUCATION

PhD. **University of Washington**, Quantitative Ecology and Resource Management
September 2019- June 2024
Dissertation: *Quantitative Modeling Tools for Invasive Species Management Decisions*
Advisors: Dr. Sarah Converse, Dr. Julian Olden

B.A. **Houghton College**, Mathematics (Minors: Biology, Education)
September 2015- December 2018
Capstone: *Using p-adic numbers to understand DNA sequencing*
Science Honors Program, *summa cum laude*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Fellow, Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Missouri *[July 2024 – Present]*
Supervisors: Craig Paukert, Mike Colvin

- Using population models (e.g., occupancy models, integrated models) and decision analysis tools (e.g., Value of Information, adaptive management) to inform invasive Prussian carp management in the U.S.
- Working through Structured Decision Making (SDM) processes with decision makers on invasive carp management and coordinating management strategies across Canada and midwestern states
- Teaching workshops on conservation decision making to resource managers and university professionals

Graduate Research Assistant, Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Washington *[September 2019- June 2024]*
Supervisors: Sarah Converse, Julian Olden

- Published a review of mechanistic population models that can be applied to invasive species management
- Published a simulation study for invasive rusty crayfish spatial management in a riverine network
- Published and built a quantitative framework for adaptive management of an aquatic invasive species using forward simulation/ Management Strategy Evaluation that incorporated risk and community science
- Applied game theory to understand the effect of management cooperation between public and private natural resource managers on invasive species control

Science Undergraduate Laboratory Intern, Oak Ridge National Laboratory Environmental Sciences Division *[January 2019-August 2019]*
Supervisor: Christopher DeRolph

- Applied geospatial techniques to identify the most "natural" corridors between protected areas in eastern Tennessee using least cost path analysis

Summer Research Experience Intern, National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS), University of Tennessee *[May 2018-August 2018]*
Supervisors: Suzanne Lenhart, Charles Sims

- Published and built a discrete-time bioeconomic model for urban free-roaming cat management and implemented societal opinions on control strategies

Summer Research Experience Intern, Houghton College *[May 2017- August 2017]*
Supervisor: Jason Bintz

- Studied optimal resource allocation (carnivory versus photosynthetic features) of the northern pitcher plant using optimal control theory

PUBLICATIONS

Thompson BK, Converse SJ, Olden JD, Anderson CM (*in prep*). Contrasting multi-criteria decision analysis and game theory for informing invasive species management.

Thompson BK & Sipe HA (*in prep*) An overview of tools for analyzing and resolving conflict in conservation decision making

Thompson BK, Paukert C, Reynolds S, Colvin ME (*in prep*) Using structured decision making to operationalize early detection and rapid response plans for invasive species

Thompson BK, Paukert C, Reynolds S, Colvin ME (*in prep*) Invasion expansion estimation model to inform monitoring efforts for an emerging carp invasion

Olden, JD, Diallo JO, Fricke RM, Jameson E, Johnson RC, Stiling RR, **Thompson BK** (*in review*). Putting a bounty on species: Centuries of history reveal emerging truths about public harvest incentives

Thompson BK, Olden JD, Converse SJ (2025). Balancing monitoring and management in the adaptive management of an invasive species. Ecology and Evolution, 15(4). https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.71176

Thompson BK, Olden JD, Converse SJ (2024). Evaluating spatially explicit management alternatives for an invasive species in a riverine network. NeoBiota 96: 151-172**.** https://doi.org/10.3897/neobiota.96.132363

Thompson, B. K., Sims, C., Fisher, T., Brock, S., Dai, Y., & Lenhart, S. (2022). A discrete-time bioeconomic model of free-roaming cat management: A case study in Knox County, Tennessee. Ecological Economics, 201, 107583. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2022.107583

Thompson, B. K., Olden, J. D., & Converse, S. J. (2021). Mechanistic invasive species management models and their application in conservation. Conservation Science and Practice, 3(11), e533. https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.533

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences - Invited

Thompson, B.K, Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J (2025), Balancing monitoring and management in the adaptive management of invasive flowering rush. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Edmonton, AB

Thompson, B.K., Colvin, M, Paukert, C, Reynolds, S (2025), Developing a framework to inform early detection efforts of the next carp invasion in the Missouri River Basin. Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, St. Louis, MO

Thompson, B.K., Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J. (2022), Developing monitoring targets to better inform management of invasive rusty crayfish. Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting, Virtual

Conferences – Contributed

Thompson, B.K, Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J (2025), Evaluating the value of information gathered from Early Detection and Rapid Response plans for an emerging invasive species. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Edmonton, AB

Thompson, B.K., Colvin, M, Paukert, C, Reynolds, S (2025), Developing a framework to inform early detection efforts for the next carp invasion in the Missouri River Basin. Missouri River Natural Resources Committee Conference, Columbia, MO

Thompson, B.K., Colvin, M, Paukert, C, Reynolds, S (2025), Informing early detection efforts for the next carp invasion in the Missouri River Basin. Missouri Natural Resources Conference, Osage Beach, MO

Thompson, B.K, Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J. (2023), Prioritizing control and monitoring efforts in adaptive management of invasive species. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Louisville, KY

Thompson, B.K., Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J. (2023), Prioritization of management resources for invasive flowering rush adaptive management. Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Student Symposium, Seattle, WA

Thompson, B.K., Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J. (2023) Allocating control and monitoring efforts in adaptive management of invasive species. Ecological Society of America Conference, Portland, OR

Thompson, B.K., Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J, Theresa Thom. (2023) Developing monitoring targets to better

inform adaptive management of an aquatic invasive species. Science of the Service Conference: Pacific Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virtual

Thompson, B.K., Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J. (2022), Towards building a framework for adaptive management of an invasive species. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Spokane, WA

Thompson, B.K., Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J. (2022), A whole new ball game: using game theory for invasive species management problems. Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Student Symposium, Virtual.

Thompson, B.K., Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J. (2022), Building a framework for adaptive management of an invasive species. The International Statistical Ecology Conference, Virtual

Thompson, B.K., Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J. (2021), Breaking the status quo: building a dynamic framework for invasive species management. Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Student Symposium, Virtual

Thompson, B.K., Olden, J.D., Converse, S.J. (2020) Invasive species management: picking the right model for the occasion. Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Student Symposium, Virtual

Thompson, B.K., Sims, C., Fisher, T., Brock, S., Dai, Y., Lenhart, S. (2018), A bioeconomic model to manage free-roaming cats in Knox County, Tennessee, NIMBioS Conference, Knoxville, TN

Thompson, B.K., Reber, B. (2018), Using optimal control theory to determine nitrogen allocation in the northern pitcher plant, Mathematical Association of America Seaway Conference, Rochester, NY

Thompson, B.K., Reber, B. (2017), Using optimal control theory to determine nitrogen allocation in the northern pitcher plant, NIMBioS Conference, Knoxville, TN

Conferences – Poster

Thompson, B.K., Reber, B. (2018), Using optimal control theory to determine nitrogen allocation in the northern pitcher plant, Joint Math Meetings Conference, San Diego, CA

Seminars

Thompson, B.K. (2024), Evaluating spatially explicit management alternatives for an invasive species in a riverine network. USGS Invasive Species Community of Practice Seminar Series. Online.

Thompson, B.K. (2024), Using decision analysis tools to guide invasive species management decisions. Columbia Environmental Research Center (CERC), USGS. CERC Seminar Series. Columbia, MO

Thompson, B.K., (2021), Making smarter decisions: an adaptive management approach to rusty crayfish control. University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences Quantitative Seminar Series. Seattle, WA

Thompson, B.K., Derolph R.C. (2019), Using geospatial techniques to identify potential natural corridors in eastern Tennessee. Oak Ridge National Laboratory Student Internship Seminar Series, Oak Ridge, TN

Outreach Presentations

Thompson, B.K., Derolph R.C. (2019), Mapping Natural Corridors in East Tennessee to Evaluate the Regional Importance of the Oak Ridge Reservation. Oak Ridge National Laboratory Earth Day Symposium. Oak Ridge, TN

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching – University (Instructor of Record)

2025 **Institution:** University of Missouri
Course: Decision Analysis for Research and Management of Natural Resources
Class size: 15 students, graduate level
Website: https://briellekthompson.github.io/NATR_8001_DecisionAnalysis_Fall25_Mizzou/
Syllabus:
https://briellekthompson.github.io/NATR_8001_DecisionAnalysis_Fall25_Mizzou/syllabus/

Teacher's Assistant – University

2023 **Institution:** University of Washington
Course: Calculus Analysis for Biologists II
Class size: 100+ students, undergraduate level (non-major/major)
Role: Provided office hours, lectures on review material, graded all assignments

2018 **Institution:** Houghton College
Course: Biodiversity (several lectures involved discussions on genetic diversity)
Class size: 19 students, undergraduate level (major)
Role: Developed study guides, held office hours, graded quizzes

2018 **Institution:** Houghton College
Course: Math Explorations: Mathematics and Music
Class size: 24 students, undergraduate level (non-major)
Role: Developed study guides, held office hours, graded quizzes

2017 **Institution:** Houghton College
Course: Calculus for the Life Sciences
Class size: 25 students, undergraduate level (non-major)
Role: Held office hours, graded all assignments

2017 **Institution:** Houghton College
Course: Science Honors program
Role: Held office hours, created study guides,

2016-2018 **Institution:** Houghton College
Courses: Calculus I & Calculus II
Class size: 15-25 students, undergraduate level (major)
Role: Held office hours, guest lectures, lectures on review material, graded all assignments

Teacher's Assistant – Professional Courses

2022 & 2023 **Institution:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Course: An Overview of Structured Decision Making: A Primer on Value-Focused Thinking
Class size: 40+ state fish and wildlife professionals
Role: Facilitated exercises, provided code review

Workshop Instructor

2025 O'Donnel K, Elske L.K., Mistry, K, Crawford, B., **Thompson, B.K.** Fundamentals of Structured Decision Making. The Wildlife Society 2025 Workshop. Edmonton, AB, Canada.

2025 **Thompson, B.K**. An Overview of Structured Decision Making for Natural Resources. Missouri Natural Resources Conference 2025. Osage Beach, MO.
Website: https://briellekthompson.github.io/SDMworkshop_MNRC_2025/

2025 **Thompson, B.K**., Colvin, ME. An Overview of Structured Decision Making for Natural Resources. Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference 2025. St Louis, MO.
Website: https://briellekthompson.github.io/SDMworkshop_MidwestFW_2025/

2023 Runge, M.C., Converse S.J., Sells, S.N., **Thompson, B.K.** Fundamentals of Structured Decision Making. The Wildlife Society 2023 Workshop. Louisville, KY.

2021 **Thompson, B.K**., Bratt A.E., Rand, Z. Git and GitHub for the Scientific Programmer. Graduate Student Symposium 2021, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington. Seattle, WA. **Material**: https://github.com/briellekthompson/GSS-github-workshop

Decision Analysis Facilitation –

Thompson, B.K. & Aldridge C.A. (2025). Lower Mississippi River and Arkansas-Red-White Rivers Invasive Carp Partnership Meeting. Shreveport, LA.
Tool developed: https://brielle-kwarta.shinyapps.io/LMR_ARW_August2025_CarpApp/

Guest Lectures

Thompson, B.K. (2023). Towards building a framework for adaptive management of an invasive species. FISH 507: Introduction to Structured Decision Making. University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

Thompson, B.K., McGill, L., Henry, J., Lin, Y. (2022). Introduction to spatial data in R. QERM 597: Seminar in Quantitative Ecology. Quantitative Ecology & Resource Management, University of Washington. Seattle, WA. **Material**: https://github.com/briellekthompson/makingmaps_QERM597

Thompson, B.K., Miles, J., Best, B., Rand, Z (2021). An introduction to Bayesian methods for ecologists. QERM 597: Seminar in Quantitative Ecology. Quantitative Ecology & Resource Management, University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

Thompson, B.K., Best, B., Rand, Z (2020). Making your research collaborative: an introduction to Git and GitHub. QERM 597: Seminar in Quantitative Ecology. Quantitative Ecology & Resource Management, University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

Buonanduci, M., **Thompson, B.K.** (2020). Making maps: integrating geospatial tools in R. QERM 597: Seminar in Quantitative Ecology. Quantitative Ecology & Resource Management, University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025-Present	Reviewer for NeoBiota
2025-2026	The Wildlife Society Biometrics Working Group board member
2025	The 2025 Wildlife Society Annual Conference Symposium Organizer (Symposium title: Adaptive Management: Reducing Uncertainty in Wildlife and Natural Resources Decision Making)
2025	The 2025 Wildlife Society Annual Conference Ask a Decision Analyst event instructor
2025-Present	University of Missouri Postdoctoral Association, Professional Development Chair
2024-Present	Reviewer for Ecological Solutions and Evidence
2023-Present	Reviewer for the Journal of Applied Ecology
2020-Present	University of Washington Quantitative Ecology and Resource Management Peer Mentoring Group, co-founder and mentor (**total of 7 graduate mentees)**
2021-2022	University of Washington College of Environment Student Advisory Committee
2020-2023	University of Washington College of Environment Mentoring Program for Undergraduate Students, mentor (**total of 3 undergraduate mentees**)
2017-2018	NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, representative for Houghton College women's soccer program

*Professional membership: The Wildlife Society (including involvement with the Early Carrer Professional Working Group and Biometric Working Group), Ecological Society of America

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Software: Proficient in R, Rmarkdown, Git/GitHub, ArcGIS, LaTeX, and statistical packages such as JAGS and Nimble. Practiced in MATLAB, Python, Scala**,** STAN, TMB, and the optimization software CPLEX

Statistical Modeling: Experience with Bayesian methods for ecological applications

Professional Development

2025 *University of Missouri Teaching for Learning Center*, Discussion on The Norton Guide to Equity-Minded Teaching
2024 *University of Missouri Teaching for Learning Center,* Discussion on Teaching with AI
2024 *University of Missouri Office of Postdoctoral Education*, Mentoring Up training
2024 *University of Missouri Teaching for Learning Center*, Discussion on playing games and boosting active-learning
2023 Decision Analysis: Tools Course, National Conservation Training Center. Online

2022 Fundamentals of Structured Decision Making. The Wildlife Society 2022 Annual Conference. Spokane, Washington

2020 Adaptive Management Tutorial, National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis. Online

AWARDS

2025 Professional Development Grant – Early Career Professional Working Group (The Wildlife Society) **$500**

2024 Journal of Applied Ecology Early Career Reviewer Prize **$650**

2023 The Wildlife Society: Biometrics Working Group Travel Grant **$500**

2019- 2023 Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) National Fellowship **$17,500**

2019-2020 University of Washington College of Environment Provost's Excellence Graduate Fellow **$15,000**

2019 University of Washington Hall-Ammerer-WRF Endowed Fellowship Fund in Interdisciplinary Studies **$38,000**

2019 Department of Energy Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internship Ignite talk winner, Oak Ridge National Laboratory **$100**

SCIENCE OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEERING

2024-Present *STEM CUBS – University of Missouri*. Role: Volunteer for K-1st grade STEM teaching activities

2021-2024 *Students Explore Aquatic Science – University of Washington.* Roles: Student board member, classroom lesson developer, community event volunteer, annual open house volunteer and organizer

2022 *National Ocean Sciences Bowl – Washington Sea Grant*. Roles: Competition official

2019 *NIMBioS Middle School STEM Camp for Girls – University of Tennessee*. Role: Counselor

2019 *YWCA and YMCA – Knoxville, TN*. Role: STEM tutor

2018 *Center for Sustainability Student Coordinator – Houghton College*. Roles: Educated students about wildlife and other biodiversity issues. Created data visualizations and worked on issues related to waste reduction, energy usage, recycling, and composting.

2016-2018 *Houghton Academy International High School – Houghton, NY.* Role: STEM tutor and English as a second language (ESL) tutor

2016 *YMCA Camp Arrowhead – Pittsford, NY*. Role: STEM camp counselor and middle school lesson development lead

REFERENCES

Dr. Craig Paukert, U.S. Geological Survey, Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Unit Leader. University of Missouri, Columbia, MIssouri, Email: paukertc@missouri.edu, Relation: Postdoctoral advisor (2024-Present) **Current supervisor*

Dr. Sarah J. Converse, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Unit Leader. University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. Email: sconver@uw.edu, Relation: PhD advisor (2019-2024)

Dr. Suzanne Lenhart, Department of Mathematics, Professor. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee. Email: slenhart@tennessee.edu, Relation: Research advisor at the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis undergraduate summer internship (2018)

Dr. Julian D. Olden, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Professor. University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. Email: olden@uw.edu, Relation: PhD advisor (2019-2024)