

Dept. of Evolution and Ecology | University of California, Davis | 1 Shields Avenue | Davis, CA 95616  
Phone: (530) 752-9768 | E-Mail: [esuglia@ucdavis.edu](mailto:esuglia@ucdavis.edu) | Website: [elenasuglia.com](http://elenasuglia.com) | Blog:  
[esuglia.wordpress.com](http://esuglia.wordpress.com)

## Education

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September 2017 - Present	<b>University of California, Davis</b> Ph.D. student, Population Biology Graduate Group
2015	<b>Brown University</b> B.A. Biology, 3.88 GPA Honors Thesis: <i>Does Sea Level Rise and Die-off Synergistically Kill Salt Marshes?</i>

## Publications

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Bertness, M.D., Brisson, C.P., Coverdale, T.C., Bevil, M.C., Crotty, S.M., and **E.R. Suglia**. 2014. Experimental predator removal causes rapid salt marsh die-off. *Ecology Letters* doi: 10.1111/ele.12287.

Yajima, M., **Suglia, E.R.**, Gustafson, E.A., and G.M. Wessel. 2013. Meiotic gene expression initiates during larval development in the sea urchin. *Developmental Dynamics* 242(2):155-63.

## Research Experience

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**PhD Student, Gremer Laboratory, University of California, Davis** **2017-present**

Performed field work at Lassen Volcanic National Park testing hypotheses relating to the effects of snowmelt timing on phenology and gene flow in several populations of the plant *Streptanthus tortuosus*. Measured phenological stage, fecundity, and relative growth rate across several populations

**Research Assistant, Schmitt Laboratory, University of California, Davis** **2016-2017**

Studied life history variation and local adaptation in the plant *Streptanthus tortuosus* across elevational and latitudinal gradients in the context of its potential ability to adapt to climate change. Measured plant abundance, metrics of size and life stage, and phenological stages in the field and greenhouse. Supervisor: Dr. Johanna Schmitt

**Research Assistant, Winfree Laboratory, Rutgers University** **2015**

Conducted field work determining the effectiveness of pollinator habitat restoration strategies on native bees. Identified New Jersey bees and plants to species and curated insect and plant collections. Measured floral morphological traits to quantify trait matching among bees and plants. Supervisor: Michael Roswell

**Research Assistant, Bertness Laboratory, Brown University** **2013- 2015**

Performed field experiments in Cape Cod salt marshes demonstrating that recreational overfishing triggers a trophic cascade that leads to salt marsh die-off. Supervisor: Dr. Mark Bertness

**Research Assistant, Wessel Laboratory, Brown University**

**2012**

Studied expression of meiotic genes and proteins during echinoderm embryogenesis and gametogenesis. Designed and performed independent study researching possible splicing event in echinoderm meiotic gene *dmc1*. Supervisor: Dr. Mamiko Yajima

## **Presentations**

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*Experimental predator removal causes rapid salt marsh die-off.* **E. Suglia**, M. Bertness, C. Brisson, T. Coverdale, M. Bevil, and S. Crotty. 2015 Benthics Ecology Meeting, Quebec City, Canada (Talk).

*Expression of Meiotic Genes and Proteins During Echinoderm Embryogenesis and Gametogenesis.* **E. Suglia**, M. Yajima, E. Gustafson, and G. Wessel. 2012 Rhode Island SURF Conference, Kingston, RI (Poster).

## **Academic Honors and Awards**

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2015 Honors in Biology, Brown University

2015 Dean Marjorie Thompson Senior Prize in Biology, Brown University

*For being an outstanding student and student-educator in biology as well as being highly accomplished in a second academic discipline*

2015 Sigma XI Scientific Research Honor Society

2014 USA Rugby All-Academic

## **Funding**

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Sharon Gray Memorial Award to fund mentorship and professional development activities (\$1000) **2017-2018**

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Award (\$138,000) **2017**

Voss Environmental Fellow (\$3500) **2014-2015**

National Association of Science Writers Travel Fellowship to attend the annual AAAS meeting (\$1500) **2015**

Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award, Brown University (\$3500) **2013**

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship for Rhode Island NSF EPSCoR (\$4200) **2012**

## **Teaching**

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Teaching Assistant, Principles of Ecology, Brown University **2014-2015**

Teaching Assistant, Statistical Analysis of Biological Data, Brown University **2015**

Teaching Assistant, Engaged Environmental Scholarship and Communication, Brown University **2015**

Teaching Assistant, Coastal Ecology and Conservation, Brown University **2015**

Democracy Coach, Generation Citizen **2012**

## **Outreach and Service**

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Volunteer, [STEM Squad](#)

Designed, organized, and led hands-on STEM activities for the pilot year of after-school clubs at Winters Middle School and Holy Rosary Catholic School (UC Davis, 2017-present)

Outreach Committee Member, Equity in STEM and Entrepreneurship ([ESTEME](#)) (UC Davis, 2017-present)

Steering Committee Member, Graduate Diversity Orientation Program Extension (UC Davis, 2018-present)  
Administrator, Women in Life Sciences at Davis (UC Davis, 2018-present)  
Member, Population Biology Graduate Group Diversity Committee (UC Davis, 2018-present)  
Reviewer for textbook *Marine Community Ecology and Conservation*, ed. 2

## Mentoring

Mentees: Vanessa Bassinello, Helena Bayat, Lahari Indraganti, Gautum Mathur, Joaquin Meckler-Pacheco, Ryan Moore, Lauren Okafor, Noah Rosenberg, John Schroder

Mentored 9 undergraduates (UC Davis, 2016-present)

Summer research mentor for Evolution and Ecology Graduate Admissions Pathway program (LO), 2018  
Sharon Gray Memorial Award Mentor for LI. Accompanied mentee to California Native Plant Society 2018 Conservation Conference and Jepson Herbarium Introduction to Lichens Workshop  
Research Mentor for HB, JM, LI. Assisted with project design, analytical approach, and poster presentation (HB, JM); guided literature review, held weekly check-ins, oversaw research activities (HB, LI)  
Aided in applications for jobs and fellowships, navigating degree and GPA, cover letter and resume writing (HB, JM); provided professional development advice and resources (HB, LI, JM, RM)  
Held a cover letter and resume writing workshop  
Led scientific paper discussion group for three quarters  
Designed and taught introductory R programming workshops for one quarter

## Professional membership

Ecological Society of America (Science Communication Section, Western Chapter, Plant Population Ecology Section)  
California Native Plant Society (Shasta Chapter, Mount Lassen Chapter)  
Davis Botanical Society (Center for Plant Diversity, University of California, Davis)  
Society for the Study of Evolution  
Friends of the Jepson Herbarium  
Society for Herbarium Curators  
National Association of Science Writers

## Science communication

2017 Attended Science Communication Workshop Series hosted by Scholars Promoting Education Awareness and Knowledge (SPEAK) (UC Davis, 2017-present)  
2015 Lead public **Pollinator Walks** in central New Jersey discussing native bee diversity and conservation  
2015 **Science Communication Colloquium**, Brown University  
Organized, funded, marketed, and oversaw three days of events for the Brown community and the public with invited guest Dr. Peter Kareiva speaking about the importance of communicating science effectively  
2014 Published a **This I Believe** essay on Rhode Island National Public Radio: [Salt Marshes](#)  
2012 Created **blog** [asteriasforbesi.blogspot.com](http://asteriasforbesi.blogspot.com) to document observations and experiments on sea star wasting disease

**Science writing | Portfolio:** <https://elenasuglia.journoportfolio.com>

Contributing writer, Massive Science Consortium (2018-present)

Contributing writer and editor, Friends of Joe's Big Idea, Science Communication Group (FOJBI) (UC Davis Chapter, 2017-present)

Suglia, Elena. "The Buzz on Bee Research at Fairview Farm." Raritan Headwaters Association Newsletter. 29 October 2015. [link](#)

Suglia, Elena. "Tardigrades: The tiny superheroes that have been to space." Public Radio Exchange. 7 May 2015. [link](#)

Suglia, Elena. "Robots may soon swarm the ocean floor searching for resources." National Association of Science Writers. 18 February 2015. [link](#)

Suglia, Elena. "Accidental greatness: How some of the world's most famous discoveries started with mistakes." The College Hill Independent. 14 November 2014. [link](#)

Suglia, Elena. "Long time, no see: Insect antiquity and small body size contribute to insect diversity." Brown University Catalyst Magazine, Fall 2014 edition.

Suglia, Elena and Sinead Crotty. "Salt Marsh Die-off: Causes and Consequences." Association of Massachusetts Wetlands Scientists Newsletter. July 2014.

Suglia, Elena. "How do you teach a melting pot? Blend it up." Brown University Behind the Science Newsletter. April 15, 2014. [link](#)

Suglia, Elena, Sinead Crotty and Steven Hagerty. "Salt Marsh Die-off." Wikipedia.com. July 2014. [link](#)

Suglia, Elena. "For the sake of science." Brown Daily Herald. 23 February 2015. [link](#)

## **Professional Development**

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### **Strengths Based Leadership Training** (UC Davis, 2018)

Five-week series for applying leadership skills to diversity and inclusion

Completed Gallup's Clifton StrengthsFinder and Myers-Briggs personality types test

Led by UC Davis STEM Graduate Diversity Officer, Steve Lee

Introduction to R in GIS Workshop (UC Davis Data Science Initiative, 2017)

### **Skills**

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**Software:** R (intermediate). JMP, MySQL, G\*Power, Audacity, ImageJ, Microsoft Office (proficient).  
Unix, Estimate S, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Acrobat (basic).

**Laboratory:** Experience with in situ hybridization, immunofluorescence, pGEM-T Easy Vector bacterial transformation, DNA sequencing preparation and interpretation, PCR, gel electrophoresis.

## Professional References

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**Dr. Jennifer Gremer**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Evolution and Ecology  
University of California, Davis  
+1 (530) 752 1888  
[jrgremer@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jrgremer@ucdavis.edu)

**Dr. Johanna Schmitt**

Distinguished Professor  
Department of Evolution and Ecology  
University of California, Davis  
+1 (530) 752 2992  
[jschmitt@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jschmitt@ucdavis.edu)

**Dr. Rachael Winfree**

Associate Professor  
Dept. of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources  
Rutgers University  
+1 (848) 932 8315  
[rwinfree@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:rwinfree@rci.rutgers.edu)

**Dr. Mark Bertness**

Robert P. Brown Professor of Biology  
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Brown University  
+1 (401) 863 2916  
[mark\\_bertness@brown.edu](mailto:mark_bertness@brown.edu)