

Prof. Dr. Damaris Zurell

Personal Details

Address University of Potsdam
Inst. for Biochemistry and Biology
Ecology/Macroecology
Am Neuen Palais 10
14469 Potsdam, Germany

Phone +49 331 977 191002

Email damaris.zurell@uni-potsdam.de

Web <https://damariszurell.github.io>
[Google Scholar Profile](#)
Web of Science ResearcherID: **E-2439-2012**



Research Interests

I am a macroecologist and ecological modeller with a broad interest in spatiotemporal biodiversity dynamics and the cross-scale processes driving these. My research is generally guided by ecological and biodiversity theory and integrates advanced statistical and mechanistic modelling approaches with empirical data. In particular, my research aims at (i) detecting biodiversity changes and attributing these to anthropogenic and natural drivers at different spatial and temporal scales, and (ii) improving quantitative predictions of potential future biodiversity dynamics. Model development, data integration and process understanding are integral parts of my work and I have gained high international visibility as expert for statistical and mechanistic biodiversity modelling and for establishing new modelling and reporting standards in global change ecology and macroecology. I provide various services to the research community, for example serving as Deputy Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Biogeography and in several national as well as international expert panels. Throughout my career, I have gained substantial research funding and highly competitive grants from national and international funding bodies (grants as main applicant EUR >2.2 Mio, total grants EUR >6 Mio).

Academic Degrees

PhD 2011. Geoecology, University of Potsdam, Germany. *Integrating dynamic and statistical modelling approaches in order to improve predictions for scenarios of environmental change.* Graduated with *summa cum laude*. Advisors: Prof. Dr. Boris Schröder, Prof. Dr. Volker Grimm.

Diplom 2007. Geoecology, University of Potsdam, Germany. *Can static models depict dynamic populations? A virtual ecologist investigates.* Graduated with distinction. Grade 1.0. Advisors: Prof. Dr. Boris Schröder, Prof. Dr. Florian Jeltsch.

Professional Experience

Since 2020 W2 Professor (tenure track) for Ecology & Macroecology, University of Potsdam, Germany

2018 - 2020 Emmy Noether research group leader on biodiversity modelling, Geography Dept., Humboldt-Univ. Berlin, Germany

2016 - 2018	SNF Ambizione Fellow, Dynamic Macroecology, Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Switzerland
2014 - 2016	EU-FP7 Marie Curie Intra-European Fellow, Dynamic Macroecology, Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Switzerland
2012 - 2013	Maternal leave (6 months)
2011 - 2014	Postdoctoral fellow, Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation, Univ. Potsdam, Germany (60% FTE, 22 months; 40% FTE, 8 months)
2011	Graduate assistant, Environmental Modelling group, Univ. Potsdam, Germany
2010	Maternal leave (6 months)
2007 - 2010	Graduate assistant, Dept. Ecological Modelling, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research UFZ, Leipzig, Germany

Honours and Awards

2012	Junior Scientist publication award by Leibniz-Kolleg Potsdam, Germany.
2008	Junior Scientist Award by the Federal State of Brandenburg, Germany, Category Graduates.
2008	Jacob-Jacobi Award by the Faculty of Science, Univ. Potsdam, Germany.
2007	Diplom/Master Award by the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (GfÖ).

Community Services (selected)

Since 2022	Member of the Steering Board of the University Research Focus Area "Data centric sciences", University of Potsdam; Member of the Doctoral Committee and the Habilitation Committee of the Faculty of Science, University of Potsdam
Since 2022	Expert panel "Wolve population viability", science-policy working group Leibniz-Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) and Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)
Since 2021	Deputy editor-in-chief for Journal of Biogeography (IF 4.810)
Since 2021	Expert panel "Abiotic effects on biodiversity", National Monitoring Centre Biodiversity, Germany
Since 2017	Commission member of IUCN SSC Climate Change Specialist Group (CCSG)
Since 2016	Subject Editor for Ecography (2019-2022), Oikos (2018-2021), Diversity and Distributions (2016-2019); Guest Editor for Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B (2022-2023), Journal of Biogeography (2018-2019); Recommender for Peer Community in Ecology (since 2018)

Funding Activities (selected)

2023-2026	NichePac. DFG Individual Project Grant. <i>Invaders on the move – niche and spread dynamics of introduced alien plants in the Pacific</i> . Main applicant.
-----------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

- 2023-2026 BirdWatch. HORIZON-EUSPA-2021-SPACE. *A Copernicus-based service for the improvement of habitat suitability of farmland birds via satellite-enabled monitoring, evaluation and optimisation of CAP greening measures.* Co-applicant.
- 2018-2023 BIOPIC. DFG Emmy Noether project. *Disentangling the effects of demography, dispersal and biotic interactions on population and community response to global change.* Main applicant.
- 2016-2019 SCODA. SNF Ambizione project. *Scaling from individual interactions to community dynamics in avian assemblages.* Main applicant.
- 2014-2016 MATES. EU-FP7 Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship. *Understanding and predicting multispecies assemblages and interactions in space and time.* Main applicant.