

# SEIRA ASHLEY ADAMS

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## EDUCATION

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### University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. Candidate in Environmental Science, Policy & Management

Advisor: Rosemary Gillespie

Dissertation Committee: Neil Tsutsui, Noah Whiteman, Gabriele Uhl

Qualifying Committee: Neil Tsutsui, Damian Elias, Erica Bree Rosenblum, Eileen Lacey

Berkeley, CA  
2013 – present

### Brown University

B.A. in Biology & Visual Arts

Honors in Biology

Advisors: Douglass Morse & Jonathan Waage

Honors thesis: "Multiple female mate choice of a parasitoid wasp, *Alabagrus texanus*"

Providence, RI  
2008 – 2012

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Graduate Student Researcher | UC Berkeley

Advisor: Rosemary Gillespie

I am studying the interplay between natural selection, sexual selection, and chemical ecology using the species rich lineage of Hawaiian *Tetragnatha* spiders.

2013 – present

### Graduate Student Coordinator | UC Berkeley

As the liaison between the department and the graduate students, I designed and coordinated educational/professional workshops, created biweekly departmental newsletters, and organized departmental functions to discuss changes to the graduate program.

2014 – 2015

### Research Assistant | UC Davis

I conducted a series of experiments on crickets to obtain mate preference, boldness, and reproductive status measurements to study the complexities of variable involved in female mate choice.

2012 – 2013

### Undergraduate Student Researcher | Brown University

I studied the mating behavior of a female parasitoid wasp, *Alabagrus texanus*, by tethering virgin females and presenting them to the males in the field to measure the variables involved in mate choice decisions.

2010 – 2012

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Berkeley Connect Fellow | UC Berkeley** 2018 – present  
As a selected Berkeley Connect Fellow, I will be leading and mentoring a class of undergraduate students in the College of Natural Resources.
- Insect Behavior | UC Berkeley** Fall, 2017  
I was the sole graduate student instructor (GSI) for the Insect Behavior course taught by Prof. Neil Tsutsui. I led discussion sessions, graded homework and exams, and held office hours to help students learn the material taught in the course.
- General Entomology | UC Berkeley** Fall, 2015  
I was the sole GSI for the General Entomology course taught by Prof. Patrick O'Grady. I lead the lab section of the course, holding a lecture at the beginning of every lab section covering the different important taxonomic and behavioral features of a particular group of insects. At the end of the semester, I helped grade the insect collections students put together during the lab section.

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

\* indicates grants received for undergraduate research

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- NSF Graduate Researcher Fellowship** 2015 – present  
National Science Foundation – awarded fellowship funding for dissertation research.
- Sponsored Projects for Undergrad Research** 2015 – present  
UC Berkeley, ESPM – awarded funding to mentor and conduct research with multiple undergraduate research assistants each semester.
- \* L&S Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship** 2017  
UC Berkeley, Integrative Biology – obtained funding with an undergraduate student to conduct independent summer research for a senior thesis project.
- \* SPUR Undergraduate Summer Grant** 2016 – 2018  
UC Berkeley, College of Natural Resources – obtained funding with six different undergraduate students to conduct independent summer research.
- Organisms and Environment Awards** 2016 – 2017  
UC Berkeley, ESPM – awarded funding to conduct dissertation research.
- ESPM Travel Grant** 2016  
UC Berkeley, ESPM – awarded funding to attend the International Congress of Arachnology conference in Golden, Colorado.
- Pre-Dissertation Research Grant** 2016  
UC Berkeley, Institute of International Studies – awarded funding to travel and conduct research in the Ogasawara Archipelago collaborating with Prof. Chiba Satoshi from Tohoku University.

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS (CONT.)

\* indicates grants received for undergraduate research

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<b>Vincent Roth Fund for Systematic Research</b> American Arachnology Society – awarded funding to travel and conduct research in the Ogasawasa Archipelago.	2016
<b>Portuguese Studies Research Award</b> UC Berkeley, Institute of European Studies – awarded funding for dissertation research.	2016
<b>Greifswald-Berkeley Grant</b> UC Berkeley, Institute of European Studies – awarded funding to travel to Germany to conduct research and collaborate with Prof. Gabriele Uhl from Greifswald University.	2016
<b>Mildred E. Mathias Student Research Grant</b> UC Berkeley, UC Natural Reserve System – awarded funding to conduct research in the California UC reserves.	2015
<b>SysEB Student Research Travel Award</b> Entomological Society of America – awarded funding to conduct summer research in Hawaii.	2015
<b>Margaret C. Walker Fund</b> UC Berkeley, Essig Museum – awarded funding to conduct dissertation research.	2014 – 2018
<b>ESPM Summer Grant</b> UC Berkeley, ESPM – awarded funding to conduct summer research in Hawaii.	2014
<b>Philip Spieth Travel Award</b> UC Berkeley, ESPM – awarded funding to attend the Island Biology Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.	2014
<b>ESPM Departmental Fellowship</b> UC Berkeley, Dept. of ESPM – awarded fellowship for the first year of graduate school.	2013 – 2015

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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**Adams S.A** & Morse D.H. (2014). Condition-dependent mate choice of a parasitoid wasp in the field. *Animal Behaviour* 88: 225-232.

## SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

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**Adams S.A**, Uhl G, and Gillespie R. July 4, 2016. Chemical recognition in a *Tetragnatha* spider. International Congress of Arachnology Conference. (oral)

## SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS (CONT.)

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**Adams S.A** & Morse D.H. May 1, 2012. Multiple female mate choice of a parasitoid wasp, *Alabagrus texanus*. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Seminar, Brown University. (oral)

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

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- Everything Matters: Copper | Exploratorium** May 17, 2018  
San Francisco, CA  
Invited speaker for the Exploratorium's "Everything Matters" series of public educational talks. The topic was about copper and spiders.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBJTzBDjm24&t=786s>
- After Dark: Animal Appetite | Exploratorium** Nov 9, 2017  
San Francisco, CA  
Interacted with the public and talked about the research conducted in the lab that fit along the themes of spider appetite.
- Nightlife: Creatures | California Academy of Sciences** Oct 26, 2017  
San Francisco, CA  
Interacted with the public and talked about the research conducted in the lab and other interesting arachnid facts.
- Island Evolution Lecture | Ueno Zoo** Nov 3, 2016  
Tokyo, Japan  
Translated in real-time Japanese Prof. Rosemary Gillespie's lecture on islands and evolution in front of the public.
- Ogasawara Evolution Lecture | Ogasawara** Nov, 2016  
Ogasawara, Japan  
Translated in real-time Japanese Prof. Rosemary Gillespie's lecture on islands and evolution as part of the 5-year anniversary celebration of Ogasawara Islands' selection as a World Heritage Site. We gave multiple lectures to the public in Hahajima and Chichijima island, as well as at the Hahajima Elementary School.
- Entomology Student Organization | UC Berkeley** 2014–2015  
Berkeley, CA  
As the Co-President of the graduate student run Entomology Student Organization, I create and organize public outreach events to educate the public about Entomology and general biology through the research of UC Berkeley graduate students.
- International Exchange | UC Berkeley** 2013 – present  
Berkeley, CA  
Collaborating with educators from the Wakase Senior High School in Japan, I coordinate student exchange programs for STEM students of the Wakase high school to visit the UC Berkeley campus and learn more about undergraduate and graduate research in the US.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH (CONT.)

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### Science Fellows | Brown University

2011 – 2012

Providence, RI

Collaborating with fellow Brown University students and Prof. Jon Witman, we created educational Ecology teaching videos using handcrafted animation for an undergraduate-level course.

### Science Center Graphics & Events Coordinator | Brown University

2010 – 2012

Providence, RI

I designed, created, and managed all outreach and educational graphic materials, as well as coordinated science outreach events for the students and the public.

### Scientific Illustrator | Brown University

2010 – present

Providence, RI

Private commission to create scientific illustrations for publications such as a top-down predatory cascade for a marshland ecosystem, new fisheries methods, and detailed drawings for organism IDs.

## MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

+ indicates student conducted independent research

= indicates student continued in graduate research or professional school

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### Research Mentorship | UC Berkeley

Riley Kahan (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology)

Summer 2018 – present

Wesley Booth (Chemical Engineering)

Spring 2018 – present

Jarad Gonzales (Chemical Engineering)

Spring 2018 – present

Kate Miller (Molecular Cell Biology & Statistics)

Spring 2018 – present

Jasper Murphy (Integrative Biology)

Spring 2018 – present

Pauline Ni (Molecular Cell Biology)

Spring 2018 – present

Monica Oh (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology)

Spring 2018 – present

Angelica Raymundo (Molecular Cell Biology)

Spring 2018 – present

Macy Chang (CNR, Environmental Sciences)

Fall 2017 – present

Frank Lee (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology & Chemical Biology)

Fall 2017 – present

Tyler Moy (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology)

Fall 2017 – present

Angelica Santos (CNR, Environmental Science)

Fall 2017 – present

Grace Perry (CNR, Genetics and Plant Biology)

Summer 2017 – present

+Monica Wilkinson (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology)

Summer 2017 – present

Cindy Chan (Chemistry)

Spring 2017 – Fall 2017

Matthew Swann (Molecular Cell Biology)

Spring 2017 – Fall 2017

+Gregg Stephenson (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology)

Fall 2016 – Summer 2017

Calvin Huang (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology)

Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

Khamillah Zimmer (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology)

Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

+Cory Berger (Integrative Biology)

Spring 2016 – present

Lloyd Tripp (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology)

Spring 2016 – Fall 2016

+Anna Wood (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology)

Spring 2016 – Spring 2018

+Shuanger Li (CNR, Environmental Sciences)

Fall 2015 – present

+Evan Ho (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology)

Fall 2015 – Spring 2017

Jacqueline Li (Integrative Biology)

Fall 2015 – Spring 2017

Cielle McKaveney (Integrative Biology)

Fall 2015 – Spring 2017

## MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

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+Zheyuan Xu (CNR, Molecular Environmental Biology)

Fall 2015 – Spring 2017

+Rong Xu (CNR, Environmental Sciences)

Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

## ART SHOWS

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### **Tama-shi | Brown University**

2012

A mixed media senior art show combining photography and sculpture, exploring my roots as a half Japanese, half American individual.

### **上を向いて歩こう | Brown University**

2011

A photography-based art show with elements of sculpture work mixed in, exploring the varying emotions and childhood memories evoked by the diverse nature and elements of the sky. The title reads “ue wo muite arukou” which means “walk with my head up” which is the title of the famous Japanese song known as “Sukiyaki” in the US by singer Kyu Sakamoto first released in 1961.