

NINA M. FONTANA

TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE • ECO-CULTURAL RESTORATION

Graduate Group in Ecology, University of California Davis, Davis CA 95616
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EDUCATION

University of California, Davis

Ph.D. Candidate in Ecology

M.S. in Ecology

Davis, CA

2014 - Present

2017

University of Maryland College Park

B.A. Biological Anthropology, *Magna Cum Laude*

B.A. Studio Art, *Magna Cum Laude*

College Park, MD

2007

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of California, Ph.D. Research

Carpathian Mountains, *Ukraine*, Principle Investigator: Nina Fontana

2017-Present

- "Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Ethnoecosystems in the Carpathian Mountains"

University of California, M.S. Research

Agricultural Sustainability Institute University of California Davis, *Davis, CA*

2016-Present

Principle Investigator: Sonja Brodt

- "The Potential of Agroforestry as a Pathway to Sustainability in California Agriculture"

Department of Entomology, University of California Davis, *Davis, CA*

Summer 2015

Principal Investigator: James R. Carey, Funding granted through National Institute of Aging

- "Dynamics of Aging and Health in Wild *Drosophila* Populations"

University of Maryland, Undergraduate Research Assistant

2005-2006

Genomic Models Research Group, College Park, MD

Director: Fatimah Jackson, Professor of Applied Biological Anthropology

- Analyzed blood samples for genetic patterning • Organized African mtDNA sequence database with linguistic groups and geographic locations • Analyzed underlying patterns of genetic variation to illuminate biological lineage in contemporary populations

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Davis

Teaching Assistant Consultant Fellow, *Davis, CA*

Present

- Work closely with graduate student instructors to strengthen teaching practices through workshops and one-on-one consultations

Career Discovery Group Fellow, *Davis CA*

2018-Present

- Mentor, advise and provide freshmen an opportunity to explore career possibilities and make academic choices for future success (Fall, Winter quarters)

Teaching Assistant, *Davis, CA*

2014-2018

- Courses: Principles of Ecology and Evolution (lab), Mushrooms, Mold and Society, Global Climate Change

Academy of the Holy Cross, High School Educator, Kensington, MD 2009-2014

- Courses: Biology (9th Grade), Anatomy & Physiology (11th-12th grade), Theory of Knowledge (International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidates- 11th-12th graders), and Art Fundamentals
- **Chair of Visual Arts Committee:** oversaw school re-accreditation done by Middle States Commission on Higher Education (2012-2014)
 - ❖ Steering meetings, discussions and surveys based on self-assessment of the Visual Arts component of the education program
- **Faculty Mentor of Environmental Club:** Participating yearly in Chesapeake Bay Foundation Multi-Day Residential Field Programs

WorldTeach: Harvard Center for International Development 2008-2009
Educator, Cili, Hunan, China

- 10 month teaching position in Cili #1 High School • Taught conversational English to 14 multi-leveled classes of ~80 students • Established the **first English Club & PenPal Club**

LANGUAGES

Ukrainian • Native Conversational Fluency & Literacy
Hutsul (indigenous) • Advanced Conversational Fluency
Italian • Minimally Conversant & Moderately Literate
Mandarin • Minimally Conversant in Mandarin

PUBLICATIONS

N.M. Fontana and O.Pohribniy. 2019. Threats, Tensions and Logging in Carpathian National Parks. [In prep.]

Brodt, S.B., **N.M. Fontana** & L. Archer. 2019. Feasibility and Sustainability of Agroforestry in Temperate Industrialized Agriculture: Preliminary Insights from California. *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Q. Zhang, A. Schmidli, C. Spyrou & **N.M. Fontana**. 2016. Sustainable meals at all-you-can-eat dining halls? ETH Zurich World Food System Center Blog. Available [online](#).

PRESENTATIONS

CONTRIBUTED

- 2019 Presenter: Kerr, A.; Poster: S. Brodt, **N. Fontana**, L. Archer, and A. Gaudin. "Diversifying orchards and vineyards in intensive Mediterranean agriculture: California's Central Valley as a case study." 4th World Congress on Agroforestry, Montpellier, France, 21 May 2019.
- 2017 Presenter: S. Brodt; Presentation Prep: **N. Fontana**. "The Potential of Agroforestry as a Pathway to Sustainability in California Agriculture." *North American Agroforestry Conference*. Virginia Tech University. Blacksburg, Virginia.

INVITED

- 2019 Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Ethnoecosystems in the Carpathian Mountains: Roots and Future Implications. *University of California, Berkeley. Conference: Understanding the Countryside: Rural Europe in a Post-Global World*. Berkeley, California.
- 2019 Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Ethnoecosystems in the Carpathian Mountains. *Conference: The Future of Forests: Perspectives from Indigenous People, Traditional Practices and Conservation*. *Society of Economic Botany*. Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2018 [Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the Carpathian Mountains: Roots, Threats and Future Implications](#). Fulbright Ukraine. Kyiv, Ukraine.
- 2017 Data Management Systems: Zotero. *Ukrainian National Forestry University*. Lviv, Ukraine.
- 2017 From Policy to Education: California Embraces Sustainable Initiatives. *Ukrainian National Forestry University. International Conference: Greening of Education as a Factor in Sustainable Development*. Lviv, Ukraine.
- 2016 The Future of Sustainability and Agriculture in California. Seminar for Community Field Research: Theory and Analysis course. *University of California Davis*. Davis, CA.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2020 **The National Geographic Explorer Grant**
- 2019-2020 **University of California Davis Teaching Consultant Fellowship**
- 2019 **Best Poster Award**, Session 13 (Socioeconomic and Cultural Constraints on Technology Adoption in Agroforestry Systems), World Congress of Agroforestry, Montpellier, France
- 2019 **The Explorer Grant: Mamont Scholar Grant**
- 2019 **Phipps Botany in Action Fellowship**
- 2019 **UC Davis Graduate Student Association's Spring 2019 Travel Award**
- 2018-2019 **UC Davis Graduate Group in Ecology Fellowship (1 quarter of funding)**
- 2017-2018 **J. William Fulbright Student Fellowship (Ukraine)**
- 2017 **UC Davis Ecology Student Endowment Award**
- 2005 **University of Maryland College Park, Dept. of Art: Van Crews Scholarship Award**
- 2004 **Primannum Honor Society Scholarship**

SCIENCE OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION

- Application Reviewer 2018-Present
- **Fulbright Research and Development Program (FRDP)**, Ukraine

REVIEWING AND TRANSLATING

- Editor (*English*) 2017- 2019
- **Ukrainian National Forestry University**, UNFU Scientific Journal (2017)
 - **World Wildlife Fund Ukraine (WWF)**, "Selective Field Assessment of Sanitary Logging Sites in Ukrainian Carpathians: Technical Report" (2017), "Selective Field Assessment of Deforestation in Ukrainian Carpathians: Technical Report" (2017)
Translator (*Ukrainian to English*)
 - **Hutsulshchyna National Park**, Scientific Activities Journal (2017)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2014- Present

Center for Land-Based Learning, **Student Proposal Judge**, Winters, CA

- SLEWS: The Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship Program

KIDS: Kids into Discovering Science, Educator, Davis, CA

2014-2015

- Assisted with the development of hands-on science curriculum to underserved Lower Lake Elementary School

Jatun Sacha Foundation, Volunteer, Biological Amazon Reserve, Ecuador

July 2013

Center for Wildlife Management & Amazon Plant Conservation Center

- Development of conservation projects and sustainable agricultural initiatives
- Maintenance of organic/medicinal gardens that provide sustainable organic food for the Reserve

HONORS

- 2012 Invited teacher for International Baccalaureate Program Teacher Training – Fully-funded (New Mexico)
- 2011 Invited teacher participation in "Conservation Research at the San Diego Zoo" Workshop – Fully-funded
- 2007 Commencement Speaker, University of Maryland College Park, Department of Art, Class of 2007
- 2003-07 Dean's Academic Scholar: College of Behavioral and Social Sciences & College of Arts and Humanities

SOCIETIES

Ecological Society of America
Society of Ethnobiology
Society for Economic Botany