

2023 Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Emily Pappo** is the **2023 winner of the Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award** from UF's Tropical Conservation and Development Program. Dr. Pappo received her PhD in Interdisciplinary Ecology in Spring 2023 from School of Natural Resources and Environment under the supervision of Dr. S. Luke Flory (Chair) and Dr. Chris H. Wilson (co-Chair). The outstanding dissertation award was established in 2010 in recognition of Dr. Marianne Schmink, former Director of the TCD Program for her significant and transformative contributions to graduate education, the Center for Latin American Studies and the TCD Program.



Dr. Pappo's dissertation entitled "***Evaluating climate resilience of Arabica coffee (Coffea arabica) agroecosystems***" advances our conceptual approach to quantify agroecosystem resilience, improves our scientific understanding of sustaining high quality coffee production systems, and provides an innovative mechanism to implement rural education on climate change topics that can be applied in both temperate and tropical areas. Emily's dissertation exemplifies the TCD's goals of bridging theory and practice, especially as it is targeted to enhance biodiversity conservation and improve livelihoods in the tropics and elsewhere.

The selection committee noted that Dr. Pappo has made important contributions to a wide range of scholarship on agroecosystem resilience and production of sustainable high quality coffee production under threat from changing climates. In particular, the committee was impressed by the deep partnerships forged with stakeholders in Guatemala and Costa Rica that helped advance ways in which resilience is measured in meaningful terms for stakeholders. Additionally, in a series of elegant experiments her work revealed how different coffee cultivars respond to climate change treatments, including examining underlying ecophysiology and consequences to coffee quality. The latter is an important component, along with productivity, in determining the value of coffee and farm profitability. Emily also demonstrated her skills at communicating her science in the dissertation, as well as how we can improve learning about climate change in rural communities by adopting a framework that incorporates locally relevant agricultural systems. Dr. Pappo's dissertation built on her past experiences and skills in the coffee industry. Her work is a strong contribution to advancing development of sustainable coffee production and improving livelihoods in the tropics.

Dr. Pappo is currently a Postdoctoral Climate Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution, working with the Bird Friendly Coffee program at the Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute to study landscape-level impacts of climate change in tropical working landscapes. Her current research focuses on forecasting ecosystem services provided by coffee landscapes in Colombia under different climate change scenarios, and she is also working on a global meta-analysis to estimate carbon sequestration across coffee production systems.

The Selection Committee was composed of TCD core faculty Dr. Bette Loiselle (Center for Latin American Studies & Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation), and TCD affiliate faculty Dr. Carlos Silva (School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences - SFFGS) and UF/TCD alumna Dr. Christina Callicott (PhD, Anthropology).

The TCD program congratulates Dr. Emily Pappo on her selection as the 2023 recipient of the Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award!

