

TARA POZZI

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EDUCATION

2021 – 2025 Ph.D. in Ecology

Designated Emphasis: Computational Social Science

UC Davis, CA

Dissertation: Climate adaptation governance in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Advisor: Dr. Mark Lubell

2019 – 2021 M.S. in Biology

Boise State University, ID

Thesis: Understanding the barriers and facilitators of lidar adoption for flood risk management in the Pacific Northwest, U.S.

Advisor: Dr. Vicken Hillis

2011 – 2015 B.S. in Civil, Environmental, and Sustainable Engineering

School of Engineering: Santa Clara University, CA

Thesis: Homeless garden project

Advisor: Dr. Steven Chiesa

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Publications

Pozzi, T., Lubell, M., Heikkilä, T., Gerlak, A. and Rittelmeyer, P. (2024). Learning through Adaptive Management in the California Delta Science Enterprise. *Policy Studies Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/psj.12581>

Pozzi, T., Legg, E.*, McCullough, S., & Lubell, M. (2024). Transformative climate change education for graduate students: developing a theory of change to increase equity in climate change science. *Environmental Education Research*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504622.2024.2411310>

Pozzi, T. Zufall, E., Gmoser-Dasklakis, K., & Vantaggiato, F. (2024). Nascent subsystems in polycentric governance networks: The Case of Sea Level Rise Governance in the San Francisco Bay Area. *Policy Studies Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/psj.12549>

Rittelmeyer, P., Lubell, M., Hovis, M. Heikkilä, T., Gerlak, A., & **Pozzi, T.** (2024). Knowledge isn't power: Learning in polycentric governance systems. *Review of Policy Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12606>

Pozzi, T., & Hillis, V. (2023) Social networks impact flood risk mitigation behavior: A case study of lidar adoption in the Pacific Northwest, US. *Climate Risk Management* 41. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2023.100527>.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Pozzi, T., Lubell, M., & Rudnick, J. (2025) The network structure of environmental justice social movements: A case study in the California Delta. (*Society and Natural Resources*) [Under Review]

Pozzi, T., & Lubell, M. (2025) The Intersection of Climate adaptation barriers and climate justice in the California Delta. (*Global Environmental Change*) [In prep]

Pozzi, T., Lubell, M., & Méndez-Barrientos, L. (2025) Building power in polycentric governance systems. (*Public Administration Review*) [In prep]

Pozzi, T., Denio, E.*, & Lubell, M. (2025) Key players in climate adaptation across urban-rural contexts in the California Delta. [In prep]

Scheetz, E., Heikkila, T., **Pozzi, T.,** & Lubell, M. (2025) Finding Agreement in Collaborative Governance: Insights from California's Delta Science Enterprise. [In prep] **Undergraduate intern*

Research Report (non-peer reviewed)

Pozzi, T., Lubell, M. , & Correa, L. (2025) *The governance of climate adaptation in the California Delta*. Center for Environmental Policy and Behavior, UC Davis.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jd6lnDWFCsyMSV8irYQtk7jaVDLXpAcP/view?usp=drive_link

Pozzi, T. & Lubell, M. (2023). *Evolving the monitoring enterprise to meet adaptive management needs in the California Delta*. Center for Environmental Policy and Behavior, UC Davis.

Lubell, M., **Pozzi, T.,** Heikkila, T., and Gerlak, A. (2022). *Governing the Delta Science Enterprise: Results from a Stakeholder Survey*. Center for Environmental Policy and Behavior, UC Davis.

Pozzi, T. (2021). Understanding the barriers and facilitators of lidar adoption for flood risk management in the Pacific Northwest, U.S. *Boise State University Theses and Dissertations*.

Lakhina, S.J., Kocher, S., Lebeda, B., Gerber-Chavez, L., Kwok, A., Stannard, D., & **Pozzi, T.** (2021). Wildfire preparedness and evacuation planning in a pandemic: Case studies from California and Colorado. *CONVERGE COVID-19 Working Group for Public Health and Social Science Research*. Wonder Labs, California. https://www.wonder-labs.org/uploads/6/4/2/1/6421555/wildfire-pandemic_interface_2021_report.pdf

Ruwe, C., **Pozzi, T.,** & Miller, J. (2015). Homeless garden project. *Civil, Environmental, and Sustainable Engineering Senior Theses*, 34. https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/ceng_senior/34

Other Science and Policy Products

Pozzi, T. (2025) *Delta Adaptation Survey Interactive Website*. https://tarapozzi.shinyapps.io/delta_adaptation/

Pozzi, T., Lubell, M., & Rudnick, J. (2024) Leveraging Partnerships in the Environmental Justice Movement: A Case Study in the California Delta. Research Brief.

https://tarapozzi.github.io/publications/ej/2024_005_ej_networks/EJ_Networks_Brief.pdf

Pozzi, T., & Heikkila, T. (2024) *Governance of Adaptive Management Information Sheet*.

Pozzi, T., & Lubell, M. (2023). *Uncovering the role of science governance in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta*. Delta Breeze.

Pozzi, T., Hillis, V., Glenn, N., & Enterkine, J. (2021). *Knowing more, losing less through investment in High-Quality Mapping Idaho* [White paper]. Boise State University.

Pozzi, T., & Hillis, V. (2021). *Mapping for resilience: A story about using lidar to address Idaho's challenges* [ArcGIS Storymap]. Boise State University.

Pozzi, T., Hillis, V., Glenn, N., & Enterkine, J. (2021). Assessing and promoting the use of lidar for hazard management in Idaho via collaborative research and outreach. *CTP Monthly Collaboration*.

Pozzi, T. (2021). LiDART. *Anthroposphere*.

GRANTS

2022 – 2024 Lead Investigator. Proposal title: Mapping the adaptation governance network of the Delta. Delta Science Fellowship, Delta Science Program and CA Sea Grant - \$150,684

RESEARCH

2022 – present Lead Investigator. Mixed-methods study on the climate adaptation governance network of the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta, under the direction of Dr. Mark Lubell and Lindsay Correa. Funded by CA Sea Grant and the Delta Science Program.

2022 – present Researcher. Design and implement study for measuring the factors that influence students to conduct research with awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion in a climate change context, under direction of Dr. Mark Lubell and Dr. Sarah McCullough. Funded by UC Davis Feminist Research Institute.

2021 – present Researcher. Lead survey data analysis, paper writing, and science communication of Delta Science Enterprise survey. Provide mentorship and guidance to other researchers on project team, under direction of Dr. Mark Lubell, Dr. Tanya Heikkila, and Dr. Andrea Gerlak. Funded in part by Delta Science Program.

2022 Researcher. Data analysis and report write-up of a long-term monitoring needs assessment for the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team, under the direction of Dr. Mark Lubell, Dr. Louise Conrad, and Bruce DiGennaro. Funded by the Delta Science Program.

2021 Researcher. Investigate the state of wildfire technology and wildfire response during COVID-19 in the American west, under direction of Dr. Shefali Lakhina. Funded by Wonder Labs.

2019-2021 Lead Investigator. Mixed-methods empirical study on lidar adoption for flood risk management in the Pacific Northwest. Social-ecological science approach to understand the relative effect of individual and collective factors of decision-making, under direction of Dr. Vicken Hillis, Dr. Nancy Glenn, and Josh Enterkine. Funded by the Department of Homeland Security.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

2015 - 2016 Assistant Engineer at Schaaf & Wheeler, San Francisco, CA. Duties included: providing technical assistance to a wide variety of storm water-related projects, conducting third party design reviews to ensure development projects are in compliance with regional storm water regulations, developing hydrology and hydraulic analysis and reports, and modeling complex storm drain systems for municipalities. Proficient in ArcGIS, AutoCAD, HEC-HMS/RAS/SSP, MIKE URBAN, and Microsoft Office

- 2013 – 2015 Engineering Intern at Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Clara, CA. Project management for a \$200M water treatment plant retrofit project. Duties included: organizing and tracking current and/or proposed designs for the project through continual communication between all project reviewers and consultants, researching alternative sustainability methods such as alternative sludge disposal options and renewable energy sources, implementing the hydraulic analysis program H2ONet to analyze various design elements in the project, and orchestrating technical meetings between the District engineers and Rinconada Water Treatment Plant operations staff to make decisions on aspects of the project.
- 2012 – 2013 Event Planning and Marketing Assistant at the Santa Clara University’s Food and Agribusiness Institute. Managed the Institute’s website and created the bi-annual newsletter. Prepared for events by completing food orders, facility order, photography, and promotion of the event.

SERVICE

Applied

- 2023 Facilitator. Adaptive Management Forum Day 2.
- 2023 Advisory Board member. Adaptive Management Forum.
- 2022 Facilitator. Advancing Interdisciplinary Research Workshop.

Academic

- 2024 – Present Journal reviewer for *Policy Studies Journal* and *Ecology and Society*
- 2024 - Present UC Davis Environmental Science Mentorship Program
- 2024 Evolution and Ecology Mentorship Program
- 2022 - Present Davis R Users’ Group coordinator at UC Davis.
- 2022 - 2023 Co-chair. Ecology Graduate Student Association at UC Davis.
- 2021 Member and facilitator for Ecology Symposium. Ecology Graduate Student Association at UC Davis.
- 2021 Editor and contributor for student paper, Brickyard. Ecology Graduate Student Association at UC Davis.
- 2021 Member and facilitator. Ecological Research Association Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force
- 2020 Organizer. GRFP Review Group

PRESENTATIONS

Applied Talks

- Pozzi, T.** (2024) “Delta Adaptation Governance.” Presented for: Early Career Leadership Workshop (in-person).
- Pozzi, T.,** Lubell, M., and Correa, L. (2024) “Mapping the Adaptation Governance Network of the Delta: A Mixed-Methods Approach.” Presented for: CA Department of Water Resources Climate Matrix (in-person).
- Pozzi, T.,** Lubell, M., and Correa, L. (2024) “Initial insights into the governance of climate adaptation planning in the Delta.” Presented for: Delta Stewardship Council’s Delta Adapts Program (virtual).
- Pozzi, T.,** Lubell, M., and Correa, L. (2023) “Initial insights into the governance of climate adaptation planning in the Delta.” Presented for: Interagency Adaptive Management Integration Team (virtual).

Pozzi, T., & Lubell, M. (2023) “A social science perspective on the monitoring enterprise.” Presented for: Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (virtual).

Lubell, M., & Pozzi, T. (2023) “Summary of Science Governance Research”. Presented for: Delta Stewardship Council Meeting (in-person).

Pozzi, T. (2021) “State of lidar adoption in Idaho”. Elevation Technical Working Group Monthly Meeting (virtual).

Pozzi, T. (2020) “Current State of Lidar in Flood Risk Management in Idaho”. Webinar (virtual).

Conference Activity

Pozzi, T., Lubell, M., and Correa, L. (2024) “Mapping the Adaptation Governance Network of the Delta: A Mixed-Methods Approach.” Bay-Delta Science Conference (in-person).

Pozzi, T., Lubell, M., and Correa, L. (2024) “Initial insights in overcoming barriers to equitable adaptation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.” State of the Estuary (in-person). *Best Student Poster Award: Runner up*

Pozzi, T., Lubell, M., and Rudnick, J. (2024). “Leveraging Partnerships in the Environmental Justice Movement: A Case Study in the California Delta.” Conference on Policy Process Research (in-person).

Pozzi, T., Lubell, M., and Correa, L. (2024) “Initial insights in overcoming barriers to equitable adaptation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.” UC Davis CAES Symposium (in-person).

Pozzi, T., and Lubell, M. (2024) “Strategies to overcome barriers to equitable adaptation planning in the California Delta.” Midwest Political Science Association (in-person).

Pozzi, T., Lubell, M., Heikkila, T., and Gerlak, A. (2023) Learning through Adaptive Management in the California Delta Science Enterprise. Midwest Political Science Association (virtual).

Pozzi, T. & Zufall, E. (2023) “Nascent subsystems in polycentric governance networks: The Case of Sea Level Rise Governance in the San Francisco Bay Area”. Conference on Policy Process Research (in person).

Pozzi, T. (2021) “Mapping for resilience: A storymap about using lidar to address Idaho’s Challenges”. University of Idaho GIS Day (virtual).

Pozzi, T. (2020) “Technology Adoption in Flood Risk Management: A Case Study in Idaho”. Natural Hazards Workshop (virtual).

Pozzi, T. (2020) “Technology Adoption in Flood Risk Management: A Case Study in Idaho”. International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (virtual).

Pozzi, T. (2020) “Lidar uptake in Pacific Northwest”. 3-Minute Thesis Competition Finals (in-person).

Pozzi, T. (2020) “Lidar uptake in Pacific Northwest”. Biological Science Graduate Student Proposal Showcase (in-person).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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| 2024 | Just-In-Time Teaching, UC Davis Center for Teaching Effectiveness |
| 2023 | Public Scholars for the Future Program, UC Davis Office of Public Scholarship and Engagement |
| 2022 | Asking Different Questions, UC Davis Feminist Research Institute |

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Teaching

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| 2025 | Teaching assistant. The Policy Process, UC Davis. |
| 2025 | Teaching assistant. Environmental Governance, UC Davis. |
| 2022, 2024 | Instructor. R Data Analysis and Visualization (R-DAVIS), UC Davis |
| 2021 | Grader. Public Lands Governance, UC Davis. |

Guest Lecture

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| 2024 | Lecture titled "Collaboration and Equity in Environmental Governance and Policy." Guest lecture for a class on Principles of Ecology at American River College (Sacramento, CA). |
| 2023 | Lecture titled "Power and Equity in Environmental Governance: A Case Study in the California Delta." Guest lecture for a class on EJ and Resilience at BOKU University (Vienna, Austria). |

Undergraduate Interns

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| 2024 - 2025 | Isabella Gonzales (BS Environmental Science and Policy 2025) |
| 2024 - 2025 | Nicholas Dunagan (BS Environmental Science and Policy 2025) |
| 2024 | Emma Mele (BS Environmental Science and Policy 2024). |
| 2023 - 2025 | Toby Jacob (BS Environmental Science and Policy 2027). |
| 2023 - 2025 | Emily Denio (BS Environmental Policy and Planning 2025). |
| 2023 | Eden Winniford (BS Environmental Science and Policy 2023). |
| 2022 - 2023 | Elaina Legg (BS Communication and Psychology 2023). |
| 2020 | Graduate student mentor. Vertically Integrated Project, Boise State University. |

AWARDS & HONORS

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| 2025 | Sunbelt Student Travel Award - \$500 |
| 2025 | UC Davis Library Graduate Student Prize - \$1,000 |
| 2024 | Henry A. Jastro Research Fellowship - \$2,700 |
| 2023 | Henry A. Jastro Research Fellowship - \$3,000 |
| 2023 | Public Scholars for the Future - \$1,000 |
| 2022 | Henry A. Jastro Research Fellowship - \$3,000 |
| 2021 | Weather-ready research instrument and data publication by the Natural Hazards Center - \$2,500 |
| 2020 | Boise State University Graduate College Conference Presentation Award by Boise State University - \$500 |

CERTIFICATES

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| 2021 | Institutional Review Board Certification in Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research |
| 2021 | CONVERGE Disaster Training Modules, Natural Hazards Center: Social Vulnerability and Disasters, Disaster Mental Health. |

AFFILIATIONS

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| 2025 - Present | Member, International Network for Social Network Analysis |
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Updated June 2025

2023 - Present Member, Midwest Political Science Association

2022 - Present Member, American Society of Adaptation Professionals

2020 Member, International Association of Society and Natural Resources