Ashley Asmus

Data Scientist, Quantitative Community Ecologist

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EXPERIENCE

University of Minnesota, St. Paul — *Postdoctoral Research Associate*

AUGUST 2017 - PRESENT

- Conducted original research using a global dataset of plant biodiversity (focus: rare species' extinction risk in grassland plant communities)
- People & data coordinator for a distributed experiment (The Nutrient Network, *www.nutnet.org*) performed at 100+ sites in 27 countries
- Maintained an SQL database, conducted queries for researchers, and negotiated intellectual overlap among active Network projects
- Designed Google Cloud SQL database system for a related research group (International Drought Experiment, *www.drought-net.colostate.edu*).
- Facilitated annual weeklong working groups of international scientists

University of Texas at Arlington — *Ph.D. Student, Research Assistant*

MAY 2012 - AUGUST 2017

- Conducted original research (focus: insect food web and community responses to nutrient enrichment in arctic Alaska)
- Gained expertise in mixed-modeling, generalized additive modeling, network analysis, and community analysis
- Managed research projects and data as part of a 10-person team from 3 research institutions
- Organized data collection campaigns at a remote field station in arctic Alaska
- Advised 10+ undergraduate students in lab work and research projects

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Arlington — *Ph.D. Quantitative Biology*

MAY 2012 - AUGUST 2017

Dissertation topic: Effects of climate change-induced shrub expansion on arctic insect communities and food webs.

University of Texas at Austin — *B.Sc., Biology (2011)*

MAY 2012 - AUGUST 2017

Excelled in courses on spatial statistics, geographic information systems and ecology.

OBJECTIVE

Research scientist seeks to use 7+ years of experience to tell compelling, data-driven stories that inform and inspire the public.

STRENGTHS

Natural collaborator. Coordinated an international research network of 200+ scientists. Trained others in SQL database management.

Good friends with the command line. Fluent in R, (My)SQL, and GitHub for version control. Newly familiar with Python for web-scraping.

Data therapist. I make sense of "messy" spreadsheets, PDF files of half-formatted tables, and hand-written field notebooks.

Creative data visualization skills. Lately obsessed with Sankey diagrams and d3.js tools. ggplot2 expert. Network diagram specialist.

A statistician you actually want to talk to. Awarded teacher-of-the-year as a graduate student. Now the unofficial stats and data visualization help desk for the University of Minnesota Ecology department.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Women's Prison Books Project Board Member and Database Manager, 2017-Present