**Matias C. Fernandez**

Ph.D. Candidate, Program in Plant Biology

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**Education**

B.A. Environmental Biology Columbia University 09/2004 – 05/2008

Ph.D. Plant Biology University of Illinois 09/2011 – Ongoing

**Professional and Teaching Experience**

2014-2015 Instructor for Foundations in Scientific Research Skills (IB299) – University of Illinois, Dept. of Plant Biology

2009-2011 Environmental Protection Specialist, Air Quality Division. District Department of the Environment, Washington D.C.

**Fellowships and Awards**

Spring 2015 John R. Laughnan Award, Graduate College Travel Award

Spring 2014 American Society of Naturalists Travel Award

Fall 2013 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Fall 2011 University of Illinois Fellowship for Underrepresented Students

**Outreach and Mentoring**

Fall 2015 Search committee for research specialist position; Graduate student representative.

Fall 2015 Undergraduate Senior Thesis Mentoring: Horace Zeng. Affiliation: Crop Sciences Department, UIUC. In Progress.

Fall 2015 Plant Biology Association for Graduate Students; Leadership Board: Treasurer (2012), Secretary (2015)

2012 – 2015 Undergraduate mentoring: Leah Caplan (2012 – 2015), Wenhan Chang (2013), Justin Podowski (2014), Horace Zeng (2014-2015)

Fall 2014 Co-Developer of the FAFU-UIUC Plant Biology Study Abroad Program course; IB299: Foundations in Scientific Research Skills.

Fall 2013 Danville Elementary Science Night. Outreach event at local school. Taught introduction to molecular biology and its role in science and society.

2012-2013 ‘Girls Do Science’ summer camp, Activity assistance

Summer 2012 Co-Developer of the Ecosystem Ecology Workshop for Illinois high school science teachers

Fall 2012 Frank Hall Elementary Science Night. Outreach event at local school. Taught introduction to molecular biology and its role in science and society.

**Publications**

Gavin DG, Fitzpatrick MC, Gugger PF, Heath KD, Rodríguez-Sánchez F, Dobrowski SZ, Hampe A, Hu FS, Ashcroft MB, Bartlein PJ et al (Including **Fernandez, M.C**.). 2014. Climate refugia: joint inference from fossil records, species distribution models and phylogeography. *New Phytologist* 204: 37–54.

Whitlock, C., Briles, C.E., **Fernandez, M.C**., Gage, J. 2011. Holocene Vegetation, Fire, and Climate History of the Sawtooth Range, Central Idaho, USA. *Quaternary Research* 75: 114–124

**Presentations**

**Fernandez, M.C.**, Hu, F.S., Heath, K.D. (2015) Genetic evidence for the glacial refugia and postglacial migration of mountain hemlock in the Pacific Northwest . *in* Proceedings of the 100th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD [Presentation]