

Blake Alexander Simmons, Ph.D.

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RESEARCH PROFILE

My research interests are transdisciplinary, with a particular focus on the overarching effects of anthropogenic actions on ecological interactions and ecosystem function. My projects utilise a knowledge of social-ecological systems to examine the biophysical, political, and psychological factors driving important conservation decisions, which can be used to develop effective behaviour change interventions. The results have led to important outcomes around the world, from new protected area management regimes in East Africa to vegetation management policy recommendations in Queensland, Australia. Using my expertise in science communication, I'm constantly seeking new ways to engage, inspire, and communicate with people of all backgrounds, cultures, and disciplines to promote scientific literacy, environmental stewardship, and pro-environmental change.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Conservation Science

Jan. 2016 – Feb. 2020

School of Biological Sciences, The University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Australia
Thesis: *Illuminating the biophysical, political, and cultural dimensions of tree clearing to inform environmental policy*
Principal supervisor: Prof. Kerrie Wilson

M.Sc. Biology, *Biodiversity: Conservation & Restoration*

Sep. 2013 – July 2015

University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium
Thesis: *Dynamics of the encroaching sicklebush (*Dichrostachys cinerea*) in Nechisar National Park, Ethiopia*
Principal supervisor: Prof. Herwig Leirs
Magna Cum Laude

B.Sc. Biology

Aug. 2009 – May 2013

B.Sc. Ecosystem Science and Policy

University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

July 2020 – Present

Dr. Kevin Gallagher, Boston University

- Identified global social and ecological risks to biodiversity and Indigenous lands associated with China's overseas development finance
- Generated the first global outlook of the potential for Chinese debt-for-nature and debt-for-climate swaps, and designed an accompanying online interactive website for users to explore the data
- Facilitated a new research partnership between the Global Development Policy Center and the University of Indonesia's Research Center for Climate Change (RCCC-UI) to quantify the social, ecological, and climate impacts of Chinese overseas investment in Indonesia

Research Associate

Mar. 2020 – Aug. 2020

Dr. Angela Dean, Queensland University of Technology

- Identified the types of farmers participating in private land conservation programs across Queensland, and the psychological and socio-economic factors influencing participation rates
- Conducted a systematic review of behaviour change in conservation
- Interviewed candidates for the position of Research Engagement Leader of Visualisation and eResearch (ViseR)
- Assisted in drafting internal and external competitive grant applications for QUT and the Australian Research Council

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow** Mar. 2019 – Mar. 2020
 Dr. Jonathan Rhodes, University of Queensland
- Identified the major psychological and contextual factors driving farmers' deforestation intentions across Queensland
 - Facilitated new international collaborative research projects on the impacts of environmental offsets in Victoria
 - Organised a workshop with 25 conservation experts to prioritise behaviour interventions for positive social and environmental outcomes in Queensland
- Visiting Fellow** Feb. 2019 – Mar. 2020
 Prof. Kerrie Wilson, Queensland University of Technology
- Collaborated on new research projects and facilitated new departmental and industry collaborations
 - Assisted in drafting internal and external competitive grant applications for QUT and the Australian Research Council
- Conservation Scientist** Jan. 2016 – Apr. 2019
 Prof. Kerrie Wilson, University of Queensland
- Identified spatial and temporal variations in deforestation patterns in response to policy change over time
 - Modelled the effects of biophysical, socioeconomic, property, and political characteristics driving forest cover dynamics in Queensland
 - Produced the first robust impact estimate of principal deforestation policy on remnant vegetation in Queensland
 - Performed the first audience segmentation of Queensland farmers to identify targets and strategies for deforestation behaviour change
- Graphic Designer, Illustrator** Jan. 2017 – Dec. 2018
 Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions, University of Queensland
- Designed websites, logos, figures, and promotional materials for conferences, presentations, journal articles, and professional and social events
- Casual Administrative Assistant** Oct. 2018 – Nov. 2018
 Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions, University of Queensland
- Liaised with Principal and Chief Investigators across CEED nodes to collate, format, and finalise a historical record of CEED publications, collaborations, and awards/prizes in accordance to the guidelines for the ARC Final Report
- Landscape Ecology Researcher** June 2014 – June 2015
 Prof. Herwig Leirs, University of Antwerp & Nechisar National Park, Ethiopia
- Mapped the distribution of wild and domestic ungulates, and determined habitat preference and spatial overlap with sicklebush invasions
 - Determined seedling dispersal capacity per species, as well as the germination efficiency of seeds extracted from dung
- Conservation Genetics Intern** Feb. 2014 – June 2014
 Dr. Peter Galbusera, ZOO Antwerpen, Belgium
- Composed the 2013 International Studbook Report for all *ex situ* golden-headed lion tamarin populations within the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)
 - Created continent-wide recommendations for captive golden-headed lion tamarins based on demographic and genetic analyses for each institution in the European Endangered Species Programme (EEP)
- Coastal Ecology Laboratory Assistant** Mar. 2011 – Dec. 2012
 Dr. Kathleen Sullivan Sealey, University of Miami
- Organized field logs and metadata sheets from excursions in the seven islands of the Bahamas
 - Developed structured metadata sheets from acquired fish surveys, coastal rankings, and water and soils quality datasets
 - Analyzed sediment samples to determine and compare organic content

SERVICE ROLES	<p>SCBO Contact Officer Society for Conservation Biology – Oceania Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as the first point of contact for any concerns relating to diversity, discrimination, bullying, or harassment for SCB Oceania members 	July 2020 – Present
	<p>SCB Ombuds Society for Conservation Biology – Global</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help members of the SCB community express concerns, resolve disputes, and identify systemic issues that could lead to breaches of people’s rights by providing a neutral and confidential channel to discuss a concern, dispute, or disruption without fear of retribution 	July 2019 – Present
	<p>Young Science Ambassador, Wonder of Science Ms. Robyn Bull, University of Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited primary and secondary schools across Queensland, working with students and teachers to complete STEM challenge tasks and supporting them with the development of a variety of science projects 	Apr. 2018 – Feb. 2020
	<p>UQ Ally, School of Biological Sciences Workplace Diversity & Inclusion, UQ Ally Network, University of Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a safe and welcoming space for gender, sex, and sexuality diverse staff and students, actively participated in creating an inclusive environment on campus for gender, sex, and sexuality diverse staff and students 	Mar. 2016 – Feb. 2020
	<p>Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Sub-Committee, ICCB 2019 Society for Conservation Biology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed content, communication strategies, and organised speakers and symposia at the 29th International Congress on Conservation Biology to engage a broader community of students and professionals emphasising diversity and inclusivity in conservation membership and leadership 	Dec. 2018 – Aug. 2019
	<p>Marketing and IT Committee Chair, SCCS-Australia 2019 Student Conference on Conservation Science, University of Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for leadership and oversight of marketing strategies for SCCS-Australia 2019, including advertisement, recruitment, web and app development, and media 	June 2018 – July 2019
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p>Young Science Ambassador, “Wonder of Science” Program Ms. Robyn Bull, University of Queensland – Primary to Secondary School</p>	Apr. 2018 – Feb. 2020
	<p>Teaching Assistant/Tutor, Conservation Practicum (BIOL3000) Prof. Richard Fuller, University of Queensland – 3rd Year Biology, UQ</p>	Aug. 2019 – Sep. 2019
	<p>Teaching Assistant/Tutor, Conservation Practicum (BIOL3000) Dr. Vanessa Adams, University of Queensland – 3rd Year Biology, UQ</p>	Aug. 2016 – Sep. 2016
	<p>Substitute Teacher Rogers Public Schools, Rogers, Arkansas, USA – Kindergarten to High School</p>	Sep. 2015 – Nov. 2015
	<p>Teaching Assistant, Evolutionary Biology Lab (BIL160) Dr. Dana Krempels, University of Miami – 1st Year Biology, UM</p>	Jan. 2013 – May 2013
SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE	<p>Masters Joshua Brown. <i>Accounting for landowner heterogeneity in preferences for non-financial incentives in the Brigalow Belt region of Queensland, Australia.</i> <u>Field supervisor</u>. University of Copenhagen.</p>	Jan. 2018 – July 2018

Honours

Feb. 2018 – Nov. 2018

Matthew Roetteler. *Deforestation policy and woody vegetation loss throughout the Great Barrier Reef catchment landscape*. Co-supervisor. University of Queensland.

Undergraduate

Aug. 2016 – Oct. 2016

Nicola Nearhos (volunteer). *Research on the legality of land clearing in Queensland*. Co-supervisor. University of Queensland.

PUBLICATIONS

Yang, H.*, **Simmons, B. A.***, Ray, R., Nolte, C., Gopal, S., Ma, Y., Ma, X., & Gallagher, K. P. (2021). Risks to global biodiversity and indigenous lands from China's overseas development finance. *Nature Ecology and Evolution*. *Joint first authorship.

Williams, B. A., **Simmons, B. A.**, Ward, M., Beher, J., Nou, T., Kenyon, T., Davey, M., Melton, C., Stewart-Sinclair, P., Hammond, N., Massingham, E., & Klein, C. (2021). The potential for applying 'Nonviolent Communication' in conservation science. *Conservation Science and Practice*.

Brown, J., Burton, M., Davis, K. J., Iftexhar, S., Olsen, S. B., **Simmons, B. A.**, Strange, N., & Wilson, K. A. (2021). Heterogeneity in preferences for non-financial incentives to engage landholders in native vegetation management. *Land Economics*.

Ray, R., Gallagher, K. P., Kring, W., Pitts, J., & **Simmons, B. A.** (2021). Geolocated dataset of Chinese overseas development finance. *Scientific Data*, 8, 241.

Simmons, B. A., Nolte, C., & McGowan, J. (2021). Tough questions for the "30x30" conservation agenda. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 19, 322-323.

Simmons, B. A., Ray, R., Yang, H., & Gallagher, K. P. (2021). China can help solve the debt and environmental crises. *Science*, 371, 468-470.

Simmons, B. A., Wilson, K. A., & Dean, A. J. (2021). Psychosocial drivers of land management behaviour: how threats, norms, and context influence deforestation intentions. *Ambio*, 50, 1364-1377.

Simmons, B. A., Nolte, C., & McGowan, J. (2021). *Delivering on Biden's 2030 Conservation Commitment*. GDPC Working Paper 001/2021. Global Development Policy Center, Boston University.

Selinske, M. J., **Simmons, B. A.** (2021). *The Nature of Nature Connection among City of Melbourne Community Members*. A report for the City of Melbourne's Nature in the City Strategy. RMIT University, Melbourne.

Simmons, B. A., Wilson, K. A., & Dean, A. J. (2020). Program awareness, social capital, and perceptions of trees influence participation in private land conservation programs in Queensland, Australia. *Environmental Management*, 66, 289-304.

Simmons, B. A., Wilson, K. A., & Dean, A. J. (2020). Landholder typologies illuminate pathways for social change in a deforestation hotspot. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 254, 109777.

Prist, P. R., Levin, N., Metzger, J. P., de Mello, K., de Paula Costa, M. D., Castagnino, R., Cortes-Ramirez, J., Lin, D. L., Butt, N., Lloyd, T. J., López-Cubillos, S., Mayfield, H. J., Negret, P. J., Oliveira-Bevan, I., Reside, A. E., Rhodes, J. R., **Simmons, B. A.**, Suárez-Castro, A. F., & Kark, S. (2019). Collaboration across boundaries in the Amazon. *Science*, 366, 699-700.

Fuller, R. A., Clemens, R. S., Woodworth B. K., Moffit, D., Steven, R., & **Simmons, B. A.** (2019). *Managing Threats to Migratory Shorebirds in Moreton Bay*. A report to Healthy Land and Water. University of Queensland, Brisbane.

Simmons, B. A., Wilson, K. A., Marcos-Martinez, R., Bryan, B. A., Holland, O., & Law, E. A. (2018). Effectiveness of regulatory policy in curbing deforestation in a biodiversity hotspot. *Environmental Research Letters*, 13, 124003.

MANUSCRIPTS IN
PROGRESS

Simmons, B. A., Marcos-Martinez, R., Law, E. A., Bryan, B. A., & Wilson, K. A. (2018). Frequent policy uncertainty can negate the benefits of forest conservation policy. *Environmental Science and Policy*, 89, 401-411.

Simmons, B. A., & Dean, A. (2018). *Submission to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*. Submission No. 662. State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, Brisbane.

Simmons, B. A., Law, E. A., Marcos-Martinez, R., Bryan, B. A., McAlpine, C., & Wilson, K. A. (2018). Spatial and temporal patterns of land clearing during policy change. *Land Use Policy*, 75, 399-410.

Simmons, B. A., & McRae, T. R. (2014). Hidden Markov models of eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) alarm calls. *Adaptive Behavior*, 22, 180-188.

Simmons, B. A., Butt, N., O'Hara, C. C., Ray, R., Yang, H., Ma, Y., & Gallagher, K. P. (*In review*). Mapping the risks of China's global coastal development to marine socio-ecological systems. *Nature Ecology and Evolution*.

Kuempel, C. D., **Simmons, B. A.**, & Davey, M. (*In review*). The status of current and tentative marine natural World Heritage areas. *Journal of Environmental Management*.

Elsen, P. R., Saxon, E. C., **Simmons, B. A.**, Ward, M., Williams, B. A., Grantham, H. S., Kark, S., Levin, N., Perez-Hammerle, K. V., Reside, A., & Watson, J. E. M. (*In review*). Accelerated shifts in terrestrial life zones under rapid climate change. *Global Change Biology*.

Lu, Y., Zhou, X., & **Simmons, B. A.** (*In review*). Environmental risks and power plant suspension. *Nature Sustainability*.

Kuempel, C. D., Tulloch, V., Giffin, A., **Simmons, B. A.**, Hagger, V., Phua, C., & Hoegh-Guldberg, O. (*In review*). Quantifying drivers of cumulative impacts on climate-tolerant coral reefs to inform management decisions. *Conservation Biology*.

Pramono, A., Faud, H. A. H., Haryanto, B., Indrawan, M., Khasanah, N., Manessa, M. D. M., Pratiwi, K., Sari, D. A., Siregar, R. S. E., Supriatna, J., Winarni, N. L., Gallagher, K. P., Ray, R., & **Simmons, B. A.** (*In review*). Mitigating social-ecological risks from the surge in China's overseas investment: an Indonesian profile. *Ambio*.

Butt, N., Halpern, B. S., O'Hara, C. C., Allcock, L., Polidoro, B., Sherman, S., Byrne, M., Birkeland, C., Dwyer, R. G., Frazier, M., Woodworth, B. K., Arango, C. P., Kingsford, M. J., Udyawer, V., Hutchings, P., Scanes, E., McClaren, E. J., Maxwell, S. M., Diaz-Pulido, G., Dugan, E., **Simmons, B. A.**, Wenger, A. S., & Klein, C. J. (*In review*). A trait-based framework for assessing the vulnerability of marine species to human impacts. *Ecosphere*.

Dean, A. J., **Simmons, B. A.**, Gulliver, R., & Wilson, K. A. (*In prep*). Emotional experiences of environmental change: distributions, drivers, and consequences.

Simmons, B. A., Dean, A. J., & Wilson, K. A. (*In prep*). Environmental protection or economic growth? Global trends in people's prioritization of the environment.

Simmons, B. A., Ward, M., Elsen, P. R., Williams, B. A., Watson, J. E. M., & Saxon, E. C. (*In prep*). Climate refugia in the Anthropocene.

Pramono, A., Haryanto, B., Indrawan, M., Manessa, M. D. M., Sari, D. A., Supriatna, J., Winarni, N. L., Gallagher, K. P., Ray, R., & **Simmons, B. A.** (*In prep*). China's Belt and Road Initiative in Indonesia: environmental impacts, costs, and liability.

Selinske, M., Davis, K., Kusmanoff, A., **Simmons, B. A.**, Schilizzi, S., Archibald, C. A., Law, E. A., Comerford, E., Bhullar, N., Iftekhar, M. S., Antony, G., Guerrero Gonzalez, A., Strange, N., Wilson, K. A., & Bekessy, S. (*In prep*). Behavioural economics in conservation: a review.

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

Simmons, B. A., Wilson, K. A., & Dean, A. J. Landholder typologies illuminate pathways for social change in a deforestation hotspot. **Speed presentation.** *International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB)*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 2019.

Simmons, B. A. Land clearing in the 21st century: identifying pathways for social and political change. **Oral presentation.** *Brisbane Life Science ECR Symposium (BLiSS)*, Brisbane, Australia, June 2019.

Simmons, B. A., Marcos-Martinez, R., Law, E. A., Bryan, B. A., & Wilson, K. A. Policy uncertainty and the effectiveness of forest conservation policies. **Oral presentation.** *Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS-Cambridge)*, University of Cambridge, England, March 2019.

Simmons, B. A., Wilson, K. A., Marcos-Martinez, R., Bryan, B. A., Holland, O., & Law, E. A. Effectiveness of regulatory policy in curbing deforestation in a biodiversity hotspot. **Speed presentation.** *Society for Conservation Biology Oceania 5th Congress (SCBO)*, Wellington, New Zealand, July 2018.

Simmons, B. A., Dean, A., Law, E. A., McAlpine, C., & Wilson, K. A. Social dimensions of land clearing: spatial mapping of environmental values in Queensland, Australia. **Poster presentation.** *International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB)*, Cartagena, Colombia, July 2017.

Simmons, B. A., Bryan, B. A., Law, E. A., Marcos-Martinez, R., McAlpine, C., & Wilson, K. A. Identifying deforestation drivers amidst political and behavioral uncertainty in Queensland. **Speed presentation.** *International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB)*, Cartagena, Colombia, July 2017.

Simmons, B. A., Wilson, K. A., McAlpine, C., Marcos-Martinez, R., Bryan, B. A., Holland, O., & Law, E. A. Characteristics of broad-scale land clearing in the Brigalow Belt. **Poster presentation.** *Society for Conservation Biology Oceania 4th Congress (SCBO)*, Brisbane, Australia, July 2016.

SEMINARS &
TRAINING
SESSIONS

Research for 30x30: what is needed? **Invited panellist.** *2021 PLACES Webinar: Land, Water, and ZTRAX*, virtual webinar and ZTRAX workshop, June 2021.

Making conservation impactful in the next decade. **Invited moderator.** Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, April 2021.

China, debt, climate and nature: opportunities for financial stability. **Speaker.** Global Development Policy Center, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, February 2021.

China's Overseas Development Finance (CODF): geospatial data for analysis of biodiversity and Indigenous lands. **Seminar.** Global Development Policy Center, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, December 2020.

FAIR-BRI: forestry, agriculture and Indigenous rights in the Belt and Road Initiative. **Seminar.** Global Development Policy Center, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, October 2020.

Promoting STEM culture in schools: teaching, engaging, and inspiring the next generation of conservation scientists. **Invited panellist.** *International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB)*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 2019.

Contact Officer. **Training session. Participant.** Queensland Human Rights Commission, Brisbane, Australia, May 2019.

Illuminating the biophysical, political, and cultural dimensions of tree clearing to inform environmental policy. **Invited speaker,** "Biodiversity, Conservation and Australia's Environmental Laws." *The Wilderness Society*, Brisbane, Australia, March 2019.

Dimensions of conservation policy: harnessing interdisciplinarity to create real behaviour change. **Seminar.** University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA, November 2018.

Preserving the Art of the Written Word: a first aid course for writers in academia. **Professional development seminar.** University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, July 2018.

STEM: Volunteers in School. **Training session. Co-leader,** session "An effective 'pitch' for schools." *Wonder of Science, Engineers Australia*, Dutton Park, Australia, June 2018.

Beautifying Your Research: tips and tricks for attractive and impactful figures. **Professional development seminar**. University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, July 2018.

Acting 101 for Researchers and Academics. **Professional development seminar**. University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, October 2016.

WORKSHOPS & SHORT COURSES

Confronting Biases in Environmental Social Science for Greater Conservation Outcomes. **Roundtable Discussion**. Leader, Co-organizer. *International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB)*, Virtual, December 2021 (forthcoming).

Identifying Behaviour Intervention Strategies to Produce Positive Social and Environmental Outcomes in Queensland's Threatened Ecosystems. **Workshop**. Leader, Organizer. *Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science (CBCS)*, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, September 2019.

Effective Science Communication. **Workshop (Outreach)**. Leader, Co-organizer. *Wonder of Science Miles Regional Conference*, Miles State School, Miles, Australia, July 2019.

Systematic Planning to Connect Conservation Biology with Communities, Governments, and Stakeholders. **Short course**. Participant. *International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB)*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 2019.

Data Visualisation. **Workshop**. Leader, Organizer. *Student Conference on Conservation Science – Australia*, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, July 2019.

Effective Science Communication. **Workshop (Outreach)**. Leader, Co-organizer. *Wonder of Science North Coast Regional Conference*, Central Queensland University, Bundaberg, Australia, September 2018.

Understanding Social Science to Improve Conservation. **Short course**. Participant. *Society for Conservation Biology Oceania 5th Congress (SCBO)*, Wellington, New Zealand, July 2018.

Effective Science Communication. **Workshop (Outreach)**. Co-leader, Co-organizer. *Wonder of Science Darling Downs Southwest Regional Conference*, Dalby South State School, Dalby, Australia, June 2018.

GRIPP: Getting Research into Policy and Practice. **Workshop**. Participant. *Centre for Policy Futures*, Global Change Institute, Brisbane, Australia, June 2018.

Values and Behaviour Change. **Workshop**. Participant. *Common Cause Australia*, Queensland Department of Environment and Science, Dutton Park, Australia, August 2017.

Conservation Marketing: Applied Methods to Influence Human Behavior. **Short course**. Participant. *International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB)*, Cartagena, Colombia, July 2017.

Behavioural Economics: Insights for Environmental Policy. **Workshop**. Co-organizer. *Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions (CEED)*, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, February 2017.

Exploring the Economic, Social and Environmental Aspects of Land Clearing in Australia. **Workshop**. Participant. *61st Annual Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES)*, Brisbane, Australia, February 2017.

PRESS COVERAGE & INTERVIEWS

Op-eds

“China is financing infrastructure projects around the world – many could harm nature and Indigenous communities.” *The Conversation* (2021)

“Swapping a debt crisis for a climate opportunity.” *The Wire China* (2021)

“5 ways to align debt with climate development goals.” *World Economic Forum* (2021)

“China takes the lead in development finance.” *Project Syndicate* (2020)

“A recipe for building ecological niches in schools.” *The ESA Bulletin* (2020)

	“Contested lands and contested research: when evidence doesn’t align with conservation agendas.” <i>SCB Europe, Student Blogging Contest Series</i> (2019)
<i>Science Magazine</i>	“Protect species? Curb warming? Save money? Biden’s big conservation goal means trade-offs.” [online] (2021) “Species? Climate? Cost? Ambitious goal means trade-offs.” [print] (2021)
<i>The Financial Times</i>	“China curtails overseas lending in face of geopolitical backlash.” (2020) “China pulls back from the world: rethinking Xi’s ‘project of the century.’” (2020)
<i>New Scientist</i>	“Covid-19 hit biodiversity across the globe. Here’s how to fix things.” (2021)
<i>Bloomberg</i>	“Nature bonds may be the next big thing for emerging markets.” (2021)
<i>China Dialogue</i>	“Debt-for-nature swaps, a tool to protect Latin America’s biodiversity.” (2021)
<i>Carbon Brief</i>	“Explainer: How China could offer ‘debt swaps’ to help developing nations tackle climate change.” (2021)
<i>Inverse</i>	“Why not both? Joe Biden’s plan to create jobs can succeed for one counterintuitive reason.” (2021)
Radio, Television	770 CHQR with Shaye Ganam. <i>Global News Radio</i> , Canada. (2021) “China and Debt-for-Climate Swaps.” <i>Environment China</i> , Podcast. (2021) “Déforestation: le fléau de l’Australie.” <i>France 2</i> , Television. (2020)

GRANTS &
AWARDS

Best Speed Presentation <i>International Congress on Conservation Biology</i>	\$250	2019
Young Science Ambassador Award <i>Wonder of Science</i>		2019
Workshop Grant <i>Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science</i>	\$5,000	2019
Visiting Researcher Grant <i>Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science</i>	\$1,500	2019
Student Blogging Contest Winner <i>Society for Conservation Biology – Europe Section</i>	\$100	2019
International Scholarship <i>The University of Queensland</i>	\$90,572	2016 – 2019
Young Science Ambassador Award <i>Wonder of Science</i>		2018

REVIEWER FOR

Ambio
Biological Conservation
Communications Biology
Conservation Letters
Conservation Science and Practice
Environmental Research Letters
International Forestry Review
Journal of Environmental Management
Land Use Policy

SPECIFIC SKILLS

Analysis: broad range of experience in quantitative and qualitative data analysis, including survey design, impact evaluation, policy analysis, spatial mapping, econometric modelling, market segmentation, biostatistics, and biodiversity assessments.

Fieldwork: coordinated and performed fieldwork in the United States, Costa Rica, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Belgium, Germany, Poland, and Australia, within a variety of ecosystem types.

Software and Programming: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat, R, JMP, SPSS, ArcGIS, QGIS, Marxan, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Qualtrics, HTML coding.

Communication: Graphic design, illustration, website development, academic and journalistic writing.

Languages: English as native language; intermediate knowledge of Spanish.

Certifications: Contact Officer, Workplace First Aid + CPR, Mental Health First Aid.

REFERENCES

Prof. Kerrie Wilson

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Sustainability Strategy
Queensland University of Technology
kerrie.wilson@qut.edu.au

Dr. Angela Dean

Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Future Environments
Queensland University of Technology
angela.dean@qut.edu.au

Prof. Kevin Gallagher

Director, Global Development Policy Center
Boston University
kpg@bu.edu

**Kindly note: Current Google Scholar citations are incorrectly jointly attributed to another Blake A. Simmons affiliated with The University of Queensland. This has yet to be remedied by Google Support staff.*