

ZACHERY D. ZBINDEN

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EDUCATION

2022 Ph.D., Biology, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
2016 M.S., Biology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
2013 B.S., Ecology and Evolution, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

EMPLOYMENT

2024- Assistant Professor, Appalachian Lab, Univ. Maryland Center for Environmental Science
2022-2024 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Arkansas
2020-2022 Chancellor's Fellow, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Arkansas
2016-2020 Distinguished Doctoral Fellow, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Arkansas
2013-2016 Graduate Assistant, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Oklahoma
2011-2013 Undergraduate Research Assistant, Pymatuning Lab of Ecology, Univ. of Pittsburgh

INTERESTS

Ecology biogeography | fish ecology | molecular ecology | spatial ecology
Evolution comparative population genomics | landscape genomics | phylogeography
Conservation fisheries | conservation genomics | ecological forecasting | watershed approach
Data Analytics spatial analysis | programming | bioinformatics | multivariate statistics

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Fisheries Society – American Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists – American Society of Naturalists – Ecological Society of America – Society for Conservation Biology – Society for the Study of Evolution – Sigma Xi

FUNDING

- 2025–2026 Maryland Department of Natural Resources, \$85,892, **PI**
Assessing eDNA efficacy in reproducing MBSS Sentinel Site collections for fish and benthic macroinvertebrates.
- 2024–2026 TALIN–The Appalachian Lab Investors Network, \$100,000, **PI**
Harnessing natural genetic adaptations for climate resilience in Appalachian fish.
- 2023–2026 Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, \$92,775, **Co-PI**
*Habitat associations and population genetic structure of the endemic Beaded Darter *Etheostoma clinton* in the upper Ouachita River system.*
- 2022–2024 Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, \$99,635, **Co-PI**
Developing genetic approaches for sustainable long-term monitoring and modeling CWD spread in White-tailed Deer.
- 2020–2022 University of Arkansas and Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, \$48,000
Harry and Jo Leggett Chancellor's Fellowship
- 2016–2020 University of Arkansas Graduate School, \$88,000
Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship
- 2012–2013 Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the University of Pittsburgh, \$5,000
Undergraduate Research Fellowship

PUBLICATIONS

[Scholar Profile](#)

Refereed journal articles

Student authors are underlined

- 2025 Zhang, **Zbinden**, Das, Boeing, Afanasyev, Guo, Zhu, Zhang & Xu. Quantile regression increases accuracy to predict an ecological cornerstone. *Science*. In Review.

Zbinden, Chafin, Tiemann, Edds, Martin, Hofmeier, Douglas & Douglas. Ancestral and contemporary selection define conservation units for a short-range endemic within an anthropogenically altered riverscape. *Conservation Science and Practice*. In Review.

Atkinson, Franzen, Hopper, Lopez, **Zbinden** & Vaughn. Environmental gradients drive convergence in life history strategies among disparate but linked taxonomic groups. *Ecology*. In Review.

- 2024 Neal, **Zbinden**, Douglas & Douglas. Reducing DNA extraction costs through factorial design for the DNAdvance kit. *BMC Research Notes*. 17: 397. [PDF](#)

- 2023 **Zbinden**, Douglas, Chafin & Douglas. Riverscape community genomics: A comparative analytical approach to identify common drivers of genetic structure. *Molecular Ecology*, 32(24): 6743-6765. Associated [perspective article](#). [Cover article](#). [PDF](#)
- **Zbinden**, Douglas, Chafin & Douglas. A community genomics approach to natural hybridization. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 290: 20230768. [PDF](#)
 - Regmi, Douglas, Wangchuk, **Zbinden**, Edds, Tshering & Douglas. The Himalayan uplift and evolution of aquatic biodiversity across Asia: Snowtrout (Cyprininae: *Schizothorax*) as a test case. *PLoS ONE*, 18(10): e0289736. [PDF](#)
- 2022 **Zbinden**, Geheber, [Lehrter](#) & Matthews. Multifaceted assessment of stream fish alpha and beta diversity using spatial models. *Hydrobiologia*, 849(8): 1795-1820. [PDF](#)
- **Zbinden**. A needle in the haystack? Applying species co-occurrence frameworks with fish assemblage data to identify species associations and sharpen ecological hypotheses. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 100(2): 339-351. [PDF](#)
- 2021 **Zbinden**, Geheber, Matthews & Marsh-Matthews. Fish communities, species of greatest conservation need, and potential protected areas in southeastern Oklahoma, 2014-2016. *Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Science*, 101: 14-32. [PDF](#)
- Chafin, **Zbinden**, Douglas, Martin, Middaugh, Gray, Ballard & Douglas. Spatial population genetics in heavily managed species: separating patterns of historical translocation from contemporary gene flow in white-tailed deer. *Evolutionary Applications*, 14(6): 1673-1689. [PDF](#)
- 2020 **Zbinden**. Temporal dynamics of stream fish assemblages and the role of spatial scale in quantifying change. *Ecology and Evolution*, 10(2): 952-961. [PDF](#)
- Chafin, Douglas, Martin, **Zbinden**, Middaugh, Ballard, Gray & Douglas. Age structuring and spatial heterogeneity in prion protein gene (*PRNP*) polymorphism in Arkansas white-tailed deer. *Prion*, 14(1): 238-248. [PDF](#)
- 2017 **Zbinden** & Matthews. Beta diversity of stream fish assemblages: partitioning variation between environmental and spatial factors. *Freshwater Biology*, 62(8): 1460-1471. [Cover article](#). [PDF](#)

Non-refereed publications

- 2024 Douglas, Martin, **Zbinden**, Chafin, Campbell, & Douglas. Developing genetic approaches for sustainable long-term monitoring and modeling CWD spread in white-tailed deer. *Final Report* (30 June 2024). Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Little Rock, AR.
- 2023 Douglas, **Zbinden**, Chafin, Martin, Tiemann, Edds & Douglas. Genetic diversity of the Neosho Madtom (*Noturus placidus*). *Final Report* (15 Nov. 2023). Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Pratt, KS.

- 2022 Douglas, **Zbinden**, Chafin, Martin & Douglas. Screening SNP variation to model deer dispersal in Arkansas. [Final Report](#) (1 Jul. 2022). Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Little Rock, AR.
- 2021 **Zbinden**. With great diversity comes great responsibility: what we can do to better archive the rich biodiversity of Arkansas. [University of Arkansas Museum Campus Contributions](#).
- 2020 Douglas, Chafin, **Zbinden**, Martin & Douglas. White-tailed deer in Arkansas: genetic connectivity and chronic wasting disease susceptibility. [Final Report](#) (10 Feb. 2020). Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Little Rock, AR.
- 2016 Matthews, Marsh-Matthews & **Zbinden**. Survey of Clear Boggy, Muddy Boggy, Kiamichi and Little River drainages in Oklahoma to determine current distribution and status of fish species of greatest conservation need and potential change in fish communities. [Final Report](#) (30 Jun. 2016). Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma City, OK.

PRESS

- 2024 How fish create 'countries' in river systems. [Outdoor Life](#).
- 2024 Scientists reveal secret world of fish 'countries' that divide Arkansas. [News Week](#).
- 2024 Novel comparative approach enables mapping of fish 'countries.' [Univ. of Arkansas News](#).
- 2023 Comparative landscape genomics has arrived with a splash. [Molecular Ecology](#).
- 2021 UA partners with Arkansas Game and Fish to study Smallmouth Bass. [Univ. of Arkansas News](#).
- 2021 New hope for Tar Creek. [Sooner Magazine](#).
- 2020 Biological sciences doctoral candidate awarded Leggett Fellowship. [Univ. of Arkansas News](#).
- 2020 Researcher receives award for work on Ozark fish communities. [Univ. of Arkansas News](#).
- 2018 Researchers use genetic information to track chronic wasting disease. [Univ. of Arkansas News](#).

SELECTED SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Contributed as presenting author

- 2025 Using nature's own tools to expedite climate adaptation. *Southern Division American Fisheries Society*, Asheville, NC.
- 2024 Diversity of Smallmouth Bass in Arkansas. *Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society*, Texarkana, AR.
- 2023 A community genomics approach to natural hybridization. *Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists*, Norfolk, VA.

- 2022 Riverscape community genomics: Intraspecific genetic structure driven by common processes. *American Fisheries Society*, Spokane, WA.
- 2021 Hybridization between fish species in nature: a multispecies population genomic examination. *American Fisheries Society*, Baltimore, MD.
- 2020 A comparative population genetic approach for testing traits associated with variation in population connectivity across species in the White River Basin. *Southern Division American Fisheries Society*, Little Rock, AR.
- 2019 Community genomics of stream fish: multispecies, comparative population genetics spanning the White River Basin. *American Fisheries Society*, Reno, NV.
- Spatiotemporal dynamics of stream fish assemblages over four decades. *American Fisheries Society*, Reno, NV.
- 2018 DNA barcoding the Himalayan torrent ichthyofauna of Bhutan. *International Mahseer Conference*, Paro, Bhutan.
- Micro- and macroevolutionary consequences of dispersal differential among species. *EEB Seminar*, University of Arkansas, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Fayetteville, AR.
- 2017 Beta diversity of stream fish assemblages: partitioning variation between environmental and spatial factors. *Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists*, Austin, TX.
- 2016 A comparison of fish community structure between Clear Boggy and Muddy Boggy Creeks. *Oklahoma Natural Resource Conference*, Oklahoma City, OK.
- 2015 A contemporary fish survey of the Muddy Boggy Drainage, southeast Oklahoma, USA. *Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists*, Reno, NV.

Invited as presenting author

- 2024 Integrating ecology, evolution, and conservation through spatial genomics. *University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Institute of Marine & Environmental Technology*, Baltimore, MD.
- Using nature's own tools to expedite climate adaptation. *The Appalachian Lab Investors Network*, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Frostburg, MD.
- From genes to ecosystems: A genomic approach to ecology and conservation. *University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Appalachian Laboratory*, Frostburg, MD.
- 2023 Integrating ecology, evolution, and conservation using genomics. *University of Nebraska, School of Natural Resources*, Lincoln, NE.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

2025 Ecological Genomics – Professor (graduate)

University of Arkansas

2020 Conservation Genetics – Computer Lab Instructor (senior/graduate)

2019-2021 Ichthyology – Lab Instructor (senior/graduate)

2017-2018 Global Change Biology – Recitation Leader (senior)

2016-2020 Principles of Biology – Lab Instructor (freshman, non-majors)

University of Oklahoma

2016 Zoology – Lab Instructor (freshman, non-majors)

2015 Ichthyology – Lab Instructor (senior/graduate)

2015 Quantitative Biology – Teaching Assistant (junior/senior)

2014 Evolution, Ecology, and Diversity – Lab Instructor (freshman/sophomore)

2013-2014 Molecules, Cells, and Physiology – Lab Instructor (freshman/sophomore)

Graduate Mentees

* Completed Thesis | ^PPublished

2025- Kyle Rufo, Appalachian Lab, Univ. of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (PhD)

Undergraduate Mentees

* Completed Thesis | ^PPublished

2023-2024 Carson Neal, Undergraduate Biological Sciences, Univ. of Arkansas * ^P

2023-2024 Lane Laroche, Honors Biological Sciences, Univ. of Arkansas *

2019-2021 Kevin Hollar, Honors Biological Sciences, Univ. of Arkansas *

2018-2020 Mackenzie Reed, Honors Biological Sciences, Univ. of Arkansas *

2017-2019 McKenna George, Honors Biological Sciences, Univ. of Arkansas *

2014-2016 Richard Lehrter, Undergraduate Biological Sciences, Univ. of Oklahoma * ^P

AWARDS AND HONORS

2022 James E. Wright Graduate Award, American Fisheries Society

2020 Jimmie Pigg Student Achievement Award, Southern Division of American Fisheries Society

2017 G.T. Johnson Memorial Scholarship Outstanding 1st Year Student, Univ. of Arkansas

2016 Teaching Excellence Award, Univ. of Oklahoma

2015 L.G. Hill Graduate Excellence Award, Univ. of Oklahoma

2014 L.G. Hill Graduate Excellence Award, Univ. of Oklahoma

SERVICE

- 2024 Member of the Graduate Faculty Council, UMCES
- 2024 Chair of the Appalachian Lab Graduate Education Committee, UMCES
- 2024 Member of the Appalachian Lab Onboarding Committee, UMCES
- 2024 Co-facilitator, 'eDNA/omics' working group, MEES Colloquium, UMCES
- 2024 Lightning Talk Judge, MEES Colloquium, UMCES
- 2022 Project Judge, Undergraduate Research Competition, Univ. of Arkansas
- 2021 Member of the Planning Committee, Univ. of Arkansas, Dept. Biological Sciences
- 2020 Member of the Museum Advisory Council, Univ. of Arkansas
- 2020 Chair of the Fundraising Committee, Museum Advisory Council, Univ. of Arkansas
- 2020 Member of the Graduate Studies Committee, Univ. of Arkansas, Dept. Biological Sciences
- 2018 Rapporteur, International Mahseer Conference

Manuscript referee

- Aquatic Sciences* (1 in 2022)
- Biological Conservation* (1 in 2021)
- Conservation Biology* (1 in 2023)
- Diversity & Distributions* (1 in 2022)
- Ecology & Evolution* (1 in 2023)
- Freshwater Biology* (1 in 2023)
- Journal of Biogeography* (1 in 2022)
- Molecular Ecology* (1 in 2024)
- OIKOS* (1 in 2025)
- PLoS ONE* (1 in 2018; 2 in 2019; 2 in 2020)
- The Southwestern Naturalist* (1 in 2016)
- USGS external reviewer University of Arkansas Coop (1 in 2024)
- USGS external reviewer Eastern Ecological Science Center (1 in 2025)