

Updated August 2025

YIFAN (FLORA) HE
Walsh School of Foreign Service
Georgetown University, Washington DC 20057
yh993@georgetown.edu | yifan-he.com

EMPLOYMENT

2025- **Assistant Professor, Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University**

EDUCATION

2020-2025 **PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara**, Environmental Science & Management
Environmental politics, comparative politics; land system science; applied statistics
Committee: Mark Buntaine (co-chair), Robert Heilmayr (co-chair), Arun Agrawal

2015-2017 **M.S., University of Michigan**, Natural Resources and Environment
Fields: conservation ecology; environmental informatics

2011-2015 **Bachelor of Social Sciences, University of Hong Kong**
First class honors; major: psychology; minor: ecology & biodiversity

PUBLICATIONS

1. **He, Y.**, Czaplicki Cabezas, S., Maillard, O., Müller, R., Romero-Muñoz, A., Romero Pimentel, L. F., Vadillo, A., & Vos, V. A. (2025). Protect Bolivia's forests from fires. *Science*, 387, 255-255
2. Qin, S., Buchadas, A., Meyfroidt, P., **He, Y.**, Ghoddousi, A., Pötzschner, F., Baumann, M., Kuemmerle, T. (2024). Links between deforestation, conservation areas, and conservation funding in major deforestation regions of South America. *People and Nature* 6(5):1789-1803.
3. Qin, S., **He, Y.***, Golden Kroner, R. E., Shrestha, S., Coutinho, B. H., Karmann, M., Ledezma, J.C., Martinez, C., Morón-Zambrano, V., Ulloa, R., Yerena, E., Bernard, C., Bull, J.W., Mendoza, E., de Pracontal, N., Reyter, K., Veit, P., Matallana-Tobón, C.L., Wiley, L.A., Mascia, M. (2024) An inclusive, empirically grounded inventory facilitates recognition of diverse area-based conservation of nature. *One Earth*. (*lead corresponding author and co-first author)
4. Jagadish, A., Freni-Sterrantino, A., **He, Y.**, O' Garra, T., Gecchele, L., Mangubhai, S., Govan, H., Tawake, A., Vakalalabure, M.T., Mascia, M. B., Mills, M. (2024). Scaling Indigenous-led natural resource management. *Global Environmental Change*, 84, 102799.
5. Mack, E. A., Sauls, L. A., Jokisch, B. D., Nolte, K., Schmook, B., **He, Y.**, Radcl, C., Allington, G. R. H., Kelley, L. C., Scott, C. K., Leisz, S., Chi, G., Sagynbekova, L., Cuba, N., & Henebry, G. M. (2023). Remittances and land change: A systematic review. *World Development*, 168, 106251.
6. **He, Y.**, Baldivieso, J-P., Agrawal, A., Candaguira, V., & Perfecto. I. (2019). How should an indigenous community in eastern Bolivia defend their land and forests? – A sustainability case study. *Case Studies in the Environment*, 3(1), 1-14.
7. Golden Kroner, R.E., Qin, S., Cook, C.N., Krithivasan, R., Pack, S.M., Bonilla, O.D., Cort-Kansinall, K.A., Coutinho, B., Feng, M., Martínez Garcia, M.I., **He, Y.**, Kennedy, C., Lebreton, C., Ledezma, J.C.,

Lovejoy, T.E., Luther, D.A., Parmanand, Y., Ruíz-Agudelo, E.Y., Zambran, V.M., & Mascia, M.B. (2019). The uncertain future of protected lands and waters. *Science*, 364(6443), 881-886.

8. Li, K.*, **He, Y.***, Campbell, S. K., Colborn, A. S., Jackson, E. L., Martin, A., Monagan, I.V., Ong, T.W.Y., & Perfecto, I. (2017). From endogenous to exogenous pattern formation: Invasive plant species changes the spatial distribution of a native ant. *Global Change Biology*, 23(6), 2250-2261. (*co-first author)

UNDER REVIEW

1. O'Neill, H.M.K., Beeken, J., Bingham, H.C., Golden Kroner, R., **He, Y...** Davies, Z.G., & Smith, R.J. Global conserved area coverage substantially exceeds current estimates. Revised and Resubmitted: *Nature*.
2. Shrestha, S., Nowakowski, J., Olsson, E., Noon, M., Hunt, D., Costedoat, S., Degawan, M., Berger, Cerda, J., Corrigan, C., Golden Kroner, R., **He, Y., M.**, Muñoz Brenes, C., Mascia, M.B. For a Sustainable Future, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Need More Than Legal Rights. In review: *Nature*.

WORKING PAPERS

1. **He, Y.** Deforestation as Patronage: Political Alignment and Forest Law Enforcement in Bolivia
2. **He, Y.**, Costola-Pede, A, de Aguiar Barros, J., Heilmayr, R. Unequal health impact of gold mining in the Brazilian Amazon
3. Baragwanath, K., **He, Y.**, Martinez-Alvarez, C.B., Nadeem, F. Playing with fire: the environmental consequences of an electorally motivated license to burn
4. **He, Y.** Differential forest law enforcement by land user group in Bolivia

POLICY WRITING

1. **He, Y.**, Qin, S, Golden Kroner, R. (2024) Inclusive tracking and recognition of area-based conservation helps people & planet (commentary). Mongabay.
2. **He, Y.** (2024) Bolivia's Silent Crisis: Wildfires and Deforestation in the Amazon. Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, University of Pennsylvania.
3. **He, Y.** (2018). How Tibetan Buddhism and conservation efforts helped Eurasian otters thrive in a city of 200,000 people (commentary). Mongabay.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024-2025	National Science Foundation/American Political Science Association Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, " <i>The distributive politics of deforestation in Bolivia.</i> " (\$13,493, PI)
2024	Benioff Scholars Program in Applied Environmental Science (\$6,000)
2023	Schmidt Family Foundation Research Accelerator Award (\$8,000)
2023	James D. Kline Fund for International Studies (\$5,000)
2022-2024	Michael J. Connell Memorial Fund Research Award, " <i>Assessing socioeconomic and environmental impacts of land use restrictions in Indigenous lands in Brazil.</i> " (\$15,000, PI)

2022	Environmental Justice Research Fund, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, UCSB (\$1,000)
2022	Broom Center for Demography Graduate Student Travel Grant, UCSB (\$2,000)
2021-2023	Individualized Professional Skills Grant, UCSB (\$500, \$1,000, \$1,050)
2020-2025	Chancellor's Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara (Five years of financial support including 3 years of full fellowship, awarded to top admitted doctoral students)
2017-2018	Michigan Sustainability Cases, University of Michigan, <i>"How can the indigenous communities in Bolivia sustainably manage their forests under the pressure of mechanized agricultural expansion?"</i> (\$11,000, PI)
2018	School of Natural Resources and Environment Staff Fellowship for Returning Students, University of Michigan (\$1,200)
2017	The Marshall Weinberg Internship Fellowship, University of Michigan (\$6,000)
2015	Paul S. Welch Limnology Fellowship, University of Michigan (\$5,000)
2013	Serena Yang Award, University of Hong Kong (\$1,386)
2012	C.V. Starr Scholarship, University of Hong Kong ((\$1,547)
2012-2015	Foundation Scholarships for Outstanding Mainland Students, University of Hong Kong (\$66,805)

AWARDS AND HONORS

2019	Winner of Michigan Sustainability Cases Annual Case Award, "Inclusion" category
2012-2013	Dean's Honours List, University of Hong Kong
2011	1 st place among 378,000+ examinees, China (Hunan) National College Entrance Exam

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

2025	Universidad Católica Boliviana (invited talk)
2024	Global Land Programm Open Science Meeting (GLP-OSM); American Political Science Association (APSA); Political Economy of Climate and the Environment (PECE); Bren School PhD Student Symposium (1st place)
2023	XV Encontro da ECOECO; Political Economy of Climate and the Environment (PECE)
2022	UCSB Environmental Justice Symposium; Bren School PhD Student Symposium (2nd place)
2021	International Congress for Conservation Biology; American Association of Geographers Annual Conference (organizer)
2020	PLACES Research & Data Webinar; Society for Conservation GIS webinar (panelist)
2019	International Congress for Conservation Biology (organizer); University of Helsinki (invited speaker)
2018	Forests & Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, Engagement; International Association for Landscape Ecology Annual Meeting

2017 Future of Forests - Youth Visioning Workshops, Bolivia (organizer); la Universidad Católica Boliviana (invited speaker)

2016 Student Conference on Conservation Science-New York

TEACHING

2024 **Instructor of Record**, University of California, Santa Barbara
ESM248 – Environmental Institutions. Graduate level (Master’s).

2022-2023 **Teaching Assistant**, University of California, Santa Barbara
ESM248 – Environmental Institutions. Graduate level (Master’s).
ENVS154 - Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Environmental Applications.
Undergraduate upper division.

2016-2017 **Graduate Student Instructor**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
ENVIRON201 – Ecological Issues. Undergraduate lower division.

2012 **English Teacher**, New Oriental Education & Technology Group Inc., Beijing, China

EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

Fieldwork: Bolivia – 8 months total (2025, 2023, 2022, 2017)
Brazil – 4 months total (2023, 2022)
China – 3 months total (2019, 2018, 2015)
Indonesia – 1 month (2015)

Languages: Spanish (advanced); Portuguese (intermediate); Mandarin Chinese (native); Hakka (native);
Cantonese (beginner); English (fluent)

Software: R; ArcGIS; Python; LaTeX; Google Earth Engine

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-present Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California, Santa Barbara
Graduate Student Researcher

2016-2020 Moore Center for Science, Conservation International, Arlington, VA, USA
Social Scientist (July 2019 – September 2020)
Social Science Coordinator (March 2018-June 2019)
Intern (May – August 2016)

2017 Bolivian Forestry Research Institute, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Research Intern

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Reviewer: *Journal of Public Economics; World Development; Environmental Research Letters; Journal of Development Studies; Global Ecology and Conservation; Conservation Science and Practice; Computers, Environment and Urban Systems; Parks; Qeios*

Co-chair, Bren PhD Symposium committee (2022-2023)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association

American Association of Geographers

Global Land Programme

Society for Conservation Biology

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Task Force on Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECM), Working group on Protected Area Downgrading, Downsizing, and Degazettement (PADDD)