

LAURA VILLEGAS ORTIZ

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PROFILE

Citizenship: U.S., Colombian
Languages: Native Spanish and English
Interests: Environmental Justice, Climate Adaptation, Governance, Data Science

CURRENT POSITIONS

Sr Market Monitor Jan 2024 - present
Washington State Department Of Ecology—Lacey, WA
Program Affiliate (Human Earth Systems Center) Mar 2021 - present
College of Innovation and Design; Boise State University—Boise, ID
Board of Trustees Member Jan 2023 - present
The Nature Conservancy, Idaho—Boise, ID

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

US Society for Ecological Economics ([USSEE](#)); Women in Environmental Economics and Development ([WinEED](#)); Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center ([SECASC](#));

FORMAL EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics 2018
North Carolina State University—Raleigh, NC. United States
M.S., Applied Economics 2013
Montana State University—Bozeman, MT. United States
B.S., Economics (Highest Honors) 2011
Montana State University—Bozeman, MT. United States
B.A., Political Sciences-International Relations 2011
Montana State University—Bozeman, MT. United States

RESEARCH FIELDS

Environmental Governance; Collective Impact; Environmental Justice; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Climate Resilience and Adaptation; Natural Infrastructure; Nature-Based Solutions; Rural Development; Ecological Economics; Environmental Data Science; Latin America; East Africa

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Sr. Research Analyst – Earth Economics, Tacoma WA 2021-2024
Board Member—United States Society for Ecological Economics (USSEE) 2023
Boards and Commissions Fellow – Conservation Voters for Idaho 2023
Economist - New Climate Economy & Natural Infrastructure – World Resources Institute 2018-2021
Research and Teaching Assistant- Department of Economics—NCSU 2013-2018
Intern - State of North Carolina, Coal Ash Management Commission 2015
Consultant - Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research 2015
Analyst of Economic and Environmental Impact - HMV Ing. Bogotá, Colombia 2013
Research and Teaching Assistant - Dep of Economics and Ag Economics, MSU 2011-2013
Intern - Foundation for Research in Economics and the Environment. Bozeman, MT 2011

HONORS AND AWARDS

Boards and Commissions Fellow

Conservation Voters for Idaho **2023**

Southeast Climate Science Center Global Change Fellow

North Carolina State University. US Department of Interior **2015-2016**

Goetz Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement

Department of Political Science. Montana State University **2010-2011**

Heydar Aliyev Award for Academic Excellence Impacting on Azerbaijan

Azerbaijani General Consulate to California and the 13 Western American States

For research on mineral wealth and economic development in emerging economies **May 2011**

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Multicultural Organizations:

Volunteer, Idaho Office for Refugees/ Idaho Museum of International Diaspora **2022-Present**

Volunteer, Las Señoras—Idaho **2022-Present**

Volunteer, Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho—Nampa, Idaho **2020-Present**

Student Advisor / Treasurer of the Latin American Student Association—NCSU **2014-2015**

Multicultural Leadership Collaborative—NCSU **2014-2017**

Regional and National Model Arab League Collegiate Debate Competitions—MSU **2010,2011**

Athletics and Recreation:

Certified Personal Trainer (NASM) and Coach for Women and Girls in Strength Sports **2022-Present**

State Referee—USA Powerlifting **2021-Present**

Most Valuable Player—Women's Tennis Team. *Montana State University* **2007, 2010**

Honorary Tennis Player. Division I Big Sky Conference. *Rocky Mountain Region* **2007, 2008**

