



Adam Spitzig

- Ph.D. Student in Environment and Resources, admitted Autumn 2024
- Student Worker, Ethics In Society

Bio

BIO

Adam Spitzig is a PhD candidate in Environment and Resources (E-IPER) at Stanford University's Doerr School of Sustainability. He is a historical ecologist and data scientist whose research examines long-term biodiversity dynamics and their human drivers.

His work integrates paleoecological data (especially fossil pollen records), archaeological and historical sources, geospatial analysis, and statistical modeling to understand when and how human societies have increased, maintained, or reduced biodiversity. He is particularly interested in identifying cases of sustained anthropogenic biodiversity expansion and examining the institutional, economic, infrastructural, and land-use processes that produced them. His work also explores how long-term ecological knowledge can inform contemporary conservation and restoration strategy.

Before beginning his PhD, he led ecological modeling and machine learning initiatives in conservation and technology organizations, including Ducks Unlimited and several data-driven startups.

He holds a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University, a Master of Information & Data Science from UC Berkeley, a Master of Environmental Management and a Juris Doctor from Duke University, and a BA from the University of Florida.

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Cultural innovation can increase and maintain biodiversity: A case study from medieval Europe.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*
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- **Integrating historical sources for long-term ecological knowledge and biodiversity conservation** *Nature Reviews Biodiversity*
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2025: 657–670
- **(Re)Mapping the Columbian Exchange. Suggestions for an Updated Cartography** *Food and History*
Bhagat, M., Nowak, Z., Spitzig, A., Roynesdal, K.
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- **Inferring implications of climate change in south Florida hardwood hammocks through analysis of metacommunity structure** *DIVERSITY AND DISTRIBUTIONS*
Ross, M. S., Sah, J. P., Ruiz, P. L., Spitzig, A. A., Subedi, S. C.
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- **TREE ISLAND RESPONSE TO FIRE AND FLOODING IN THE SHORT-HYDROPERIOD MARL PRAIRIE GRASSLANDS OF THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES, USA** *FIRE ECOLOGY*

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