

MATTHEW J. SELINSKE

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Professional Summary

Conservation social scientist with a research and practice focus on human dimensions. Background in qualitative and quantitative social science methods, structured expert elicitation techniques and cost benefit analyses. Experienced lecturer and teaching assistant. Currently supervising 2 PhD students and 1 Masters student. President of the Society of Conservation Biology's Social Science Working Group. Strong science communicator and grant writer. Effectively manages multiple concurrent projects.

Education

Doctor of Philosophy

Social Science, RMIT University | November 2019

Thesis title: *Advancing the integration of human behavior into conservation decision-making*

Master of Science degree in Conservation Science

Imperial College London | 2013

Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife

Specialized: Conservation Biology with minor in Biology

University of Minnesota | 2003

Current Position

Postdoctoral Researcher | RMIT University

Melbourne, Australia | August 2019-present

- Designed and coordinated multiple research projects focused on human dimensions of conservation issues
- Led stakeholder engagement workshops, including quarterly team meetings and three structured expert elicitation workshops with over 50 participants
- Developed and managed grants including a \$552,543 grant focused on the human dimensions of biodiversity-friendly coffee production and consumption
- Aligned a behavior change research program with the Victorian State Government's environmental policy framework
- Course coordinator for Ecological Foundations of Planning with 145 enrolled students

Previous Academic Employment

Tutor | Environment and Behaviour, University of Melbourne

Melbourne, Australia | February 2018-July 2018

- Tutored 49 second-year students
- Assisted lesson-plan development focused on three components of environmental psychology: landscape preferences, environmental concern, and environmental behaviour change
- Delivered a high-quality learning experience that engaged students, demonstrated by high tutorial attendance and positive course reviews

Tutor | Ecological Foundations of Planning, RMIT University

Melbourne, Australia | July 2017-November 2017

- Tutored 45 first-year students
- Designed lesson plans that incorporated social science theories and concepts into urban planning
- Led field trips to local conservation reserves facilitating student research projects

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Research Associate | Conservation Science Research Group, Imperial College

London, UK | October 2013-September 2015

- Collaborated with South African and Australian Governments and nonprofits to design practical research projects informing policy and implementation
- Interviewed or surveyed in over 700 South African and Australian landowners
- Evaluated an engagement program of 1400 trust landowners using a Before-After-Control-Impact design
- Influenced international private land conservation best practice recommendations through 5 published research outputs and a targeted working paper

Professional Experience

Ecological Restoration Project Leader | New York Restoration Project

New York City | July 2014-November 2014 (contract)

- Created a long-term vegetation monitoring program to assess reforestation efforts
- Supervised a restoration crew in forest restoration work and community outreach
- Coordinated volunteer management and engagement

Program Manager | Foundation for the Protection of West African Chimpanzees (FPWAC)

The Gambia | 2008-2012

- Managed 27 staff and international volunteers
- Established an ecotourism program to provide sustainable funding for FPWAC which now receives up to 700 visitors a year and generates annual revenues of near \$100,000
- Expanded the FPWAC environmental education program's content and increased its reach from 150 individuals per month to over 500 children and adults in 21 communities
- Generated over \$200,000 for livelihood and infrastructure projects in over a four-year period through grant writing and fund development
- Developed and implemented monitoring and evaluation frameworks for development projects

Environmental Officer | United States Peace Corps

The Gambia | 2003-2005

- Evaluated community forest projects with the Gambian Department of Forestry and the German Organization for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
- Established an environmental education center and education program at the River Gambia National Park
- Designed environmental education lesson plans, teaching aids, and displays

Natural Resources Specialist | City of Burnsville Natural Resources Department

Minnesota, USA | 2000-2002 (seasonal)

- Created conservation plans for natural areas in City of Burnsville nature reserves
- Implemented upland habitat restoration and management in six nature preserves
- Supervised 350 Burnsville residents, students, and volunteer groups in habitat restoration and citizen science projects including breeding bird surveys and wetland health monitoring

Research Funding and Contracts

1. Australian Research Council Linkage Grant: *Biodiversity behavior change across supply chains*. Principle Investigator: Matthew Selinske. Co-Principle Investigators: Sarah Bekessy, Georgia Garrard, Emily McLeod, Yoshisha Kashima, Fiona Fidler, Amanda Rodewald. Australian Research Council, Genovese Coffee, and Zoos Victoria. \$552,543.
2. *Behavioral interventions and their impacts for Biodiversity 2037*. Principle Investigator: Matthew Selinske. Co-Principle Investigators: Sarah Bekessy, Georgia Garrard. Victorian Government Department of Environmental, Land, Water and Planning. \$39,000.

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3. *Examining the use of local government rate rebates for encouraging conservation in rapidly developing peri-urban areas.* Principle Investigator: Matthew Selinske. Co-Principle Investigators: Matthew Hardy, Benjamin Cooke, Rebecca Leshinsky. Urban Futures Enhanced Capability Platform Small Grants, RMIT University. \$5,000.
4. *Psychological distance and landholder uptake of climate change conservation action.* Principle Investigator: Matthew Selinske. Trust for Nature. \$8,000.
5. *Monitoring the social dimension of privately protected areas.* Principle Investigator: Matthew Selinske. Co-Principle Investigator: Andrew Knight. Australian Land Conservation Alliance and The Nature Conservancy. \$28,000.

Peer-reviewed Publications

1. Selinske M.J., Bekessy S.A., Geary W.L., Faulkner R., Hames F., Fletcher C., Squires Z.E., Garrard G.E. 2021. *Conservation Biology*. Projecting the biodiversity benefits and cost-effectiveness of changing direct and indirect conservation behaviors. [10.1111/cobi.13845](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13845)
2. Selinske M.J., Garrard G.E., Gregg, E.A., Kusmanoff A.M., Kidd L.R., Cullen M.T., Cooper M., et al., 2020. Identifying and prioritizing human behaviors that benefit biodiversity. *Conservation Science and Practice* [10.1111/csp2.249](https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.249)
3. Selinske M.J., Garrard G., Gordon A., Kusmanoff A., Fidler F., Bekessy S.A. 2020. We have a steak in it: Eliciting interventions to reduce beef consumption and its impact on biodiversity. *Conservation Letters*. [10.1111/conl.12721](https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12721)
4. Selinske M.J., Howard N., Fitzsimons J.A., Hardy M.J., Smillie K., Forbes J., Tymms K., and Knight A.T. Monitoring and evaluating the social and psychological dimensions that contribute to privately protected area program effectiveness. 2019. *Biological Conservation* 229: 170-178. [10.1016/j.biocon.2018.11.026](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2018.11.026)
5. Travers H., Selinske M.J., Nuno A., Serban A., Mancini F., Barychka T., Bush E., Rasolofoson R.A., Watson J.E., Milner-Gulland E.J. 2019. A manifesto for predictive conservation. *Biological Conservation*. 237:12-8. [10.1016/j.biocon.2019.05.059](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.05.059)
6. Kidd L.R., Garrard G.E., Bekessy S.A., Mills M., Camilleri A.R., Fidler F., Fielding K.S., Gordon A., Gregg E.A., Kusmanoff A.M., Louis W., Moon K., Robinson J.A., Selinske M.J., Shanahan D., and Adams V.W. 2019. Messaging matters: a systematic review of the conservation messaging literature. *Biological Conservation* 236: 92-99. [10.1016/j.biocon.2019.05.020](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.05.020)
7. Selinske M.J., Garrard G., Bekessy S.A., Gordon A., Kusmanoff A., and Fidler F. 2018. Revisiting the promise of conservation psychology. *Conservation Biology* 32(6): 1464-1468. [10.1111/cobi.13106](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13106)
8. Clements H.S., Selinske M.J., Archibald C., Cooke B., Fitzsimons J.A., Groce J., Torabi N., and Hardy M.J. 2018. Fairness and transparency is required for the inclusion of Privately Protected Areas in publicly accessible conservation databases. *Land* 7(3): 9. [10.3390/land7030096](https://doi.org/10.3390/land7030096)
9. Guerrero A., Bennett N., Wilson K., Carter N., Gill D., Mills M., Ives C., Selinske M.J., Larrosa C., Bekessy S., Januchowski-Hartley F., Travers H., Wyborn C., and Nuno A. 2018. Achieving the promise of integration In social-ecological research: A review and prospectus. *Ecology and Society* 23(3): 38. [10.5751/ES-10232230338](https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-10232230338)
10. Bekessy, S.A. and Selinske M.J. 2017. Social-ecological analyses for better water resources decisions. In B.T. Hart and J. Doolan (Eds.) *Decision Making in Water Resources Policy and Management*: 151-164. [10.1016/B9780-12-810523-8.00010-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/B9780-12-810523-8.00010-0)

11. Damiens, F.L., L. Mumaw, A. Backstrom, S. A. Bekessy, B. Coffey, R. Faulkner, G.E. Garrard, M.J. Hardy, A.M. Kusmanoff, L. Mata, L. Rickards, M.J. Selinske, N. Torabi and A. Gordon. 2017. Why politics and context matter in conservation policy. *Global Policy* 8(2): 253-256. [10.1111/1758-5899.12415](https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.12415)
12. Selinske, M.J., B. Cooke, N. Torabi, M. J. Hardy, Knight A.T., and Bekessy S.A. 2017. Locating financial incentives among diverse motivations for long-term private land conservation. *Ecology and Society* 22(2):7. [10.1111/1758-5899.12415](https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.12415)
13. Selinske, M.J., J. Coetzee, K. Purnell, and Knight A.T. 2015. Understanding the Motivations, Satisfaction, and Retention of Landowners in Private Land Conservation Programs. *Conservation Letters* 8(4): 282-289. [10.1111/conl.12154](https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12154)

Professional Membership

- Ecological Society of America
- Association for Psychological Sciences
- Society for Conservation Biology

Leadership and Service to Professional Societies

- Board Member, Social Science Working Group of the Society for Conservation Biology 2019-2021, 3-year appointment
- Treasurer and Board Member, Greater Melbourne Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology 2018-2021
- Chair, Victorian Biodiversity Conference Committee 2017

Invited Seminars

1. Biodiversity Conservation Trust Annual Meeting. New South Wales. 2019. *The social and psychological dimensions contributing towards privately protected area effectiveness.*
2. Arthur Rylah Institute. 2019. Victoria. *Prioritizing human behavior change for conservation in Victoria.*
3. Interdisciplinary Conservation Network. Oxford, UK 2016. *Predicting human behavior for better environmental decision-making.*
4. Summer Institute on Bounded Rationality, Max Planck Institute for Human Development. Berlin, Germany 2016. *Fisher communities' decision-making under policy change.*

Conference Presentations

1. Selinske, M.J. 2019. *Landholders perceptions of climate change and implications for biodiversity management.* Australian Private Land Conservation Conference. Adelaide, South Australia.
2. Selinske, M.J. 2019. *We have a steak in it: eliciting interventions to reduce beef consumption and its impact on biodiversity.* International Congress for Conservation of Biology. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
3. Selinske, M.J. 2019. *Prioritizing human behaviors that impact biodiversity in Australia.* Victorian Biodiversity Conference. University of Melbourne, Victoria.
4. Selinske, M.J. 2018. *Prioritizing human behaviors that impact biodiversity.* North American Congress for Conservation Biology. Toronto, Canada.

5. Selinske, M.J. 2018. Symposium convener: *Intergenerational stewardship for long-term conservation impact*. Society for Conservation Biology Oceania Conference. Wellington, New Zealand.
6. Selinske, M.J. 2019. *Mainstreaming human behavior into conservation decision-making*. Victorian Biodiversity Conference, La Trobe University, Victoria.
7. Selinske, M.J. 2017. *Future proofing privately protected areas*. Australian Private Land Conservation Conference. Hobart, Tasmania.
8. Selinske, M.J. 2017. *Redlisting industry impacts on biodiversity*. International Congress for Conservation of Biology. Cartagena, Colombia.

Languages

Proficient in Pulaar, spoken by the Fulani, a people of West Africa