

AARON P. POTITO

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EDUCATION

2000-2005 Ph.D., Geography, University of California, Los Angeles
1998-2000 M.A., Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder
1991-1995 B.A., Environmental Conservation, University of Colorado, Boulder

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Lecturer, February 2006-present: Geography, National University of Ireland, Galway
Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2005-2006: Geography, Ohio State University, Columbus
Research Associate, 2001-2005: Geography, University of California, Los Angeles
Teaching Associate, 2000-2003: Geography, University of California, Los Angeles
Research Assistant, 1999: Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder
Teaching Assistant, 1998-2000: Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder

ACADEMIC HONOURS

Dissertation Year Fellowship, 2004-2005, UCLA Graduate Division
Dissertation Year Mentorship, 2003-2004, UCLA Geography Department
Mabel Duncan Memorial Scholarship, 1999, Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder
Graduate Student Fellowship, 1999, Graduate Division, University of Colorado, Boulder

GRANTS AWARDED

1. Sichuan University State Key Laboratory of Hydraulics and Mountain River Engineering Open Research Fund, 2008: Subfossil chironomids as indicators of recent climate change in Sichuan, China.
2. Millenium Research Fund (Minor Project), National University of Ireland, Galway, 2006: The modern distribution of chironomid (Insecta: Diptera) subfossils in western Ireland: potential for palaeoclimatic reconstructions.
3. Geological Society of America Research Award, 2003: High-resolution temperature reconstruction in the Sierra Nevada during the Little Ice Age: using chironomids (midge fly larvae) as climatic indicators.
4. Beverly Sears Dean's Small Grant, 1999: Impacts of recreation trails on exotic and invasive species along the Colorado Front Range.
5. Colorado Mountain Club Research Grant, 1999: Impacts of recreation trails on exotic species establishment along the Colorado Front Range.

PUBLICATIONS

Potito, A.P., C.A. Woodward, and D.W. Beilman (under review) Modern influences on chironomid distribution in western Ireland: potential for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction. *Journal of Paleolimnology*.

Woodward, C.A., **A.P. Potito**, and D.W. Beilman (under review) Carbon and nitrogen stable isotope ratios of lake surface sediments from western Irish lakes: implications for the inference of past lake productivity, nitrogen sources and loading. *Journal of Paleolimnology*.

X. Guo, **A.P. Potito**, L. Luo, and D.W. Beilman (under review) Impacts of climate warming on a large mountain lake in southwest China. *Hydrobiologia*.

X. Guo, **A.P. Potito**, L. Luo, and K. Li (under review) A GIS-based approach for simulating the impacts of a large reservoir on regional temperatures: Ertan reservoir, China. *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*.

MacDonald, G.M., K.A. Moser, A.M. Bloom, D.F. Porinchu, **A.P. Potito**, A. Petel, B. Wolfe, T.W.D. Edwards, A.R. Orme, and A.J. Orme. 2008. Evidence of temperature depression and hydrological variations in the eastern Sierra Nevada during the Younger Dryas stage. *Quaternary Research* 70: 131-140.

Potito, A.P. and G.M. MacDonald. 2008. The effects of aridity on conifer radial growth, recruitment, and mortality patterns in the eastern Sierra Nevada, California. *Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research* 40: 129-139.

Porinchu, D.F., **A.P. Potito**, G.M. MacDonald, and A.M. Bloom. 2007. Subfossil chironomids as indicators of recent climate change in Sierra Nevada, California, lakes. *Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research* 39: 286-296.

Potito, A.P., D.F. Porinchu, G.M. MacDonald, and K.A. Moser. 2006. A late Quaternary chironomid-inferred temperature record from the Sierra Nevada, California, with connections to northeast Pacific sea surface temperatures. *Quaternary Research* 66: 356-363.

Potito, A.P. and S.W. Beatty. 2005. Impacts of recreation trails on exotic and ruderal species distribution in grassland areas along the Colorado Front Range. *Environmental Management* 36: 230-236.

BOOK REVIEWS

Potito, A.P. 2008. 'Global Issues: An Introduction (Third Edition)' by J.L. Seitz, Book Review. *Geographical Journal* 175: 88.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

McKeown, M. and **A.P. Potito**. 2011. An assessment of recent climate change and ecological response in NW Ireland using chironomid-based palaeolimnological reconstructions. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Seattle, Washington.

Porinchu, D.F., **A.P. Potito**, P. Soltesz, J. DeGrand, and S. Reinemann. 2010 Assessing mid-Holocene aridity in the Midwestern United States. Quaternary Studies and Stratigraphy Seminar, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Columbus, Ohio.

Galvin, S. and **A.P. Potito**. 2010. The dendroclimatological potential of *Taxus baccata* in Reenadinna Wood, Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry. Conference of Irish Geographers, Maynooth.

Potito, A.P. and C.A. Woodward. 2009. Chironomid subfossil distribution in western Ireland: potential for palaeoenvironmental reconstructions. Conference of Irish Geographers, Cork.

Potito, A.P. and C.A. Woodward. 2009. The distribution of chironomid subfossils in western Ireland: potential for paleoenvironmental reconstructions. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Potito, A.P., A. Overland, and M. O'Connell. 2008. High-resolution temperature reconstruction of the '8200-year cold event' in western Ireland. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts.

Bloom, A.M., D.F. Porinchu, **A.P. Potito**, and G.M. MacDonald. 2008. Recent climate change in the central Sierra Nevada, California, USA, as indicated by high-resolution diatom analysis. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts.

Porinchu, D.F., S. Reinemann, **A.P. Potito**, G.M. MacDonald, K.A. Moser, J.S. Munroe, J. Box, and B. Mark. 2007. Evidence of regional warming during the 20th century in alpine and subalpine lakes in the western United States. Paper presented at the American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

Porinchu, D.F., **A.P. Potito**, G.M. MacDonald, K. Moser, and J. Munroe. 2006. High Resolution Analysis of Sub-fossil Midges from the Great Basin, United States Provides Evidence of 20th Century Warming. Paper presented at the American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

Potito, A.P., D.F. Porinchu, G.M. MacDonald, and K.A. Moser. 2006. A late Quaternary chironomid-inferred temperature record from the Sierra Nevada, California, with connections to northeast Pacific sea surface temperatures. 16th International Chironomid Symposium, Funchal, Portugal.

Porinchu, D.F., **A.P. Potito**, G.M. MacDonald, K.A. Moser, and A.M. Bloom. 2006. High Resolution Analysis of Subfossil Chironomids in the Inter-Mountain Region of the Western United States Provides Evidence of 20th Century Warming. 16th International Chironomid Symposium, Funchal, Portugal.

Porinchu, D.P., **A.P. Potito**, G.M. MacDonald, and A.M. Bloom. 2006. High resolution analysis of subfossil chironomids in the Sierra Nevada, California, provides evidence of late 20th century warming. Pacific Climate Conference, Pacific Grove, California.

Potito, A.P., D.F. Porinchu, G.M. MacDonald, and K.A. Moser. 2006. A 15,000-yr chironomid-inferred temperature record from the eastern Sierra Nevada, California. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Chicago, IL.

Potito, A.P. and G.M. MacDonald. 2004. Holocene drought patterns in the Eastern Sierra Nevada, CA: A paleolimnological approach. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Philadelphia, PA.

Moser, K.A., G.M. MacDonald, A.M. Bloom, **A.P. Potito**, and D.F. Porinchu. 2004. A Holocene Record of Climate Change from the Sierra Nevada, CA, USA: A Paleolimnological Perspective of California Drought. Paper presented at the American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

MacDonald, G.M., K.A. Moser, D.F. Porinchu, A.M. Bloom, **A.P. Potito**, and A. Petel. 2004. Climatological, hydrological and vegetation change for the past 15,000 years based upon a new network of high resolution lake sites in the Sierra Nevada and Uinta Mountains. Paper presented at the American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

Bloom, A.M., **A.P. Potito**, G.M. MacDonald, K.A. Moser, and D.F. Porinchu. 2004. A multi-proxy, high-resolution reconstruction of Holocene climate and drought conditions from Kirman Lake, eastern Sierra Nevada, California, USA. Paper presented at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

Moser, K.A., G.M. MacDonald, A.M. Bloom, D.F. Porinchu, A. Petel, and **A.P. Potito**. 2003. Paleolimnological evidence of Younger Dryas cooling in the Sierra Nevada, CA. Paper presented at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Potito, A.P., D.F. Porinchu and G.M. MacDonald. 2003. High resolution time-series of the Younger Dryas cold event in the Eastern Sierra Nevada, California. Paper presented at the Pacific Climate Conference, Pacific Grove, California.

MacDonald, G.M., D.F. Porinchu, A.M. Bloom, K.A. Moser, A. Petel, and **A.P. Potito**. 2001. Sensitivity of California to rapid climatic variations typical of the last glacial-interglacial transition: Evidence from the 'new' paleolimnology applied to Sierra Nevada lakes. Paper presented at the American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

INVITED PAPERS AND DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

Potito, A.P. 2010. The role of chironomids in reconstructing environmental change. Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology Seminar Series, Queen's University, Belfast.

Potito, A.P. 2009. Using chironomids to study environmental change. Department of Geography Seminar Series, National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

Potito, A.P. 2008. Chironomids as indicators of environmental change. State Key Laboratory of Hydraulics and Mountain River Engineering, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China.

Potito, A.P. 2008. Past as the key to the present: Using chironomids to study climate change. School of Geography, Planning & Environmental Policy Seminar Series, University College Dublin.

Potito, A.P. 2006. How the past informs the present: Paleoclimate variability and impacts in the Sierra Nevada, California. DISCCRS II Symposium for recent Ph.D.s in climate change research, Pacific Grove, California.

Potito, A.P. 2006. Chironomid-inferred evidence of recent and long-term temperature change in the Sierra Nevada, California. DISCCRS II Symposium for recent Ph.D.s in climate change research, Pacific Grove, California.

Potito, A.P. 2006. Reconstructing paleoclimates in the United States: evidence from the Sierra Nevada and the American Midwest. Department of Geography seminar series, National University of Ireland, Galway.

Potito, A.P. 2006. Reconstructing late Quaternary climate: Lacustrine archives from California and the Midwestern U.S. Department of Geography colloquium series, Ohio State University.

Potito, A.P. 2005. A combined paleolimnological and dendroclimatological study on Holocene climate change and impacts in the Sierra Nevada, California. Geology Club seminar series, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio.

Potito, A.P. 2005. Reconstructing Holocene climate in the eastern Sierra Nevada, CA, using lake sedimentary records and tree-rings. Todd Spieker Colloquium Series, University of California, Los Angeles.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Individual modules

- TI235 Biogeography: module includes four field and lab-based exercises
- TI308 Quaternary Environments: module includes full-day fieldtrip to Connemara, class observation of sediment core extraction and a lab-based group project
- TI360 Research Seminar in Biogeography and Physical Geography: 25 to 35 final-year dissertation projects per academic year

Team-taught modules

- 1st-year: TI106 Foundations in Physical Geography, TI151 Principles of Physical Geography, TI152 Geography in Practice
- 2nd-year: TI212 Methods in Geography, TI222 Geographical Perspectives, TI224 Residential Field Class (Sofia, Bulgaria 2007; Shanghai 2008; Belgium 2012), TI251 Theory and Practice in Geography 1
- 3rd-year: TI350-366 Research Seminar Lecture Series

Course coordination & development

- Practical component (40% of first-year mark) for TI103 Foundations in Human Geography and TI106 Foundations in Physical Geography (2006-09)
- TI251 Theory and Practice in Geography 1 (2009)
- Developed an initial proposal for a new MA in the School of Geography and Archaeology entitled Natural Heritage, Conservation and Sustainability

POSTGRADUATE ADVISEES

Eva Eagleton (MLitt, 2010): Long-term viability of oak stands in Connemara, western Ireland

Stephen Galvin (PhD, submitted in Dec 2010, co-advisor): The impact of volcanic eruptions on the climate and ecology of Ireland since 1800

Claire Cullen (PhD, completion due in summer 2011): Ice sheet dynamics in NW Donegal at the end of the last Ice Age

Karen Taylor (MLitt, completion due in summer 2011): Environmental impacts of early farming in County Sligo

Michelle McKeown (PhD, completion due in summer 2012): Recent climate variability and impacts on lake ecosystems in NW Ireland

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Research community

- Scientific Reviewer: *Journal of Biogeography*, *Journal of Paleolimnology*, *Polar Biology Quaternary International*, *Austrian Science Fund (Wissenschaftsfonds – FWF)*, *Rutledge Publishers* (book reviewer)
- Review Committee, DISCRRS V symposium, a highly selective (20% acceptance rate) international symposium for new PhDs in climate change research
- Irish Postgraduate Training Consortium
 - 9th annual conference (2008): Professional Development seminar, faculty mentor
 - 10th annual conference (2009): Consortium Organiser, Profession Devel. seminar

Outreach

- Transition year work placement training (2010)
- Hosted a PhD student from Sichuan University, Xinchun Guo (2009-2010)
- Two graduate student projects were formulated in conjunction with National Parks and Wildlife Service

National University of Ireland, Galway

- College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies Research Committee (2006-2009)
 - Postgraduate Space Subcommittee (2006-2008)
 - Internal Assessor, Lady Gregory Fellowships, Social and Behavioural Sci. (2007)
 - Voluntary faculty reviewer for NUI Galway IRCHSS applicants (2007)
- Small Space Audit Committee (2006-07)
- Department of Geography
 - Student-staff liaison committee coordinator (2006-07)
 - Geography laboratory committee (2006-08)
 - 1BA tutor (2007-09)
 - Member of hiring committee for physical geography lecturer post (2007)
 - Effective Oral Presentations postgraduate workshop (2007)
 - Geography Seminar and Reading Series coordinator (2008-09)
- School of Geography and Archaeology
 - School laboratories committee (2008-present)

- Equipment budget committee (2009-present)
- School research committee (2010-present)

Other activities

- Invited participant: DISCCRS II Symposium on interdisciplinary climate change research, Spring 2006
- Co-organizer/Chair: Quaternary Environments of the Americas paper sessions, 2006 AAG Annual Meeting
- Biodiversity and Bioresources research group, Ryan Institute, NUI Galway
- Member, Irish Environmental History Network (2009-present)
- Member, Geological Society of America, 2003
- Member, Association of American Geographers (AAG), 2001-present
 - Member of the Biogeography and Paleoenvironmental Change working groups
- Member, Irish Quaternary Association (IQUA), 2006-present

WORKING PROJECTS

G.M. MacDonald, A.M. Bloom, **A.P. Potito**, K.A. Moser, and D.F. Porinchu. A high-resolution, multi-proxy study of Holocene drought patterns in the Eastern Sierra Nevada, California. (in write-up stage)

Overland, A., **A.P. Potito**, and M. O'Connell. Assessment of the 8200-year cold event in western Ireland. (in write-up stage)

Potito, A.P. and D.F. Porinchu. A chironomid-based assessment of mid-Holocene aridity in the Midwestern United States. (in lab analysis stage)