

Riley J. Balikian

Illinois State Geological Survey | Prairie Research Institute
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EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois
Ph.D. Geology (In Progress)

University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, Wisconsin
M.S. Environment and Resources | M.S. Urban and Regional Planning

- Au Sable Graduate Fellow

Wheaton College Wheaton, Illinois
B.S. Physics: Geophysics | Spanish Minor | Human Needs and Global Resources Certificate

- Guest Writer: *The Wheaton Record*

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Balikian, R. (2019). *Creeping Hazards: A Forgotten Framework for Transformability and Resilience*. Proceedings of the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems, Portland, OR. [ACCEPTED]

Balikian, R., Larson, T.H., Thomason, J. (2019). *Electrical Tomography and 3D Geophysical Models Towards Informed Land-Use Planning in Glacial Fluvial Outwash Plain*. Proceedings of the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems, Portland, OR. [ACCEPTED]

Grimley, D., Szocinski, P., Larson, T.H., **Balikian, R.** (2018) *Surficial Geology of Pleasant Mount Quadrangle: Bond and Fayette Counties*, Illinois State Geological Survey, Illinois County Geologic Map. Bond-Fayette County, 1:24,000.

Balikian, R., & Larson, T. H. (2018). *Pseudo Three-Dimensional Imaging of Creep Failure in a Highway Embankment Using Two-Dimensional Electric Earth Resistivity*. Proceedings of the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems, Nashville, TN.

Larson, T. H., & **Balikian, R.** (2018). *In-Situ Cassava Root Size Measurement Using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)*. Proceedings of the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering & Environmental Problems, Nashville, TN.

Ruis-Vera, U. **Balikian, R.**, Mwakanyamale, K., Grennan, A., De Souza, A., Larson, T.H., & Ort, D. (2017). *Non-Invasive Monitoring of Below-Ground Cassava Storage Root Bulking by Ground Penetrating Radar*. Poster Presentation at the Annual Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union. New Orleans, LA.

Balikian, R., Genskow, K. (2016) *Agua(cate): Resource Scarcity, Systems Resilience, and Avocado Agriculture in San Diego County, California*. Masters Thesis. University of Wisconsin-Madison. [Unpublished thesis: goo.gl/FemQxB]

Van Engen, K., Mutebi, J., Daring, K., & **Balikian, R.** (2015). *Depoliticizing Climate Change Through Film*,

Story, and Conversation. Panel presented at the Christian Community Development Association National Conference, Memphis, TN.

King, R., & **Balikian, R.** (2015). *Food Insecurity: Local Solutions to a National Need.* Oral presentation at the Christian Community Development Association National Conference, Memphis, TN.

Law, C., & **Balikian, R.** (2015). *Business Improvement Districts in the Maintenance of Downtown Infrastructure.* Oral presentation at the 20th Conference on the Small City and Regional Community, Wausau, WI.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2015** Student Project Award (Awarded by the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association)
- 2015** Wisconsin without Borders: Excellence in Community-Based Research (Awarded by Morgridge Center)
- 2013** Student speaker (Selected by Wheaton College administration to speak at undergraduate baccalaureate)
- 2013** 1st Place: P.J. Hill Essay Contest (Awarded by the Wheaton College Department of Economics)
- 2013** 1st Place: Wheaton Reflects Senior Essay Contest (Sponsored by the Wheaton College Union)
- 2011** Recipient: Hendrickson Human Needs and Global Resources Scholarship (Wheaton College)

WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017 – Present** **Illinois State Geological Survey** Champaign-Urbana, Illinois
2018 – Present: Visiting Senior Scientific Specialist: Geophysicist & Hydrogeologist
2017 – 2018: Geophysics Field Scientist
- 2014 – 2016** **University of Wisconsin Ethiopia Twinning Partnership** Madison, Wisconsin
2015-2016: Associate Outreach Specialist
2014-2015: Research Assistant
- 2014 – 2015** **University of Wisconsin-Extension, Local Government Center** Madison, Wisconsin
Business Improvement District Research Assistant
- 2014** **University of Wisconsin-Madison Urban & Regional Planning Department** Madison, Wisconsin
Project Manager, Oneida Community Integrated Food System Project
- 2013 – 2014** **University of Wisconsin-Madison Urban & Regional Planning Department** Madison, Wisconsin
Graduate Research Assistant
- 2013 – 2014** **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources** Madison, Wisconsin
Water Permit Intake Specialist
- 2013** **Wheaton College Department of Geology and Environmental Studies** Wheaton, Illinois
Independent Study in Geophysics Lab
- 2012 – 2013** **Wheaton College Human Needs and Global Resources Department** Wheaton, Illinois
Teacher's Assistant
- 2011** **Lifewater International** Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), Ethiopia
Field Intern (in partial fulfillment of Human Needs and Global Resources certificate)

SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERING

- 2014 – Present** **Young Evangelicals for Climate Action (YECA)** United States (Nationwide)
2016 – Present: Secretary
2015 – 2016: Treasurer
2014 – Present: Steering Committee Member
- 2013 – 2015** **Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development** Madison, Wisconsin
LIGHT Program Site Coordinator - Madison East High School
- 2014** **Community Groundworks at Troy Community Farm** Madison, Wisconsin
Intern
- 2012 – 2013** **A Rocha Conservation Organization, Wheaton College Chapter** Wheaton, Illinois
Student member
- 2012** **Wheaton College Deye Mon Haiti (Formerly Haiti-Wheaton Partnership)** Wheaton, Illinois
Student member
- 2010 – 2011** **World Relief** West Chicago, Illinois
English as Second Language (ESL) Tutor
- 2009 – 2011** **Honduras Project** Wheaton, Illinois and Tegucigalpa, Honduras
2010 – 2011: Cabinet Member (Team Educator)
2009 – 2010: Student Team Member
- 2010** **World Relief** Wheaton, Illinois
After School Tutor, Lowell Elementary School

NON-ACADEMIC WRITING & OUTREACH

Balikian, R. (2018). *The Value of Volunteering*. GeoGradGuide.com. [[Link](#)]

Balikian, R. (2018). Writing in Rock Blog. (www.writinginrock.com)

Some Great Falls and a Very Rivery River

In the Middle: Kansas, Cowboys, Crossroads, & an American Mediterranean Sea

The Precambrian: 20,000 Feet Under the Trees (Part III)

The Precambrian: Mystery and Myth (Part II)

Groundwar: Geologists in the Trenches

The Precambrian: An Origin Story (Part I)

The Quiet of the Aging (A Sonnet of Illinois Geology)

The Earth is Electric: Resistivity Geophysics

Southern Proceedings: The Three Tennessees

A Wrinkle in Time (Lapse)

From Time Immemorial: The Prévanance of Unremembered Eons

The Lakes and the Law of the Sea

Geology of Illinois (No, it's not an Oxymoron)

How to Build a Moraine (Part II)

How to Build a Moraine (Part I)

Balikian, R. (2015). "The Awe, the Longing, and All Those Questions." The Covenant Companion.

Balikian, R. (2013). "Reflections on Curiosity and Wisdom." Wheaton College- Senior Reflections on Liberal Arts.

Hailu, Z.G., Sanders, R., **Balikian, R.** (2013). *Water & Irrigation for Small-Scale Farmers*. Panel Presentation at the Human Needs and Global Resources Symposium. Wheaton, IL.

PRESS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Balikian, R.**, Subramanian, M., Hernandez, D., 2018. *Young Evangelical Christians and Climate Change*. The 21st Radio Show with Niala Boodhoo. Interview Audio [[Link](#)]. Audio for full episode [[Link](#)]
- Kroeker, A. (2017). “Nurturing a Holy Curiosity,” by Faith Magazine, 23-Aug-2017.
- University of Wisconsin Global Health Institute. (2015). “GHI Programs Associate Among Those Honored for Engagement Beyond Campus Borders.”
<https://ghi.wisc.edu/ghi-programs-associate-among-those-honored-for-engagement-beyond-campus-borders/>.
- Erickson, D. (2015). “As Young Evangelical, He Finds God’s Call in Focus on Climate ‘Crisis,’” Wisconsin State Journal. Madison, Wisconsin.
- Collins, M.B. (2014). “A Partnership: Oneida and the Commons,” University of Wisconsin School of Human Ecology.
- Schneider, P. (2014). “Madison’s tiny houses for homeless an example of ‘housing co-production,’ says planning journal,” The Cap Times. Madison, Wisconsin.
- [Acknowledgement] J. Dawson and A. Morales, Eds., “Chicago Marketplaces: Advancing Access to Healthy Food,” in *Cities of Farmers: Urban Agricultural Practices and Processes*, University of Iowa Press, 2016, pp. 191–210.
- [Acknowledgement] C. Law, “Directory of Contacts for Wisconsin Business Improvement Districts (BIDs),” University of Wisconsin-Extension, Madison, WI, Sep. 2015.
- [Acknowledgement] A. Morales, “Food Systems for Healthy Places,” Built Environment and Public Health Clearinghouse, 14-Dec-2015. [Online]. Available:
<https://gtbephc.wordpress.com/2015/12/14/food-systems-for-healthy-places/>.

OTHER SKILLS AND TRAINING:

- FEMA Training: National Incident Management (NIMS) Introduction (IS-700 – Completed)
- FEMA Training: Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS-100 – Completed)
- Proficient in ESRI Arc suite and QGIS
- Proficient: MATLAB, C++, Javascript; experience with SQL, Visual Basic, Arduino (esp. Uno)
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Access, Publisher, Word, Powerpoint)
- Proficient in various geophysical software, including Res2dInv, GPR-Slice, GeoScene3D and others
- Conversational in Spanish and Amharic (Ethiopia); Competent in Koine Greek
- Experience with various community facilitation methods