

# Heng-Xing Zou

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## Education

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### Rice University

*Ph.D. candidate, Department of BioSciences, Rice University*

Sep 2019 – Present

*Houston, TX*

- Advisor: Dr. Volker H.W. Rudolf

### The University of Chicago

*B.Sc. in Biological Sciences, Specialization in Ecology and Evolution*

Sep 2015 – Jun 2019

*Chicago, IL*

- Advisors: Dr. Catherine A. Pfister and Dr. Alison E. Anastasio

## Publications

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**Zou, H.-X.**, S.J. Schreiber, and V.H.W. Rudolf. Stage-mediated priority effects and species life history shape long-term competition dynamics. In press, *Proceedings of Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, [Link to paper](#).

**Zou, H.-X.**, and V.H.W. Rudolf. Bridging theory and experiments of priority effects. In press, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*. [Link to paper](#).

**Zou, H.-X.**, and V.H.W. Rudolf. 2023. Priority effects determine how dispersal affects biodiversity in seasonal metacommunities. *The American Naturalist*, [202\(2\):140-151](#).

Liu, J., **H.-X. Zou**, B. Bachelot, T. Dong, Z. Zhu, Y. Liao, A. Plenković-Moraj, and Y. Wu. 2021. Predicting the responses of subalpine forest landscape dynamics to climate change on the southeastern Tibetan Plateau. *Global Change Biology*, [18:4352-4366](#).

**Zou, H.-X.**, A.E. Anastasio and C.A. Pfister. 2019. Early succession on slag compared to urban soil: A slower recovery. *PLoS ONE*, [14\(12\):e0224214](#).

\* Featured in PLoS Collections: Urban Ecosystems.

## Presentations

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**Zou, H.-X.**, and V.H.W. Rudolf. 2023. Bridging theory and practice of priority effects. *2023 Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America*. Portland, OR.

\* Invited. In Inspire Session: When the window is a mirror: How do dominant theories limit our understanding of nature?

**Zou, H.-X.**, Xinyi Yan, and V.H.W. Rudolf. 2023. Time-dependent interaction modifications: Insights from plant-soil feedback. *2023 Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America*. Portland, OR.

**Zou, H.-X.**, S.J. Schreiber, and V.H.W. Rudolf. 2023. Stage-mediated priority effects and species life history shape long-term competition dynamics. *ASN Asilomar 2023, American Society of Naturalists*. Pacific Grove, CA.

**Zou, H.-X.**, and V. H. W. Rudolf. 2022. Priority effects determine how dispersal affects biodiversity in metacommunities. *2022 Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America*. Montréal, Canada.

**Zou, H.-X.**, and V. H. W. Rudolf. 2022. Priority effects determine biodiversity patterns in metacommunities. *Ecolunch Seminar Series Spring 2022, University of Texas, Austin (Virtual)*.

#### **Posters**

**Zou, H.-X.**, and A. E., Anastasio. 2019. Primary succession on slag and uncontaminated soil: A slower recovery. *2019 Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America*. Louisville, KY.

**Zou, H.-X.** 2019. Primary succession on slag and uncontaminated soil: A comparison. *University of Chicago BSCD Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Chicago, IL.

#### *Grants, Awards, Fellowships, and Honors*

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##### **Leadership Award**

*Department of BioSciences, Rice University*

*Aug 2023*

##### **Best Student Paper Award**

*Sino-Ecologists Association Overseas (Sino-Eco)*

*Aug 2023*

##### **Small Research Grant, British Ecological Society (£3,920)**

*May 2023*

##### **Student Research Award, American Society of Naturalists (\$2,000)**

*Apr 2023*

##### **Joe Davies Prize for Excellence in Teaching**

*Department of BioSciences, Rice University*

*Aug 2021*

##### **Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) Teaching Fellowship (\$3,000)**

*Department of BioSciences, Rice University*

*Aug 2020, Aug 2021*

##### **East-DeMarco Fellowship for Natural Science (\$2,500)**

*Department of BioSciences, Rice University*

*Sep 2019*

##### **CSCLF Scholarship for Undergraduates (\$12,500)**

*China Soong Ching Ling Foundation*

*Jun 2019*

##### **Phi Beta Kappa**

*University of Chicago Beta Chapter*

*May 2018, May 2019*

##### **Ecology and Evolution Fellowship (\$4,000)**

*Department of Ecology and Evolution, The University of Chicago*

*Apr 2018*

#### *Teaching and Employment*

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##### **Teaching Assistant, Rice University**

*BIOS 341: Cell Biology*

*Houston, TX*

*Aug 2023 – Present*

- Graded assignments and administered exams

*BIOS 431: Biology of Infectious Diseases*

*Aug 2020 – Nov 2020, Aug 2021 – Nov 2021*

- Developed coding assignments in R
- Led computational lab sessions that involved live coding in R
- Assisted independent final coding projects

*EBIO 338/538: Analysis and Visualization of Biological Data*

*Jan 2020 – May 2020*

- Graded coding assignments in R
- Led one lecture on data visualization

**Lab Teaching Assistant, The University of Chicago**

*BIOS 201: Core Biology*

Chicago, IL

*Oct 2018 – Jun 2019*

- Led lab sessions, including basic wet lab techniques (plating, PCR, handling fruit flies)
- Graded lab reports and quizzes

**Research Assistant, The University of Chicago**

*Kreitman Lab, Department of Ecology and Evolution*

Chicago, IL

*Nov 2016 – Oct 2018*

- Collected and prepared samples, including extraction, purification, and quantification of DNA
- Managed experimental populations

**Research Assistant, Paulson Institute**

*Climate and Sustainable Urbanization Team*

Beijing, China

*Jun 2017 – Aug 2017*

- Contributed to planning an initiative for sustainable development of the Yangtze River basin

*Community Service*

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**Rice Student Birding Club**

*Member of Governing Board*

Houston, TX

*Sep 2023 –*

**Theoretical Ecology Section, Ecological Society of America**

*Secretary*

*Aug 2022 – Aug 2023*

*Student Liaison*

*Aug 2021 – Aug 2022*

- Managed Twitter account of the Theory Section ([@esatheory](#))
- Managed section web page
- Reviewed submissions for the Best Paper award in 2022 and 2023
- Helped planning social events during ESA 2022

**Rice University EEB Graduate Student Association**

*Co-President*

Houston, TX

*May 2022 – May 2023*

*Treasurer*

*Jul 2021 – May 2022*

- Organized Professional Development Seminar Series for graduate students
- Helped organizing student-led activities during recruitment of PhD students
- Helped organizing several student events, including crawfish boil

**EEB Outreach Program**

*BIOS 589: EEB Outreach Development*

Houston, TX

*Jan 2021 – May 2021, Jan 2022 – May 2022*

- Developed ecology and evolution course material for K-12 student
- Taught the course module on food webs to three elementary school classes