



DR. ARIELLE ARSENAULT- BENOIT

Adjunct Assistant Professor

PRONOUNS

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SUBJECT AREAS

Biology
Environmental Science

EDUCATION

PhD, Entomology, University of Maryland
College Park
MS, Natural Resources, University of Vermont
BS, Biology, Boston College

TEACHING LOCATIONS

Kaiserslautern Military Community,
Germany

EMAIL

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I specialize in the ecology and genetics of insect vectors of disease (like mosquitoes and ticks) and I am excited about the intersection of environment and public health. As an undergraduate student on a pre-health path, I was inspired by my ecology classes and really felt a connection to my childhood in rural New Hampshire. I then pursued graduate work in forest ecosystem health, with a focus on invasive forest insects. The Zika outbreak in the Americas in 2015 highlighted the importance of insects in global public health for me, and I became really interested in how community ecology and landscape features influence insect-borne disease dynamics. After a few relocations, I began a PhD in entomology (the study of insects) at the University of Maryland, where I studied the ecology, behavior, and landscape genetics of Culex mosquitoes, local vectors of West Nile virus. I am also excited about the ecology of other communicable diseases, like water-borne illness.

As a student at University of Maryland, I was familiar with UMGC locally but did not realize the global reach of this institution until I arrived in Germany as a military spouse. I am new to UMGC but have nearly a decade of experience in university teaching and advising. I am interested in research aimed at improving teaching and learning in STEM, especially the importance of math in biology. I am also dedicated to fostering diversity and inclusivity in STEM disciplines and supporting students in pursuit of healthcare, public health, and natural science careers.