

Tierney Shimansky
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Department of Geography
University of Florida

Research Interests

My research explores Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) through the interdisciplinary lenses of geography, economics, and natural resource management, with a primary focus on southern Africa. My work examines key areas such as the economic principles of protected areas, sustainable wildlife governance, the business of conservation, and community conservation governance. By employing a mixed-methods approach, I integrate fieldwork with both quantitative and qualitative analysis to assess livelihoods, governance structures, and conservation practices within local communities. This approach enables me to generate insights that not only enhance community livelihoods but also strengthen the economic value of wildlife and inform regional wildlife policy, ultimately contributing to more sustainable and equitable conservation strategies.

Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Geography University of Florida	August 2021- Present
Master of Science in Geography University of Florida	August 2019- August 2021
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, Minor in Psychology University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC	August 2014- May 2018

Teaching Experience

GEO 3427 Plants, Health, and Spirituality	Instructor	January 2023- Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ran an accelerated online asynchronous course that gave students a new perspective on plants which have been stigmatized by the global west. More specifically, plants that exhibit mind altering properties and are often described as “drugs” and the history of these sacred plants, tracing their lineage from their shamanistic roots to their complex place in the western world.		
GEA 1000 Geography of a Changing World	Instructor	August 2022- January 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed and ran a completely online asynchronous course that gives students a geographic perspective on issues about important urban, economic, environmental, geomorphologic, and climatic issues in the world.		
GEA 3600 Geography of Africa	Instructor and Teaching Assistant	May 2020- May 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ran an accelerated online asynchronous course on the Geography of Africa from an environmental and economic development perspective focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa.Teaching Assistant responsibilities included grading assignments, holding office hours, and responding to student emails and concerns.		

Publications

Shimansky, T., King, A., Merz, L., & Child, B. (2025) The Effects of Governance Type and Scale on Community Conservation in Southern Africa. *Sustainability*. (In prep).

Shimansky, T., King, A., Merz, L., & Child, B. (2025) Gender Differences in Governance Participation and Engagement in Namibian Conservancies. (In prep).

Shimansky, T., King, A., & Child, B. (2025) Gendered Differences in Governance within Community-Based Natural Resource Management Communities. (In prep).

Research and Experience

<u>Assistant Developer of a Graduate Certificate</u>	August 2021- Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implemented and developed a Graduate Certificate in Wildlife Economics, Governance, and	

Community alongside Dr. Brian Child in affiliation with the University of Florida's Department of Geography.

- Provided a transformative education in wildlife economy, governance, and community aimed at talented working professionals in Africa to transform Africa's wildlife economy and promote lasting change in the field of community based natural resources management, wildlife governance, and natural resource policy.
- Assisted in developing Sustainable Governance of Wildlife, Business of Conservation, and Implementing CBNRM courses as well as a field conference at B2Gold Mine in Namibia where we developed the skills of professional Africans in leadership and conservation positions and provide valuable materials and information to promote lasting policy change, changing attitudes towards conservation paradigms, and the implementation of conservation theory into their current work.

Co-president of Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Savannas Initiative August 2020- August 2022
University of Florida Center for African Studies, Gainesville, FL

- Facilitated interdisciplinary presentations by guest speakers from around the world relating to topics of natural resource management and sustainability with a focus on African ecosystems impacted by global environmental change and issues of sustainability, resilience, adaptation, governance, and human-environment interactions
- Hosted research techniques workshop on techniques such as Google earth Engine with a hands-on example of working with satellite imagery to perform land cover classification for an African protected area
- Founding member of the Sustainable Savannas Initiative formed to gather faculty and students working in savanna systems and establish long-term, field-based projects with diverse stakeholders in the African savannas with a focus on sustainable use and protection of savanna systems, wildlife economics, working landscapes, agriculture, livestock-wildlife interface, and pastoralists.

Conservation and Ecology Intern with Conservation Florida

June 2018- June 2019

Conservation Florida, Gainesville, FL

- Conservation and Ecology intern with Conservation Florida, previously known as the Conservation Trust for Florida.
- Tasked with organizing a state-wide bioblitz focusing on conservation and the importance of preservation.
- Working on the Florida Wildlife Corridor as well as land use and acquisition through the trust for conservation areas.
- Monitored Conservation Easements alongside the Grantor and Grantee to annually update Baseline Documentation Report to provide an accurate representation of the property and ensure all impervious surfaces and buildings are within Easement Report.

Funding and Awards

University of Florida Geography Department Teaching Assistantship (2020- Present)

Anderson Award for International Travel (2023)

Graduate Student Council, University of Florida, Travel Award (2022)

Center for African Studies, University of Florida, Travel Grant (2021)

University of Florida Geography Department Research Excellence Award (2020)

David L. Niddrie Excellence Fund Travel Grant (2019 and 2022)

Foreign Language and Area Study (FLAS) Fellowship, University of Florida (2019-2021)

Professional Associations

AAG American Association of Geographers (2020-present)

ATBC Association for Tropical Biological Conservation (2021-present)

SEDAAG South Eastern Division of American Association of Geographers (2021-present)