
LAURA J. SONTER
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RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT

- 2015 Jan–present
Post-doctoral research associate
Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, The University of Vermont, USA
- 2014 Oct–2014 Dec
Research scholar
Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland, Australia
- 2008 Feb–2011 Feb
Senior research technician
Centre for Water in the Minerals Industry
Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland, Australia
- 2006 Feb–2007 Feb
Research assistant
Agricultural Systems, Sustainable Ecosystems
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia

EDUCATION

- 2011 Mar–2014 Aug
Doctor of philosophy
The University of Queensland, Australia
Thesis: Global demand for minerals drives extensive land use change
Supervisors: Damian Barrett (CSIRO), Britaldo Soares-Filho (UFMG), Chris Moran (UQ)
- 2011 Mar–2012 Nov
Graduate certificate in mineral resources (sustainable development)
The University of Queensland, Australia
- 2005 Mar–2008 Nov
Bachelor of environmental science (ecology) (honours 1A)
The University of Queensland, Australia
Thesis: Measuring restoration success of buffer strips in a tropical rainforest remnant
Supervisors: Margie Mayfield (UQ), Daniel Metcalfe (CSIRO)

TEACHING

- 2016 Jan – present
Co-instructor/guest lecturer
Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, The University of Vermont
Courses: Transdisciplinary Research for the Northern Forests (NR 395)
- 2007 Jan –2012 Jun
Academic tutor
School of Integrative Biology, The University of Queensland
Courses: Outback Ecology (BIOL3016), Conservation Ecology (BIOL3000)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer reviewed journal articles

- Sonter**, Barrett, Moran, Soares-Filho (2015), “Carbon emissions due to deforestation for the production of charcoal used in Brazil’s steel industry”, *Nature Climate Change*, vol. 5, no. 4, pp. 359–363. DOI: [10.1038/nclimate2515](https://doi.org/10.1038/nclimate2515)
- Galford, Soares-Filho, **Sonter**, Laporte (2015), “Will Passive Protection Save Congo Forests?”, *Plos One*, vol. 10, no. 6, e0128473. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0128473](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0128473)
- Sonter**, Barrett, Moran & Soares-Filho (2015), “A Land System Science meta-analysis suggests we underestimate intensive land uses in land use change dynamics”, *Journal of Land Use Science*, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 191–204. DOI: [10.1080/1747423X.2013.871356](https://doi.org/10.1080/1747423X.2013.871356)
- Sonter**, Barrett, Moran & Soares-Filho (2014), “Global demand for steel drives extensive land use change in Brazil’s Iron Quadrangle”, *Global Environmental Change*, vol. 26, pp. 63–72. DOI: [10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2014.03.014](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2014.03.014)
- Sonter**, Barrett & Soares-Filho (2014), “Offsetting the impacts of mining to achieve no net loss of native vegetation”, *Conservation Biology*, vol. 28, no. 4, pp. 1068–1076. DOI: [10.1111/cobi.12260](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12260)
- Sonter**, Barrett, Moran & Soares-Filho (2014), “Processes of land use change in mining regions”, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, vol. 84, pp. 494–501. DOI: [10.1016/j.jclepro.2014.03.084](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2014.03.084)
- Sonter**, Moran & Barrett (2013), “Modeling the impact of revegetation on regional water quality: a collective approach to manage the cumulative impacts of mining in the Bowen Basin, Australia”, *Resources Policy*, vol. 38, no. 4, pp. 670–677. DOI: [10.1016/j.resourpol.2013.02.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resourpol.2013.02.007)
- Moran, Franks & **Sonter** (2013), “Using the multiple capitals framework to connect indicators of regional cumulative impacts of mining and pastoralism in the Murray Darling Basin, Australia”, *Resources Policy*, vol. 38, no. 4, pp. 733–744. DOI: [10.1016/j.resourpol.2013.01.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resourpol.2013.01.002)
- Sonter**, Metcalfe & Mayfield (2011), “Assessing rainforest restoration: the value of buffer strips for recovery of rainforest remnants in Australia’s Wet Tropics”, *Pacific Conservation Biology*, vol. 16, pp. 274–288. DOI: [10.1071/PC110274](https://doi.org/10.1071/PC110274)

Conference papers and seminars

* = Invited speaker

- ***Sonter** (2015), “Offsetting impacts of mining to achieve no net loss of biodiversity”, Brazilian Academy of Sciences, Workshop of mining, ecology and sustainable development. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. November 18–19.
- ***Sonter** (2015), “Land use change impacts ecosystem services supply and demand” *Natural Capital Project workshop*, University of Vermont, USA. August 6–7.
- ***Sonter** (2015), “Land use change, ecosystem services, and human wellbeing: the unknown effects of multi-site interactions”, Future Earth young scientist networking conference, Villa Vigoni, Italy. May 24–30.
- Sonter** (2015), “How does land use change impact ecosystem services & when do we fail to capture these impacts?”, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Land System Science Symposium. Chicago, USA. April 21–25.
- ***Sonter** (2014) Teleconnections and telecoupling: the case of iron mining in Brazil, *Global Land Project workshop on operationalization of telecoupling concepts*, Aeschi, Switzerland. December 1–3.
- Sonter** (2014), “Global demand for steel drives extensive regional land use change: A case study of the Quadrilátero Ferrífero, MG, Brazil”, Global Land Project Open Science Meeting (GLP OSM). Berlin, Germany. March 19–21.
- ***Sonter** (2014), “Global demand for minerals drives extensive land use change and impacts native vegetation”, The Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, The University of Vermont, The United States of America. June 30.

- ***Sonter** (2014), “Global demand for minerals drives extensive land use change and impacts native vegetation”, Woods Hole Research Centre, Falmouth, United States of America. June 27.
- ***Sonter** (2014), “Land use change in Brazil’s mining state of Minas Gerais”, The Environment & Society Research Group, The University of Edinburgh. Edinburgh, Scotland. April 10.
- ***Sonter** (2014), “Land use change in Brazil’s mining state of Minas Gerais”, Ecosystem Services and Management Program, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Luxemburg, Austria. April 6.
- ***Sonter** (2014), “Mining, land use change and impacts on native vegetation and ecosystem services”, W.H. Bryan Mining & Geology Research Centre (BRC), Sustainable Minerals Institute, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. February 21.
- ***Sonter** (2013), “Mining, land use change and impacts on native vegetation and ecosystem services”, Anglo Metallurgical Coal, Brisbane, Australia. November 28.
- Sonter** (2013), “Demand for steel drives land use change in Brazil”, Sustainable Minerals Institute Student Conference. Brisbane, Australia. November 21.
- ***Sonter** (2013), “Mining and land use change in Brazil”, Landscape Ecology and Conservation Group, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. July 22.
- Sonter**, Barrett, Moran & Soares-Filho (2013) “Do we underestimate intensive drivers of land use land cover change?”, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Land System Science Symposium. Los Angeles, USA. April 9–13.
- ***Sonter** (2013), “The role of mining companies in regional land use change”, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, The University of California, Berkeley, San Francisco, The United States of America. April 10.
- ***Sonter** (2012), “Mining and regional land use change”, Department of Geography, The University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany. December 13.
- Sonter** (2011), “Mining the landscape: Conservation Pressures and Opportunities for Climate Change Mitigation”, Sustainable Minerals Institute Student Conference. Brisbane, Australia. November 19–20.
- Barrett, Wettle, **Sonter**, Franks & Almarza (2011), “Environmental Offsets: Understanding Cost/Benefit Trade-Offs at the Landscape Scale”, Sustainable Development Conference. Mackay, Australia. October 24–26.

Invited book reviews

- Sonter** (2015), “Modeling of Land-Use and Ecological Dynamics”, *Journal of Regional Science*, vol. 55, no. 4, pp. 679–681. DOI: [10.1111/jors.12210](https://doi.org/10.1111/jors.12210).

Popular online articles

- Sonter** and Galford (2015), “Africa’s forests may be our last chance to slow climate change”, *The Conversation*. Available at: <http://www.theconversation.com/africas-forests-may-be-our-last-chance-to-slow-climate-change-44796>

Research reports

- Barrett, **Sonter**, Almarza, Franks, Moran, Cohen & Hedemann (2010), Quantitative approach to improving the business of biodiversity investment. Brisbane, Australia: The University of Queensland. Available at: <http://www.acarp.com.au/abstracts.aspx?repId=C17030>

GRANTS AND AWARDS

SMI student publication support (May 2014)

Value: AU \$5,500

Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland

SMI international travel award (Mar 2012)

Value: AU \$3,000

Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland

International collaboration grant (Oct 2011)

Value: AU \$3,000

Terrestrial Biodiversity Network, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Fund

SMI top-up scholarship (Mar 2011–Sep 2014)

Value: AU \$10,000 per annum + expenses

Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland

Australian postgraduate award (APA) (Mar 2011- Sept 2014)

Value: AU \$24,653 per annum

Australian Federal Government

PRIZES

Publication award (Nov 2014)

Description: Presented to the student with the greatest research output

Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland

Best presentation (Nov 2013)

Description: Awarded to the most engaging and thoughtful presentation

SMI Student Conference, The University of Queensland

Publication award (annually 2004–2008)

Awarded to undergraduate students with a GPA > 6

Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland

REFEREES

Prof. Taylor Ricketts

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