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**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

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NAME: Kenneth R. Young

eRA COMMONS USER NAME: youngkr1

POSITION TITLE: Professor, Department of Geography and the Environment

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**EDUCATION/TRAINING**

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INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL	BS	05/1978	Ethology, Evolution
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL	MS	05/1984	Botany
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO	PhD	05/1990	Geography

**A. Personal Statement**

I am a biogeographer interested in biodiversity and the dynamics of ecosystems, including those inhabited or utilized by people. I have examined the effects of climate change in tropical environments, and the policy implications for developing countries. I have frequently evaluated protected areas, especially as affected by human land use. More broadly, I use ecological research approaches to link to studies of environmental change that have consequences for the health of people, demographic shifts, and the sustainability of their livelihood practices. As such, I most closely fit in the PRC's primary research area of Population Health, as I study environmental change in tropical countries, where there are many implications for public health, for rural livelihoods, and for rural-to-urban connections.

In the future, I plan to continue to develop novel ways to link population and environmental change. This would include the utilization of a socio-ecological research framework to understand feedbacks and interactions among the human and biophysical dimensions of change. To do this, I will continue to contribute to interdisciplinary research teams that include household and community surveys in their evaluations of natural resource use in changing environments, most recently in the Okavango Delta of Botswana and the high mountains of Peru affected by glacier recession. The PRC has managed the research funds of the southern Africa research. There are many policy-relevant implications for economic development and environmental conservation, and an unlimited panorama of changing tropical landscapes to evaluate.

**B. Positions and Honors****Positions and Employment**

1988-Present	Research Associate, Museo de Historia Natural, Lima, Peru
1990-1992	Research Associate, Department of Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder
1992	Guest Lecturer, Tropical Ecology Course, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark
1993-1997	Assistant Professor, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1994-Present	Invited Professor, Master's Program, Biology, San Marcos University, Lima, Peru
1995-1997	Board Member, Biogeography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers
1997	Research Assistant Professor, Biological Institute, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark
1997-2000	Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
2000-2007	Associate Professor, Department of Geography, The University of Texas at Austin
2001-2002	Director, Center for Environmental Studies in Latin America (CESLA), Latin American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
2001-2003	President, Biogeography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers
2001-present	Research Associate, Department of Botany, Field Museum, Chicago
2002-present	Faculty Research Associate, Population Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin
2007-2009	Program officer (as rotator), Geography and Spatial Sciences, National Science Foundation
2009-2012	Chair, Dept. Geogr&Environ, Un. Texas at Austin
2007-present	Professor, Dept. Geogr&Environ., Un. Texas at Austin

**Other Experience and Professional Memberships**1987-1989 National Science Foundation, *Doctoral Dissertation Research in Geography and Regional*

- 1993-1994 *Sciences* (SES-8713237), Thomas Veblen, doctoral candidate  
Grant Award, *Human Impact on Native Plant Resources of the Arid Peruvian Central Coast*, with Blanca León and Asuncion Cano; funded by the Biodiversity Support Program, USAID consortium of World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and World Resources Institute
- 1994-1995 Special Research Initiative Support, *Relation of Land-use Practices to National Park Protection in the Tropics: Yanachaga-Chermillen National Park*; funded by the Graduate School, University of Maryland
- 1994-Present Advisor and Honorary Associate, Trabajos en Areas Rurales y Urbanas de Conservación Ambienta (TARUCA) Lima, Peru
- 1995-1997 Board Member, Biogeography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers  
1997 Organizer, Session on The Status and Future of Biogeography, Association of American Geographers, Fort Worth, TX
- 1997-1998 Special Research Initiative Support, *Comparative Evaluation of Protection Programs for Nature Reserves in Latin America*; funded by the Graduate School, University of Maryland
- 1999-2000 Consultant, *Atlas of Natural America*, National Geographic
- 2001-2003 President, Biogeography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers  
2002 Participant, *Workshop on the Classification of Andean Ecological Systems*, NatureServe and The Nature Conservancy, Lima, Peru
- 2004-2007 Member, Editorial Board, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*  
2006 Dean's Fellowship, *Evaluating Biodiversity Conservation in Relation to Biophysical and Social Changes in Tropical Countries*, College of Liberal Arts, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2006 Invited Speaker, Seminario Internacional de Biodiversidad en Homenaje a Augusto Weberbauer, San Marcos University, Lima, Peru
- Present Member: American Association for the Advancement of Science; Association of American Geographers; Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers; Ecological Society of America; International Association for Landscape Ecology
- Present Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer: *Ambio*; *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*; *Biodiversity and Conservation*; *Biodiversity Letters*; *Biotropica*, *Bulletin de l'Institut Francais d'Etudes Andine*; *Ecology*; *Ecología en Bolivia*; *Ecotropica*; *Environmental Conservation*; *Forest Ecology and Management*; *Geographical Journal*; *Geomorphology*; *International Journal of Geographic Information Science*, *Journal of Biogeography*; *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, *Latin America Research Review*; *Physical Geography*; *Professional Geographer*; *Quaternary Research*, *Restoration Ecology*
- Present Grant Reviewer: Student Research Grants, Biogeography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers; International Foundation for Science; National Geographic Society; Natural Environment Research Council, United Kingdom; National Science Foundation.

### **Honors**

Named a "Distinguished Miller Lecturer" through the E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Lectureship in Geography, Pennsylvania State University, 2013.

### **C. Contributions to Science**

I have worked on socio-ecological systems research, as a team member for ongoing research in tropical environments, including in southern Africa, the Amazon, and the Andes Mountains. This is an inherently interdisciplinary approach that allows for the study of feedbacks among biophysical and social dimensions of land use systems and other nature-human interactions. I coedited a 2006 special volume with K. Crews that related these concerns to landscape ecology and GIScience; I also have in press a coedited book with J. Postigo in Spanish that will shortly appear in Peru on socioenvironmental research:

K. R. Young and K. A. Crews-Meyer (guest editors). 2006. Landscape Form, Process, and Function: Coalescing Geographic Frontiers. Focus section of *The Professional Geographer* 58: 367-447.

J. C. Postigo and K. R. Young (eds.). 2016. *Naturaleza y Sociedad: Perspectivas Socio-Ecológicas sobre Cambios Globales en América Latina*. Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, DESCO, INTE-PUCP, Lima. In press.

In addition, I have participated in empirical studies that elucidate the social and biophysical drivers of change in high tropical mountains, including:

K. R. Young, A. Ponette-González, M. H. Polk, and J. K. Lipton. 2017. Snowlines and treelines in the tropical Andes. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, in press.

M. Carey, M. Baraer, B. G. Mark, A. French, J. Bury, K. R. Young, and J. M. McKenzie. 2014. Toward hydro-social modeling: Merging human variables and the social sciences with climate-glacier runoff models (Santa River, Peru). *Journal of Hydrology* 518: 60-70.

D. J. Wrathall, J. Bury, M. Carey, B. Mark, J. McKenzie, K. Young, M. Baraer, A. French, and C. Rampini. 2014. Migration amidst climate rigidity traps: Resource politics and socio-ecological possibilism in Honduras and Peru. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 104: 292-304.

J. Bury, B. G. Mark, M. Carey, K. R. Young, J. McKenzie, M. Baraer, A. French, and M. H. Polk. 2013. New geographies of water and climate change in Peru: Coupled natural and social transformations in the Santa River watershed. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 103: 363-374.

I have also been helping to publish empirical research on observations and analyses of the livelihoods and dynamics of the Okavango Delta in Botswana, including:

B. King, J. E. Shinn, K. A. Crews, and K. R. Young. 2016. Fluid waters and rigid livelihoods in the Okavango Delta of Botswana. *Land* 2016, 5, 16; doi:10.3390/land5020016

J. E. Shinn, B. King, K. R. Young, and K. A. Crews. 2014. Variable adaptations: Micro-politics of environmental displacement in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. *Geoforum* 57: 21-29.

## **D. Research Support**

### **Ongoing Research Support**

BCS-0964596 (K.Crews, PI)

09/01/10-08/31/17

National Science Foundation

Environmental Uncertainties and Livelihood Thresholds in the Okavango Delta, Botswana

This research will combine insights from both social and natural sciences to understand how variability and uncertainty in time and space impact human-environment interactions.

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: Responsible particularly for research design and data interpretations having to do with ecological change.

### **Completed Research Support**

DEB-1010550 (J.Bury, PI)

10/01/10-09/30/15

National Science Foundation

Hydrologic Transformation and Human Resilience to Climate Change in the Peruvian Andes

This interdisciplinary and collaborative research project will evaluate the new system of freshwater governance that is emerging in the Andes and how glacial dynamics are transforming melt water rates as they rapidly recede.

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Responsibilities: Headed up the analyses of land cover change, and assisted with interpretation of ecological change detected through both remote sensing and fieldwork observations