Riley J. Balikian

rileybalikian.blog | linkedin.com/in/rileybalikian/ | github.com/RJbalikian Illinois State Geological Survey | Prairie Research Institute University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

SUMMARY

I study geology, hydrogeology, and resilience through the lens of near-surface geophysics and remote sensing. My work and research involve near-surface geophysical and hydrogeological investigations, water resources management and resilience planning, remote sensing automation, open-source geophysical software development, and analysis of other geophysical and remote sensing data. I have experience collecting, processing, and/or interpreting electrical resistivity tomography (ERT), ground penetrating radar (GPR), multichannel analysis of surface waves (MASW), and other electrical and seismic geophysical methods. I also work with remote sensing applications and geospatial data using open-source software, such as python. I work to apply these methods towards engineering and environmental problems in Illinois and around the world.

EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Ph.D. Geology (In Progress)

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin

M.S. Environment and Resources

M.S. Urban and Regional Planning

• Au Sable Graduate Fellow for Environmental Studies

Wheaton College Wheaton, Illinois

B.S. Physics: Geophysics

B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies

Minor: Spanish Language

Certificate: Human Needs and Global Resources

• Setter/Defensive Specialist, Men's Volleyball Club Team, 2008-2010. Floor captain 2009-2010

Illinois State Coological Survey Champaign Urbana Illinois

• Guest Writer: The Wheaton Record

WORK AND RESEARCH

2017 Dungant

2017 – Present	2022 – Present: Assistant Research Scientist: Geophysics & Hydrogeology 2018 – 2022: Senior Scientific Specialist: Geophysicist & Hydrogeologist
2014 – 2016	2017 – 2018: Geophysics Field Scientist University of Wisconsin Ethiopia Twinning Partnership Madison, Wisconsin
2014 2010	2015-2016: Associate Outreach Specialist 2014-2015: Research Assistant
2014 – 2015	University of Wisconsin-Extension, Local Government Center Madison, Wisconsin Business Improvement District Research Assistant
2014	University of Wisconsin-Madison Urban & Regional Planning Department Madison, Wisconsin Project Manager, Oneida Community Integrated Food System Project

2013 – 2014	University of Wisconsin-Madison Urban & Regional Planning Department Madison, Wisconsin Graduate Research Assistant
2013 – 2014	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Madison, Wisconsin Water Permit Intake Specialist
2013 – 2015	University of Wisconsin-Madison Facilities, Planning & Management Madison, Wisconsin Parking Booth Attendant
2009 - 2013	HoneyRock Outdoor Center for Leadership Development Three Lakes, Wisconsin
2013	Divvy Bikeshare Chicago, Illinois Bike Checker
2011	Lifewater International Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), Ethiopia Field Intern (in partial fulfillment of Human Needs and Global Resources certificate)

ARTICLES, MANUSCRIPTS, & MAPS (PEER-REVIEWED)

- Ruiz-Vera, U. M., **Balikian, R.**, Larson, T. H., & Ort, D. R. 2022. *Evaluation of the effects of elevated CO 2 concentrations on the growth of cassava storage roots by destructive harvests and ground penetrating radar scanning approaches*. Plant, Cell & Environment, pce.14474. https://doi.org/10.1111/pce.14474
- **Balikian, R.**, & Genskow, K. 2022. *Losing Aguacate: What If Water Costs Kill Avocado Farming in San Diego County?* Case Studies in the Environment, 6(1), 1559200. https://doi.org/10.1525/cse.2022.1559200
- Kelly, W.R., Zhang, Z., Abrams, D.B., Hadley, D.R., Mannix, D.H., Getahun, E., Knapp, H.V., Roadcap, G.S., Meyer, S.C., Dziegielewski, B., **Balikian, R.**, Thomason, J.F., 2019. Water Supply Planning: Kankakee Watershed Assessment of Water Resources for Water Supply (ISWS Contract Report No. 2019–07), IL Water Supply Planning. Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL.
- Phillips, A.C., Mandera, K, Larson, T.H., and **Balikian, R.** 2020. *Surficial geology of Crossville Quadrangle, White County, Illinois*: Illinois State Geological Survey, STATEMAP Crossville-SG, scale 1:24,000.
- Grimley, D., Szocinski, P., Larson, T.H., **Balikian, R**. 2018. *Surficial Geology of Pleasant Mount Quadrangle: Bond and Fayette Counties*, Illinois State Geological Survey, Illinois County Geologic Map. Bond-Fayette County, 1:24,000.

ABSTRACTS & PRESENTATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED)

- **Balikian R.** and Gregg, P.M., 2022. 'Shoreline Classification and Erosion Characterization on the Illinois Coast of Lake Michigan Using Synthetic Aperture Radar'. P. 382786
- Phillips, A., Carrell J., and **Balikian R.**, 2022. 'Progress Towards an Updatable Medium-Scale Bedrock Topography Map of Illinois'. P. 382499 in GSA 2022.
- **Balikian R.** and Gregg, P.M., 2022. 'Shoreline Classification and Erosion Characterization on the Illinois Coast of Lake Michigan Using Synthetic Aperture Radar'. P. 382786 in GSA 2022.
- Karahalios, N., **Balikian, R.**, Barklage, M., Larson, T. H., Lohman, S., Mattson, A., & Thomason, J. 2021. *Characterization of the Troy Valley Bedrock Topography Using Passive Seismic Data* [Oral Presentation, Accepted]. Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America, Portland, Oregon.
- McKnight, G., Barklage, M., Lucas, M., & **Balikian, R**. 2020. *Using Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) to Image Cave Passages at Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky, USA*. Proceedings of the Symposium

- on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems. [Accepted]
- **Balikian, R.** 2019. *Creeping Hazards: A Forgotten Framework for Transformability and Resilience*. Proceedings of the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems, Portland, OR.
- **Balikian, R.**, Larson, T.H., Thomason, J. 2019. *Electrical Tomography and 3D Geophysical Models Towards Informed Land-Use Planning in Glacial Fluvial Outwash Plain*. Proceedings of the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems, Portland, OR.
- **Balikian, R.**, & Larson, T. H. 2018. *Pseudo Three-Dimensional Imaging of Creep Failure in a Highway Embankment Using Two-Dimensional Electric Earth Resistivity*. Oral presentation accepted at the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems, Nashville, TN.
- Larson, T. H., & **Balikian, R**. 2018. *In-Situ Cassava Root Size Measurement Using Ground Penetrating Radar* (*GPR*). Oral presentation accepted at the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems, Nashville, TN.
- Ruiz-Vera, U., Larson, T.H., Mwakanyamale, K., Grennan, A., Souza, A., Ort, D., **Balikian, R.** 2017. *Non-invasive monitoring of below ground cassava storage root bulking by ground penetrating radar technology*. Poster at the 2017 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Van Engen, K., Mutebi, J., Daring, K., & **Balikian, R**. 2015. *Depoliticizing Climate Change Through Film, Story, and Conversation*. Panel at the Christian Community Development Association National Conference, Memphis, TN.
- King, R. S., & **Balikian, R.** 2015. *Food Insecurity: Local Solutions to a National Need*. Oral presentation at the Christian Community Development Association National Conference, Memphis, TN.
- Law, C., & **Balikian, R.** 2015. *Business Improvement Districts in the Maintenance of Downtown Infrastructure*. Oral presentation at the 20th Conference on the Small City and Regional Community, Wausau, WI.
- Fofanah, M., **Balikian, R.**, Engen, N., Asfaw, F., Busse, H., & Jogo, W. 2015. *Nutrition Sensitive Value Chains: Analysis of Local Production and Marketing Systems of Sweet potatoes in Ethiopia*. Poster presented at the 2nd International Conference on Global Food Security, Ithaca, NY.

TECHNICAL REPORTS (NOT PEER-REVIEWED)

- **Balikian, R.**, Thomason, J.F., and Sargent, S. 2022. A Geophysics Study in Jasper County, IL. Geophysics Technical Report. Urbana, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- Weber, E. **Balikian, R**. Sanchez, A. and D'Souza, B. 2022. GPR for Locating Unmarked Graves at Broadus Cemetery. Geophysics Technical Report. Urbana, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- **Balikian, R.** Weber, E. Larson, T. H. and Sanchez, A. 2022. GPR for Forensic Investigation. Geophysics Technical Report. Urbana, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- Larson, T.H., **Balikian, R.J.**, Lohman, S., 2020. A Geophysics Study near Winchester, IL to Image Mass Wasting Along IL-106 (Geophysics Technical Report No.2020-01E). Illinois State Geological Survey, Urbana, IL.
- **Balikian, R.,** Sargent, S., & Larson, T. H. 2019. *Shear-Wave Measurements Using Multi-Channel Analysis of Surface Wave (MASW) Method near Lincoln Ave. and University Ave. in Urbana, IL.* Technical Report.

- Urbana, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- Larson, T. H., & **Balikian, R.** 2019. An Electrical Earth Resistivity Survey in the Beaver Creek Quadrangle near Greenville, IL. Technical Report. Greenville, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- **Balikian, Riley**, Larson, Timothy H., and Ruiz-Vera, Ursula. 2019. *Report on an In Situ Study of Cassava Roots Using Ground Penetrating Radar*. Champaign, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- Larson, Timothy H. and **Balikian, Riley**. 2019. An *Electrical Earth Resistivity Survey along Illinois Route 127 in Alto Pass, IL*. Technical Report. Champaign, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- Larson, Timothy H. and **Balikian, Riley**. 2018. *Preliminary Report of an Electrical Earth Resistivity Survey near Tinley Park, IL*. Technical Report. Champaign, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- Larson, Timothy H. and **Balikian, Riley**. 2018. *Preliminary Report of an Electrical Earth Resistivity Survey near Greenville, IL*. Technical Report. Champaign, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- Larson, Timothy H. and **Balikian, Riley**. 2018. *Shear-Wave Measurements Using Multi-Channel Analysis of Surface Wave (MASW) Method at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, IL*. Technical Report. Champaign, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- Larson, Timothy H., **Balikian, Riley**, and Deng, Siqi. 2017. *Preliminary Report of an Electrical Earth Resistivity Survey near Joliet, IL*. Technical Report. Champaign, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- Larson, Timothy H., **Balikian, Riley**, and Deng, Siqi. 2017. *Preliminary Report of an Electrical Earth Resistivity Survey near St. Francisville, IL*. Technical Report. Champaign, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- Larson, Timothy H., **Balikian, Riley**, and Deng, Siqi. 2017. An Electrical Earth Resistivity Survey along Northbound Illinois Route 251 in Peru, IL. Technical Report. Champaign, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.
- Larson, Timothy H., **Balikian, Riley**, and Thomason, Jason. 2017. *Electrical Earth Resistivity Surveys in McHenry Co.*, *IL*. Technical Report. Champaign, IL: Illinois State Geological Survey.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND CONTRIBUTION

See GitHub account for more information: https://github.com/RJbalikian

Project	Description
SPRĪT HVSR	Python package to read seismic data from three-component seismometer and analyze using the Horizontal to Vertical Spectral Ratio method. Oriented towards use with Raspberry Shake devices. Distributed via PyPi: <i>pip install sprit</i>
Wells4Hydrogeology	Python package to read descriptions and geospatial information associated with well data from an area of interest, and analyze the data to produce n-layer hydrogeologic model. Intended for use in USGS Modflow. [Distribution and links forthcoming]
InvPyPlot	Python Package to take the .inv output file from Res2DInv and read it into matplotlib to create customizable and visually appealing graphics. Distributed via Pypi: <i>pip install InvPyplot</i>
ERT Advanced Editor	Python script with Graphical User Interface for advanced editing of raw ERT data, either in Res2DInv format (.dat) or output from ABEM LS system (.txt)

NON-ACADEMIC WRITING & OUTREACH

Balikian, R., 2021. Illinois State Geological Survey Geophysics Data Viewer. FastTIMES 25. http://fasttimesonline.co/2021/02/17/government-geophysics-news-2/

Balikian, R. 2021. *The World is at Your Feet: The Earth Sciences in Illinois*. Virtual Presentation at Pleasantdale Middle School. Burr Ridge, IL. https://rileybalikian.blog/2021/03/11/earth-sciences-on-the-divide/

Balikian, R., 2021. 2020: A Year for the Books. Riley J. Balikian. https://rileybalikian.blog/2021/01/29/2020-a-year-for-the-books/

Balikian, R. 2019. *The World is at Your Feet: A Career in the Earth Sciences*. Oral Presentation at Monticello Middle School. Monticello, IL. https://rileybalikian.blog/2020/01/08/earth-sciences-world-at-your-feet/

Balikian, R. 2019. Aguacate: *Water Resources and Systems Resilience among Avocado Growers in San Diego County, CA*. Oral Presentation at the Illinois State Geological Survey Brownbag Series, Urbana, IL.

Balikian, R. 2018. The Value of Volunteering. GeoGradGuide.com. [Link]

Balikian, R. 2018. Writing in Rock Blog.

Some Great Falls and a Very Rivery River [Link]

In the Middle: Kansas, Cowboys, Crossroads, & an American Mediterranean Sea [Link]

The Precambrian: 20,000 Feet Under the Trees (Part III) [Link]

The Precambrian: Mystery and Myth (Part II) [Link]

Groundwar: Geologists in the Trenches [Link]

The Precambrian: An Origin Story (Part I) [Link]

The Quiet of the Aging (A Sonnet of Illinois Geology) [Link]

The Earth is Electric: Resistivity Geophysics [Link]

Southern Proceedings: The Three Tennessees [Link]

A Wrinkle in Time (Lapse) [Link]

From Time Immemorial: The Prevanance of Unremembered Eons [Link]

The Lakes and the Law of the Sea [Link]

Geology of Illinois (No, it's not an Oxymoron) [Link] How to Build a Moraine (Part II) [Link]

How to Build a Moraine (Part I) [Link]

Writing in Rock: An Introduction (Parts I & II) [Link 1] [Link 2]

- **Balikian, R**. 2015. "The Awe, the Longing, and All Those Questions." The Covenant Companion. https://covenantcompanion.com/2015/09/15/the-awe-the-longing-and-all-those-questions/
- **Balikian, R.** 2013. "Reflections on Curiosity and Wisdom." Wheaton College- Senior Reflections on Liberal Arts. https://www.wheaton.edu/academics/the-liberal-arts-at-wheaton-college/student-reflections-on-the-liberal-arts/reflections-on-curiosity-and-wisdom/
- Zhang, S., Phillips, N., **Balikian, R**., Venkataramanan, G., & Morales, A. 2014. Many Hands Together Make a Home: The Co-Production of Tiny Homes. *Progressive Planning*, (198), 36–39.
- Hailu, Z.G., Sanders, R., **Balikian, R**. 2013. *Water & Irrigation for Small-Scale Farmers*. Panel Presentation at the Human Needs and Global Resources Symposium. Wheaton, IL.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2015	Wisconsin Without Borders: Excellence in Community-Based Research (from the Morgridge Center)
2015	Student Project Award (Awarded by the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association)
2013	Student speaker (Selected by Wheaton College administration to speak at undergraduate baccalaureate)
2013	1st Place: P.J. Hill Essay Contest (Awarded by the Wheaton College Department of Economics)
2013	1st Place: Wheaton Reflects Senior Essay Contest (Sponsored by the Wheaton College Union)
2011	Recipient: Hendrickson Human Needs and Global Resources Scholarship (Wheaton College)

COURSE INSTRUCTION, FACILITATION, & ASSISTING

Higher Education	
2022	GEOL 451: Environmental Geophysics University of Illinois Instructor
2018	GEOL 593: Methods in Applied Geophysics University of Illinois Field Facilitator : Coordinated field data collection and provided technical material for lectures
2016	PL PATH 375: Social-Ecological Systems and Development University of Wisconsin Instructor
2013	GEOL 437: Hydrogeology Wheaton College (IL) Lab Assistant: Assisted students in lab and during field trip
2012 – 2013	HNGR 117: Third World Issues Wheaton College (IL) Teacher's Assistant: Facilitated sessions, coordinated guest lectures, prepared class materials
2012 – 2013	CFM 131: Introduction to Spiritual Formation Wheaton College (IL) Freshman Passage Leader : Developed and facilitated freshman passage program for incoming college students in partnership with faculty mentor

K-12 Education

2016 – 2017 Champaign Unit 4 School District (Licensed Substitute Teacher)

Substitute Teacher: Medium-term substitute for High School Spanish I course Also taught and/or aided classes from kindergarten to 12th grade, including special education

SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERING

2019 - 2021	United State Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 84 (Central Illinois) Member (BQII)
2014 – 2019	Young Evangelicals for Climate Action (YECA) United States (Nationwide) 2016 – 2019: Secretary 2015 – 2016: Treasurer 2014 – Present: Steering Committee Member
2013 – 2015	Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development Madison, Wisconsin LIGHT Program Site Coordinator - Madison East High School
2014	Community Groundworks at Troy Community Farm Madison, Wisconsin Intern
2012 – 2013	A Rocha Conservation Organization, Wheaton College Chapter Wheaton, Illinois Student member
2012	Wheaton College Deye Mon Haiti (Formerly Haiti-Wheaton Partnership) Wheaton, Illinoi Student member
2010 – 2011	World Relief West Chicago, Illinois English as a Second Language (ESL) Tutor
2009 – 2011	Honduras Project Wheaton, Illinois and Tegucigalpa, Honduras 2010 – 2011: Cabinet Member (Team Educator) 2009 – 2010: Student Team Member
2010	World Relief Wheaton, Illinois After School Tutor, Lowell Elementary School
2006 – 2008	Salvation Army Downtown Shelter San Diego, California Volunteer and Youth Organizer

PRESS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lawton, Gary. 2023. 'Rising waters.' New Scientist, 257(3428), 46–49. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0262-4079(23)00396-2

- Kaeding, Danielle. 2022b. 'Climate Change Yields Uncertain Future for Great Lakes Water Levels'. Wisconsin Public Radio. 13 December 2022 (https://www.wpr.org/climate-change-uncertain-future-great-lakes-water-levels).
- Kaeding, Danielle. 2022a. 'Climate Change Causes Swings in Lake Michigan Water Level'. Urban Milwaukee. 13 January 2023 (https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2022/12/13/climate-change-causes-swings-in-lake-michigan-water-level/).
- Henry, Tom. 2022. 'Climate Change Remains a Wild Card for Great Lakes Water Levels'. The Blade, 12 December 2022. https://www.toledoblade.com/local/environment/2022/12/12/climate-change-remains-wild-card-great-

- Flynn, Carol. 2022a. 'Ancient Geology Gives Rise to Scenery of Blue Island Ridge'. The Beverly Review. Retrieved 27 January 2023 (https://www.beverlyreview.net/special/good_news_2022/article_52d14a66-1d7e-11ed-bf2f-b3944d410349.html).
- Flynn, Carol. 2022b. 'Underground Mapping Project Offers New Info, and a Few Surprises, about Area's Deep Past'. Chicago Tribune. Retrieved 27 January 2023 (https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/ct-sta-isgs-subsurface-mapping-st-0729-20220728-ux3llwiz4fevtn5r64zpkhv2qi-story.html).
- [Acknowledgment] Lucas, M., Barklage, M., McKnight, G., 2019. Locating Previously Unmapped Water-Filled Cave Passages Feeding the Echo River Accessory Spring Using Electrical Resistivity Tomography at Mammoth Cave National Park, KY.
- Kroeker, A. 2017. "Nurturing a Holy Curiosity," byFaith Magazine, 23-Aug-2017. https://byfaithonline.com/nurturing-a-holy-curiosity/
- University of Wisconsin Global Health Institute. 2015. "GHI Programs Associate Among Those Honored for Engagement Beyond Campus Borders." https://ghi.wisc.edu/ghi-programs-associate-among-those-honored-for-engagement-beyond-campus-borders/.
- [Acknowledgement] J. Dawson and A. Morales, Eds., "Chicago Marketplaces: Advancing Access to Healthy Food," in Cities of Farmers: Urban Agricultural Practices and Processes, University of Iowa Press, 2016, pp. 191–210. https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt20q23dv
- [Acknowledgement] A. Morales, "Food Systems for Healthy Places," Built Environment and Public Health Clearinghouse, 14-Dec-2015. [Online]. Available: Food Systems for Healthy Places.
- [Acknowledgement] C. Law, "Directory of Contacts for Wisconsin Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)," University of Wisconsin-Extension, Madison, WI, Sep. 2015.
- Erickson, D. 2015. "As Young Evangelical, He Finds God's Call in Focus on Climate 'Crisis,'" Wisconsin State Journal. Madison, Wisconsin. https://madison.com/wsj/as-young-evangelical-he-finds-gods-call-in-focus-on-climate-crisis/article_33e7c838-a207-5e5f-b3a1-9d833c80a265.html
- Collins, M.B. 2014. "A Partnership: Oneida and the Commons," University of Wisconsin School of Human Ecology. https://sohe.wisc.edu/partnership-oneida-commns/
- Schneider, P. 2014. "Madison's tiny houses for homeless an example of 'housing co-production,' says planning journal," The Cap Times. Madison, Wisconsin. https://madison.com/ct/news/local/writers/pat_schneider/madison-s-tiny-houses-for-homeless-an-example-of-housing/article_434e5a00-be7f-11e3-91fd-0019bb2963f4.html

SKILLS AND TRAINING:

- FEMA Training: National Incident Management (NIMS) Introduction (IS-700 Completed)
- FEMA Training: Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS-100 Completed)
- United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Basic Training (BQII)
- First Aid, CPR, & AED (Passed 2023)
- Proficient in ESRI Arc suite and QGIS
- Proficient: MATLAB, Python, R
 - o Experience: Javascript, SOL, Visual Basic, C++, Arduino (esp. Uno)
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
- Proficient in various geophysical software, including Res2dInv, GPR-Slice, GeoScene3D and others

- Conversational in Spanish and Amharic (Ethiopia); Competent in Koine Greek
 Experience with various community facilitation methods