UC RIVERSIDE

PLANT PATHOLOGY 250 SEMINAR SERIES

Thursday, November 5, 2026
12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.



Thea Whitman, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of British Columbia

Seminar Title: "Tracing microbial carbon cycling in post-wildfire soils"

Abstract/Biography: Our lab's research is situated at the nexus of biogeochemistry, microbial ecology and global environmental change, and combines fieldwork, laboratory experiments, molecular work, and bioinformatics to answer questions across scales on three overarching themes: (1) Developing a framework of fire ecology for soil microbes; (2) Deciphering the role of microbes in pyrogenic organic matter degradation; (3) Probing the mechanisms that maintain microbial diversity in soils. We take a mechanistic approach, drawing on stable isotope-supported techniques, operating across a complexity gradient spanning from lab-isolated microbes to natural communities in the field, and developing novel instrumentation and methods.

Location: Genomics Auditorium 1102A

Seminar Host: Dr. Sydney Glassman