

Main prize

Laudatio

Dr. Elena Zepharovich,

for her dissertation, titled “Deforestation and environmental justice in the Argentinean Chaco: Perceptions of land use change and possible solutions”. The research aims to improve understanding of the impacts of deforestation, one of the biggest drivers of climate change. Elena Zepharovich uses the concept of environmental justice to analyse how local stakeholders perceive deforestation and what potential solutions there might be to address land use conflicts in the Argentinean Chaco. Her work demonstrates the importance of not only sustainability, but also environmental justice in finding lasting solutions to such conflicts.

Biography

- 1990: Born in Tirol, Austria
- 2009–2012: Bachelor in International Development, University of Vienna, Austria
- 2013–2015: Master in Sustainable Development, Management and Policy, MODUL University Vienna, Austria
- 2017–2020: PhD in Geography and Sustainable Development, University of Bern, Switzerland
- Since 2020: Independent researcher and scientific consultant