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He has a B.S. in Engineering Physics from the University of Nevada, Reno, an M.S. in Environmental Engineering (2010) from Stanford University, and he is currently a D.Phil Candidate at the University of Oxford in Planetary Physics. His project focuses on the development of new sensor technologies necessary for the search for life on Mars and other planets and uses terrestrial extreme environments in Peru, Chile, Africa, Iceland and Antarctica as analogs to the harsh conditions of Mars.

He has lived extensively in several countries and he is bi-lingual in English and Spanish and speak (to varying degrees, mostly basic), Portuguese, Italian, French, German, and Russian.

He has 18 years of multidisciplinary study and research with NASA and other organizations globally and areas of expertise include: Environmental bio-technology and biological sciences, systems engineering and space systems, physics, environmental engineering and sciences, planetary sciences, education and outreach, and global challenges in Latin America.