

Lindsay Podjasek

lindsaypodjasek@gmail.com | 331.422.9046 | linkedin.com/in/lindsay-podjasek

Research

My research focuses on developing a mineralogical map of the Moon by integrating lunar samples, meteorites, and orbital observations to investigate mineral-forming processes and the role of volatiles in shaping lunar surface mineral diversity.

Education

- 08/2025 – Present **PhD - Earth and Planetary Science**, *Rutgers University*
- 09/2017 – 12/2021 **BS - Earth Sciences: Geology**, *Oregon State University (OSU)*
- 04/2021 – 12/2021 **Geographic Information Systems Certificate**, *Oregon State University*

Professional and Research Experience

- 04/2022 – 07/2025 **Senior Staff Geologist**, *InfraTerra*
- Conducted literature reviews, synthesis, and technical report writing for geologic and geotechnical site studies, including field observations and mitigation recommendations for client.
 - Assessed and characterized erosion and landslide hazards for gas and electrical utility infrastructure through use of desktop remote sensing and geomorphic field observations.
 - Used ArcGIS Pro to synthesize regional geology, digitize maps, and produce geologic hazard maps through interpretation of geospatial and topographic data.
- 10/2021 – 04/2022 **GIS Assistant**, *College of Forestry, OSU*
- Analyzed geospatial data in a deadline-driven environment using R Studio and ArcGIS Pro.
 - Established mapping guidelines for wildfire risk assessment methodology to update previous study with current U.S. Census data.
 - Constructed index of socioeconomic vulnerability indicators and lead database management.
- 06/2020 – 09/2020 **Summer Research Fellow**, *College of Earth, Oceanic, and Atmospheric Science, OSU*
- Performed literature review, data synthesis, and research on megariipples of the Argentine Puna as a terrestrial analog for Mars.
 - Produced research papers, proposals, and other technical writings.
 - Assisted in peer projects by providing review and field support, including identifying field sites for sample collection and extraction of drill cores.
- 01/2020 – 06/2021 **Petrographic Research Assistant**, *College of Earth, Oceanic, and Atmospheric Science, OSU*
- Examined anhydrite grains in thin sections using a scanning electron microscope.
 - Created a database of sample progress, analyses completed, and library of photomicrographs taken from petrographic microscope.
 - Estimated magmatic crystallization conditions including major and trace element quantities, and pressure and temperature conditions.
- 03/2019 – 04/2021 **Undergraduate Researcher**, *College of Earth, Oceanic, and Atmospheric Science, OSU*
- Assisted in NASA funded planetary geology project studying the Puna region of Argentina as an analog laboratory for Mars.
 - Studied the formation, migration, and identification of megariipples and transverse aeolian ridges on Earth and Mars.
 - Categorized and prepared gravel samples from megariipples for installation of field tracking devices.
 - Analyzed wind tunnel data to produce reports for enhanced understanding of aeolian bedform migrations on Earth and Mars.

04/2019 – 12/2021

Geology Student Ambassador, College of Earth, Oceanic, and Atmospheric Science, OSU

- Promoted and educated hundreds of prospective students on opportunities provided by CEOAS, leading to increase in student population.
- Utilized interpersonal skills through written and verbal communication to organize and lead outreach events in earth science.
- Mentored new ambassadors and provided guidance on effective communication and presentation tactics.

Teaching Experience

01/2026

Graduate Research Mentor,

Rutgers University - Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences

- Mentored an undergraduate student through a semester long project, overseeing 40 - 60 hours of research and technical skill development.
- Conducted interviews and managed project planning, including weekly progress checks, goal setting, and presentation at a yearly research symposium.

09/2019

Environmental Science Learning Assistant,

OSU - College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science

- Educated honors college students on environmental processes and contexts during a field course in Oregon's high desert region.
- Coordinated logistical support with leading professor.
- Conducted a personal study to produce a research paper on the applications of southeast Oregon as a terrestrial analog for Mars.

04/2019

Geology Outreach Educator, OSU - Bring Your Kids To Campus Day

- Designed and implemented educational activities for children of all ages to educate and spark interest in earth science, resulting in a request to perform event again at a local elementary school's science night.
- Coordinated planning with administration and volunteers prior to, and during the event to ensure no complications occurred.

04/2019

Event Supervisor, Oregon Science Olympiad State Tournament

- Contributed guidance, inspiration, and support to students in the geologic mapping and road scholar event in the Oregon State Science Olympiad.
- Maintained organization of event materials and deliverables.

Skills

Geospatial Analysis

ArcGIS, ENVI, Google Earth Pro

Data Processing and Visualization

R Studio, Python, Excel

Field Research

Geologic Mapping, Rock and Soil Classification, Trenching, Drilling

Mineral Identification

Petrographic Analysis

Awards

08/2026

Outstanding Poster Award

International Mineralogical Association - 2026 Conference

05/2026

William & Grace Sparks Graduate Student Research Award,

Rutgers University - Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences

05/2026

Travel Award, MDPI - Minerals

01/2026

Student Travel Grant, Mineralogical Society of America

09/2025

Excellence Fellowship, Rutgers University - Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences

05/2019

Amanda Prewitt Memorial Scholarship,

OSU - College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science

Selected Press & Features

- 04/2026 **What to Know About NASA's First Crewed Mission to the Moon in More than 50 Years** [↗](#), *Rutgers Today*
- 04/2026 **Artemis II is having an impact on local researchers** [↗](#), *NBC 10 Philadelphia*

Professional Service

- 2026 **Executive Secretary**, *NASA Solar System Science (S3) Review Panel*
- 2026 **Student Committee Member**,
Planetary Materials Interest Group, Mineralogical Society of America

Community Involvement

Association for Women Geoscientists

Member 2025 - Present

Volcanology, Igneous Petrology, and Economic Resources (VIPER) Research Group, OSU

Member 2019 - 2021

Geosciences Club, OSU

Member 2017 - 2021

Secretary 2020/2021

Robotics Club, OSU

Mars Rover Team Geologist 2019