

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

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# Chelsea Wood

*Category winner of the Science & SciLifeLab Prize for Young Scientists in 2014  
(Ecology & Environment category)*

**Chelsea Wood is a tenured professor, science communicator, and parasite enthusiast with a controversial answer to the question: Is the world wormier than it used to be?**

Research in Chelsea's lab focuses on the ecology of parasites and their hosts: the ecological drivers of parasite transmission, the determinants of parasite diversity and abundance, and how human impacts on the environment change parasite assemblages. Her work suggests that the biggest biodiversity crisis facing Earth might not be the loss of mammals, birds, or amphibians, but of parasites.

Her first book is *Power to the Parasites: Everything You (N)ever Wanted to Know About the Creepy Crawlies Hidden in Your Home, Your Food, Your Pets – and Maybe Even in You!* (Holt Books for Young Readers, forthcoming fall 2024), a nonfiction chapter book that introduces middle-grade readers to the fundamentals of parasite ecology via fun, weird, and gross stories.

Her second book is for adult readers and is tentatively titled, *Eden's Worms: The Past, Present, and Future of Parasitism on Planet Earth*.

Dr. Wood holds degrees in ecology from Stanford University and Dartmouth College and completed postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Colorado and the University of Michigan. She is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Washington, as well as the Associate Director of her department, the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. •