

LISANNE S. PETRACCA, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Carnivore Ecology
Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and Texas A&M - Kingsville
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Research interests: Carnivore ecology; Quantitative ecology;
Geospatial analysis; Threatened species conservation

EDUCATION

State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY

PH.D. IN ECOLOGY, December 2018

GPA: 4.0 of 4.0

Dissertation title: Spatial and behavioral ecology of large carnivores at the human-wildlife interface: Insights for species conservation within and between protected areas

Academic advisor: Dr. Jacqueline Frair

Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment, Durham, NC

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, May 2010

Certificate of Geospatial Analysis

Certificate of International Development Policy

GPA: 3.87 of 4.0

Concentration: Ecosystem science and conservation

Thesis: Use of site occupancy modeling to delineate a jaguar corridor in southern Belize

Academic advisor: Dr. Dean Urban

Tufts University, School of Arts and Sciences, Medford, MA

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, *summa cum laude and high thesis honors*, May 2006

GPA: 3.84 of 4.0

Triple major: Environmental studies, Psychology, Biomedical engineering systems

Thesis: The emotional modulation of memory

Academic advisor: Dr. Lisa Shin

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

FUNDED GRANTS (Total: \$14,990,658.11)

Cherry, M.J., Hilton, C.D., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Evaluating the Effects of Type and Timing of Nutritional Supplementation on White-Tailed Deer Recruitment. Stedman West Foundation. **\$550,000**

Cherry, M.J., DeYoung, R.W., Foley, A.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Using Remote Cameras to Monitor and Investigate Wildlife Populations and Community Dynamics. East Foundation. **\$321,015**

Helferich, J.N. and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Ocelot Density Estimation in South Texas Using Spatially Explicit and Genetic Capture-Recapture. Welder Wildlife Foundation. **\$24,000**

Petracca, L.S. and C.M. Nouzille. 2024. Mountain lion ecology and management in the context of the US-MX border barrier system. Fort Worth Zoological Park. **\$5,000**

Petracca L.S., Hewitt, D., DeYoung, R., Hilton, C., Martin, A., Tewes, M., et al. 2023. South Texas Endangered Ocelot Protection and Recovery Services. United States Fish and Wildlife Service. **\$12,214,430**

Petracca, L.S., Cherry, M., DeYoung, R., Heffelfinger, L., Hewitt, D., Hilton, C., et al. 2023. Assessing and mitigating potential ecological impacts to large mammals from border barrier system construction and installation in South Texas, USA. United States Fish and Wildlife Service. **\$1,752,467.11**

Petracca, L.S. 2023. Promoting Ocelot Conservation Through Research on East Foundation Ranches. East Foundation. \$123,746

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor Jan 2023 – Present	Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and Texas A&M – Kingsville, Kingsville, TX Assistant Professor of Carnivore Ecology in the Department of Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences, with a focus on ocelot and mountain lion populations in South Texas. Research interests will include movement and behavioral ecology, population parameter estimation, resource selection, habitat restoration, intraguild interactions, and genomics for carnivores in South Texas and beyond. Ocelot recovery work will be done in partnership with the East Foundation.
Postdoctoral Scholar June 2020 – Dec 2022	University of Washington and Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Seattle, WA Analytical lead for the development of a spatially-explicit projection model to assess grey wolf population dynamics in Washington State. Research goals include the estimation of demographic rates (survival, recruitment, dispersal), development of simulation scenarios to evaluate the effects of wolf management in Washington, and assessment of progress toward population recovery. Done in collaboration with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). A second project, in collaboration with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), focused on the optimization of tufted puffin monitoring across their North American range.
Roosevelt Postdoctoral Scholar Jan 2020 – May 2020	SUNY-ESF, Syracuse, NY Served as the spatial ecology project lead for the Roosevelt Wild Life Research Station. Main focus was the analysis of bat habitat use surrounding the Silver Mountain Hibernaculum (Upper Peninsula, Michigan) during spring emergence and fall swarm as it related to the management of white-nose syndrome. Done in collaboration with the US Forest Service. Additional collaboration on mammal space use and ecology with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).
Conservation Scientist Jan 2019 – Dec 2019	Panthera, New York, NY Specialized in the statistical analysis of spatial data in both Bayesian and Maximum Likelihood frameworks to inform felid conservation efforts, with a focus on advanced occupancy modeling. Additional analyses included Resource Selection Functions (RSF), Step Selection Functions (SSF), generalized linear mixed models (GLMMs), and applications of survival and connectivity models.
Geospatial Analyst Nov 2010 – Dec 2018	Panthera, New York, NY Primary responsibility is the statistical analysis of ecological data to model felid presence and distribution. Additional projects for Panthera's Jaguar, Lion, Tiger, and Snow Leopard Programs include increasing the capacity of our field staff via in-country GIS and statistical workshops, classifying land cover imagery and assessing landscape change in project sites, managing telemetry data, and creating publication-quality maps and GIS layers for Panthera staff and collaborators (IUCN, National Geographic).
Wilderness Fellow Aug 2010 – Oct 2010	National Park Service, Harrison, AR Selected by the National Park Service to devise a Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Buffalo National River, Arkansas. Responsibilities included defining the wilderness character of the area and engaging park staff in the tenets of wilderness management. Founded "Marshalls to Mountains Day," an initiative that raised nearly \$2,500 to bring 90 at-risk Marshall Islander youth from Springdale, AR to the Buffalo River.
Graduate Researcher	Big Cats Initiative (BCI), Tete Province, Mozambique

July 2010 – Aug 2010	Collaborated with PI Rudi van Aarde at the Conservation Ecology Research Unit, University of Pretoria, to assess the population status of lions in Tete Province, Mozambique. Research team received a \$20,000 grant from National Geographic to conduct a lion survey via community-based interviews and callback stations. Co-authored the interview protocol, conducted local interviews, and performed statistical analysis on interview data.
Jaguar Corridor Initiative Project Manager May 2010 – July 2010	Panthera , Belmopan, Belize Managed a research team to verify the presence of jaguar and six jaguar prey species. Data collected from interviews with 90 hunters and farmers were analyzed in a site occupancy framework to identify the Central Belize Jaguar Corridor. This corridor has since been incorporated in the country's protected areas system.
Graduate Researcher Jan 2010 – May 2010	Big Cats Initiative (BCI) , Duke University, Durham, NC Served on a team of graduate students that produced cutting-edge maps of current lion distribution and areas of high conservation concern. Maps used strategically by PI Dr. Stuart Pimm to reinforce the immediacy of lion conservation efforts.
Jaguar Corridor Initiative Project Manager Jun 2009 – Aug 2009	Panthera , Punta Gorda, Belize Managed a research team that conducted 184 interviews with hunters and farmers in 38 villages to determine the population status of jaguar and seven jaguar prey species. Data analyzed via site occupancy modeling to identify the Southern Belize Jaguar Corridor.
Co-Coordinator, Student International Discussion Group Sep 2008 – May 2009	Nicholas School of the Environment , Duke University, Durham, NC Successfully fundraised close to \$18,000 while managing a graduate student group focused on global environmental issues. Skillfully organized all aspects of a symposium attended by 200 people, with keynote speaker Dr. Carl Safina and representatives from the WWF, The Nature Conservancy, and the Rockefeller Foundation.
High School Science Instructor Aug 2007 – May 2008	Marshall Islands Ministry of Education , Majuro, Marshall Islands Designed the first science curriculum at a high school for at-risk Pacific island youth. Effectively directed all classroom activities and laboratory exercises for 91 students in the 11th and 12th grades.
Primary School English Instructor July 2006 – May 2007	Marshall Islands Ministry of Education , Namdrik Atoll, Marshall Islands Served as the only non-native on the remote outer atoll of Namdrik. Instructed English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to 96 children in grades K-8. Overcame a lack of resources to conduct novel lesson plans in the Marshallese and English languages.

COURSES TAUGHT

RWSC 3390: Endangered Species Conservation. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Fall (2023 – present). Course Creator and Instructor. Upper-level undergraduate course focusing on application of critical thinking skills to endangered species conservation. Course utilizes student-centered and student-led learning, using class debates, group presentations, and discussion forums to explore topics including the Endangered Species Act, species recovery plans, threats to and opportunities for endangered species, and quantitative and qualitative techniques to guide endangered species management.

WSCI 6390: Population Parameter Estimation. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Spring, even years (2024 – present). Course Creator and Instructor. Graduate course focusing on a variety of statistical models that are most commonly employed in ecology. The first half of the course is taught in a maximum likelihood framework and focuses on linear models (e.g., ANOVA and regression), models that assume non-normal error distributions (e.g., logistic, Poisson, gamma regression), and models with multiple random terms (e.g., mixed models). The second half of the course focuses on capture-recapture modeling, a foundational class of models for estimation of demographic parameters. This part of the course is implemented in a Bayesian framework in JAGS.

EFB 298: Research Assistantship. State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Spring and Fall 2020. Course Creator and Instructor. Led a research team of nine undergraduate students in establishing

baseline estimates of felid densities globally. Instructed students on mark-recapture analysis (spatially explicit and otherwise), non-invasive monitoring tools, building spatial databases with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, and how to critically read peer-reviewed literature.

EFB 797 (3): Foraging and Movement Ecology. State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Fall 2016. Course Creator and Co-Instructor. Developed graduate-level seminar to explore the theoretical basis of foraging ecology. Course material was based upon *Foraging Theory* (1986) by Stephens and Krebs and *Foraging Behavior and Ecology* (2007) by Stephens et al. Topics included optimal foraging theory, the basic prey and patch models, and newer developments such as signal detection theory, spatial memory and learning, “post-kill” phenomena, the landscape of fear, and the application of game theory to social foraging.

EFB 797 (11): Mixed Effects Models in R. State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Spring 2016. Course Creator and Co-Instructor. Developed graduate-level seminar in mixed effects modeling. Course material was derived from *Mixed Effects Models and Extensions in Ecology with R* (2009) by Zuur et al. and included Generalized Additive Models (GAM), the linear mixed effects model, temporal and spatial autocorrelation, zero-truncated and zero-inflated models, Generalized Estimation Equations (GEE), and Generalized Linear and Additive Mixed Models (GLMM/GAMM).

EFB 496 (01): Wildlife Field Techniques. State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Summer 2015. Graduate Teaching Assistant. Assisted in instruction of field-based undergraduate course in wildlife field methods. Techniques included radiotelemetry, small mammal trapping, non-invasive sampling with camera traps and track plots, grassland bird surveys, and vegetation sampling.

ENVIRON 214: Landscape Ecology. Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. Fall 2009. Graduate Teaching Assistant. Assisted professor in instruction of graduate course covering agents of landscape pattern (physical template, biotic processes and disturbance regimes), scaling techniques, and implications of pattern (metapopulations, communities and biodiversity, and ecosystem processes). Graded course assignments and assisted students with conceptual understanding.

INSTRUCTED WORKSHOPS

Petracca, L.S. and SPEC Lab team. 2025. Geospatial Analysis in R. Full-day workshop covering (1) the basics of geospatial data and use of spatial data in R, (2) manipulation and analysis of vector and raster data, (3) cartography, and (4) looping and automation, all within the R environment. Course content updated to include dynamic mapping, calculating patch metrics, and interpolation.

Workshop 1: Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. Kingsville, TX. May 2025. 32 participants.

Workshop 2: International Congress for Conservation Biology. University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. June 2025. 26 participants.

Petracca, L.S. and A.E. Cheeseman. 2023. Geospatial Analysis in R. Full-day workshop with the highest registration of the Congress (42 participants). Workshop covered (1) the basics of geospatial data and use of spatial data in R, (2) manipulation and analysis of vector and raster data, (3) cartography, and (4) looping and automation, all within the R environment. Course content updated to use package terra. International Mammalogical Congress. Anchorage, AK.

Petracca, L.S. and A.E. Cheeseman. 2021. Geospatial Analysis in R. Half-day workshop that covered the basics of geospatial data and use of spatial data in R, namely the manipulation and analysis of vector and raster data. Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting (NEAFWA). Virtual.

Petracca, L.S. and A.E. Cheeseman. 2020. Geospatial Analysis in R. Full-day workshop with two sold-out sessions reaching ~100 participants. Workshop covered (1) the basics of geospatial data and use of spatial data in R, (2) manipulation and analysis of vector and raster data, (3) cartography, and (4) looping and automation, all within the R environment. The Wildlife Society 2020 Annual Conference. Virtual.

Petracca, L.S. 2015. Los Fundamentos de Sistemas de Información Geográfica (SIG). Five-day graduate-level workshop (in Spanish). Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, Querétaro, México.

Petracca, L.S. 2014. Una introducción a sensores remotos: ¿Cómo podemos usar las imágenes de satélite en la conservación del jaguar? One-day workshop (in Spanish). Sponsored by Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). ICE Reventazón Hydroelectric Dam Site, Siquirres, Costa Rica.

Petracca, L.S. 2014. Una introducción a los análisis de menor costo y ocupación usando datos de jaguares. Three-day workshop (in Spanish). Panthera Field Office, San José, Costa Rica.

Petracca, L.S. 2012-2013 (various). La realización de análisis ecológicos con ArcMap. Five-day workshop (in Spanish). Panthera Field Offices, Carazo, Nicaragua; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Belmopan, Belize; San José, Costa Rica.

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED ARTICLES

Petracca, L.S., Converse, S.J., Maletzke, B.T., and B. Gardner. 2025. Forecasting dynamics of a recolonizing wolf population under different management strategies. *Animal Conservation*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/acv.70019>

Madsen, E.K., Ray, S., **Petracca, L.S.**, and J.F. Kamler. 2025. The Potential for Subordinate Predator Release in Terrestrial Mammalian Carnivore Assemblages. *Mammal Review* e70003. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mam.70003>

Petracca, L.S., Gardner, B., Maletzke, B.T., and S.J. Converse. 2025. Response to Santiago-Ávila et al. (2024). *Biological Conservation*: 110926. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2024.110926>

Slovikosky, S.A., **Petracca, L.S.**, Hunter, L.T.B., and J.L. Frair. 2024. Scaling issues in the study of livestock depredation by carnivores. *Landscape Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10980-024-01932-x>

Petracca, L.S., Gardner, B., Maletzke, B.T., and S.J. Converse. 2024. Corrigendum to “Merging integrated population models and individual-based models to project population dynamics of recolonizing species” [Biol. Conserv. 289 (January 2024) 110340]. *Biological Conservation* 295: 110633. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2024.110633>

Petracca, L.S., Gardner, B., Maletzke, B.T., and S.J. Converse. 2024. Merging integrated population models and individual-based models to project population dynamics of recolonizing species. *Biological Conservation* 289: 110340. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2023.110340>

Elbroch, L.M., **Petracca, L.S.**, O'Malley, C., and H.R. Robinson. 2022. Analyses of national mountain lion harvest indices yield ambiguous interpretations. *Ecological Solutions and Evidence*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2688-8319.12150>

Tear, T.H., Wolff, N.H., Lipsett-Moore, G.J., Ritchie, M.E., Ribeiro, N.S., **Petracca, L.S.**, Lindsey, P.L., Hunter, L., Loveridge, A.J., and F. Steinbruch. 2021. A burning question: Can savannah fire management generate enough carbon revenue to restore Africa's rangelands and fill Protected Area funding gaps? *One Earth*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2021.11.013>

Gálvez, N., Infante, J., Fernandez, A., Díaz, J., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2021. Land use intensification coupled with free-roaming dogs as potential defaunation drivers of mesocarnivores in agricultural landscapes. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.14026>

Salom-Pérez, R., Corrales-Gutiérrez, D., Araya-Gamboa, D., Espinoza-Muñoz, D., Finegan, B., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2021. Forest cover mediates large and medium-sized mammal occurrence in a critical link of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. *PLOS ONE*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0249072>

Petracca, L.S., Frair, J.L., Bastille-Rousseau, G., Macdonald, D.W., and A.J. Loveridge. 2021. Harassment-induced changes in lion space use as a conflict mitigation tool. *Conservation Science and Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.373>

Powers, K., **Petracca, L.S.***, MacDuff, A.J., and J.L. Frair. 2021. A pragmatic approach for determining otter distribution from disparate occurrence records. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.21968>

***corresponding author**

Henschel, P., **Petracca, L.S.**, Ferreira, S.M., Ekwanga, S., Ryan, S.D., and L. Frank. 2020. Census and distribution of large carnivores in the Tsavo National Parks, a critical East African wildlife corridor. *African Journal of Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aje.12730>

Petracca, L.S., Frair, J.L., Bastille-Rousseau, G., Hunt, J.E., Macdonald, D.W., Sibanda, L., and A.J. Loveridge. 2019. The effectiveness of hazing African lions as a conflict mitigation tool: Implications for carnivore management. *Ecosphere*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.2967>

Petracca, L.S., Funston, P.J., Henschel, P., Cohen, J.B., MacLennan, S., and J.L. Frair. 2019. Modeling community occupancy from line transect data: A case study with large mammals in post-war Angola. *Animal Conservation*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/acv.12555>

Lindsey, P.A.*, Miller, J.R.B.*, **Petracca, L.S.***, Coad, L., Dickman, A.J., Fitzgerald, K.H., Flyman, M.V., Funston, P.J., Henschel, P., Kasiki, S., Knights, K., Loveridge, A.J., Macdonald, D.W., Mandisodza-Chikerema, R.L., Nazerali, S., Plumptre, A.J., Stevens, R., Van Zyl, H.W., and L.T.B. Hunter. 2018. More than \$1 billion needed annually to secure Africa's protected areas with lions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115 (45), 10788-10796. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1805048115>

***shared first-authorship**

Petracca, L.S., Frair, J.L., Cohen, J.B., Calderón, A.P., Carazo-Salazar, J., Castañeda, F., Corrales-Gutiérrez, D., Foster R.J., Harmsen, B., Hernández-Potosme, S., Herrera, L., Olmos, M., Pereira, S., Robinson, H.S., Robinson, N., Salom-Pérez, R., Urbina, Y., Zeller, K.A., and H. Quigley. 2018. Robust inference on large-scale species habitat use with interview data: the status of jaguars outside protected areas in Central America. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 55 (2), 723-734. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.12972>

Lindsey, P.A., Chapron, G., **Petracca, L.S.**, Burnham, D., Hayward, M.W., Henschel, P., Hinks, A.E., Garnett, S.T., Macdonald, D.W., Macdonald, E.A., Ripple, W.J., Zander, K., and A. Dickman. 2017. Relative efforts of countries to conserve world's megafauna. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 10, 243-252. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2017.03.003>

Lindsey, P.A.*, **Petracca, L.S.***, Funston, P.J., Bauer, H., Dickman, A., Everatt, K., Flyman, M., Henschel, P., Hinks, A.E., Kasiki, S., Loveridge, A., Macdonald, D.W., Mandisodza, R., Mgoola, W., Miller, S.M., Nazerali, S., Siegel, L., Uiseb, K., and L.T.B. Hunter. 2017. The performance of African protected areas for lions and their prey. *Biological Conservation* 209, 137-149. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2017.01.011>

***shared first-authorship, Editor's Choice**

Petracca, L.S., and J.L. Frair. 2017. When methodological flaws limit inference: a response to Caruso et al. (2016). *Oryx*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605316000788>

Henschel, P., **Petracca, L.S.***, Hunter, L.T.B., Kiki, M., Sewade, C., Tehou, A., and H.S. Robinson. 2016. Determinants of persistence in a Critically Endangered lion (*Panthera leo*) population. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 4, 110. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2016.00110>

***corresponding author**

Di Minin, E., Slotow, R., Hunter, L.T.B., Montesino Pouzols, F., Toivonen, T., Verburg, P.H., Leader-Williams, N., **Petracca, L.S.**, and A. Moilanen. 2016. Global priorities for national carnivore conservation under land use change. *Scientific Reports* 6, 23814. <http://doi.org.esf.idm.oclc.org/10.1038/srep23814>

Petracca, L.S., Hernández-Potosme, S., Obando-Sampson, L., Salom-Pérez, R., Quigley, H., and H.S. Robinson. 2014. Agricultural encroachment and lack of enforcement threaten connectivity of range-wide jaguar (*Panthera onca*) corridor. *Journal for Nature Conservation* 22(5), 436-444. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2014.04.002>

Cuyckens, G.A.E., Falke, F., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2014. Jaguar *Panthera onca* in its southernmost range: use of a corridor between Bolivia and Argentina. *Endangered Species Research* 26:167-177. <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr00640>

Petracca, L.S., Ramirez-Bravo, O.E., and L. Hernandez-Santin. 2013. Occupancy estimation of jaguar *Panthera onca* to assess the value of east-central Mexico as a jaguar corridor. *Oryx* 48(1), 133-140. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605313000069>

Jacobson, A.P., Cattau, M.E., Riggio, J.S., **Petracca, L.S.**, and D.A. Fedak. 2013. Distribution and abundance of lions in northwest Tete Province, Mozambique. *Tropical Conservation Science* 6(1):87-107.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/194008291300600110>

NONREFEREED ARTICLES

Nouzille, C.M., Hewitt, D.G., Cherry, M.J., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Mountain lion ecology in South Texas. *Fair Chase Magazine*. Fall 2024.

McDaniel, K.G., Nouzille, C.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. The South Texas Lion Project arrives at the CKWRI. *Wildlife Research: Quarterly Newsletter of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University – Kingsville* 28:1. Spring 2024.

McDaniel, K.G., Nouzille, C.M., **Petracca, L.S.**, and M.J. Cherry. 2024. The Ghost Cat of Texas: How Mountain Lions Are Navigating Life in a Transboundary Region. *Caesar Kleberg Tracks*. Fall 2024.

McDaniel, K.G., Nouzille, C.M., Cherry, M.J., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Wild Felid Association Regional Update-Texas. *Wild Felid Monitor*.

Petracca, L.S. 2023. Ocelots in South Texas: Coming Back from the Brink. *Caesar Kleberg Tracks*. Fall 2023.

Petracca, L.S. 2023. Renewed Hope for South Texas Ocelots. *Texas Wildlife Magazine*. August 2023. [Link](#)

Petracca, L.S. 2017. Jaguar habitat use outside protected areas in Central America: accounting for the detection process generates new insights. *The Applied Ecologist*. [Link](#)

Funston, P., Henschel, P., **Petracca, L.S.**, Maclellan, S., Whitesell, C., Fabiano, E., and I. Castro. The distribution and status of lions and other large carnivores in Luengue-Luiana and Mavinga National Parks, Angola. 2017. Report for Secretariat Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, Kasane, Botswana. [Link](#)

PRESENTATIONS

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Madsen, E.K., Ray, S., **Petracca, L.S.**, and J. Kamler. 2024. Subordinate predator release: A Systematic Review of the potential for its occurrence in terrestrial mammalian assemblages. European Congress for Conservation Biology, Bologna, Italy. Oral presentation.

Farr, M.T., Gardner, B., **Petracca, L.S.**, Hodum, P.J., Kaler, R.S.A., Pearson, S.F., Renner, H.M., and S.J. Converse. 2024. Optimizing range-wide monitoring strategy for Tufted Puffins. Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S. 2023. A new paradigm for ocelot recovery in the United States. International Mammalogical Congress, Anchorage, AK. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S.,* Gardner, B., Maletzke, B.T., and S.J. Converse. 2023. Forecasting recolonization dynamics of wolves through an integrated population model with individual-based movement. International Mammalogical Congress, Anchorage, AK. Oral presentation.

***INVITED TALK**

Petracca, L.S., Gardner, B., Maletzke, B.T., and S.J. Converse. 2022. Merging an IPM and IBM to project population dynamics of recolonizing species. International Statistical Ecology Conference, virtual. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S., Gardner, B., Maletzke, B.T., and S.J. Converse. 2021. A semi-spatial integrated population model to assess population dynamics of a recolonizing species. EURING 2021 Analytical Meeting and Workshop, virtual. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S. 2019. Effects of a human-carnivore conflict mitigation program on the space use of a threatened felid. International Congress for Conservation Biology, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S., Hernández-Potosme, S., Obando-Sampson, L., Salom-Pérez, R., Quigley, H., and H.S. Robinson. 2014. La invasión agrícola y la falta de hacer cumplir las leyes amenazan la conectividad del corredor del jaguar (*Panthera onca*) del amplio rango. Annual meeting, Sociedad Mesoamericana para la *Biología* y la Conservación, Copán Ruinas, Honduras. Oral presentation (in Spanish).

Petracca, L.S., Hernández-Potosme, S., Obando-Sampson, L., Salom-Pérez, R., Quigley, H., and H.S. Robinson. 2014. La invasión agrícola y la falta de hacer cumplir las leyes amenazan la conectividad del corredor del jaguar (*Panthera onca*) del amplio rango. Simposio Internacional Conservación Felinos América, Chilamate, Costa Rica. Oral presentation (in Spanish).

Petracca, L.S., Ramirez-Bravo, O.E., and L. Hernandez-Santin. 2013. Occupancy estimation of jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in east-central Mexico: A corridor uncertain. International Congress for Conservation Biology, Baltimore, MD. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S., Carazo, J., Castañeda, F., Che, C., Corrales, D., Hernandez-Potosme, S., Herrera, L., Obando-Sampson, L., Olmos, M., Pereira, S., Quigley, H., Ruano, G., Salom-Perez, R., and Y. Urbina. 2012. La Iniciativa del Corredor del Jaguar: Una Actualización para Mesoamérica. Annual meeting, Sociedad Mesoamericana para la *Biología* y la Conservación, Mérida, México. Oral presentation (in Spanish).

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Bostwick, T.A., DeYoung, R.W., Smith, M.M., Martin, A.M., Reeves, A.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Genetic Diversity and Historic Demography of Federally Endangered Ocelots in the United States. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. Oral presentation.

Choki, G.K., **Petracca, L.S.,** Aikens, E.O., and A.E. Cheeseman. 2024. Abundance and Density Estimates for Common Leopard in the Eastern Himalayas. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. Poster presentation.

Haiflich, S.M., Helferich, J.N., Hiott, A.N., Schofield, L., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Spatiotemporal niche separation of a sympatric specialist and generalist felid in Tamaulipan thornscrub. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. Poster presentation.

Helferich, J.N., Gardner, B., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Optimizing spatially explicit capture-recapture study design across varying animal movement strategies. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. Oral presentation.

Hiott, A.N., Martin A.M., Fidino, M., Hilton, C.D., Reeves, A.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Understanding Disease Transmission Dynamics in a Multi-Felid system. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. Poster presentation.

Locke, V.L., Reeves, A.M., Tanner, E.P., Young, J.L., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Survival of the generalist? A comparison of kitten survival and reproduction in bobcats and ocelots. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. Poster presentation.

McDaniel, K.G., Cherry, M.J., Nouzille, C.M., Alonso, R.S., Hewitt, D.G., DeYoung, R.W., Heffelfinger, L.J., Hilton, C.D., Karelus, D.L., Harris, G.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Genetic relatedness, diversity, and population structure of mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) in Texas and the trans-boundary region. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD. Poster presentation.

Nouzille, C.M., Cherry, M.J., McDaniel, K.G., Alonso, R.A., Hewitt, D.G., DeYoung, R.W., Heffelfinger, L.J., Hilton, C.D., Karelus, D.L., Wultsch, C., Harris, G.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Investigating the potential impacts of a large anthropogenic barrier on the ecology of mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) in South Texas. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. Oral presentation.

Smith, M.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Extreme climate events influence movement and space use of the endangered ocelot at their northern range boundary. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Baltimore, Maryland. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S. 2023. A Road Map for Ocelot Recovery in the United States. The Wildlife Society 30th Annual Meeting. Louisville, KY. Oral presentation.

Bostwick, T.A., DeYoung, R.W., Martin, A.M., Reeves, A.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2023. Informing Recovery: Current Genetic Status of Severely Isolated Ocelot Populations in South Texas. The Wildlife Society 30th Annual Meeting. Louisville, KY. Poster presentation.

Ta, T., Satterfield, L., Cunningham, C., Ganz, T., Kertson, B., Newsome, T., Windell, B., Prugh, L.R., Wirsing, A., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2023. Using camera traps to understand impacts of human disturbance on cougar (*Puma concolor*) feeding duration. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. Portland, OR. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S., Gardner, B., Maletzke, B.T., and S.J. Converse. 2022. Use of a spatially explicit projection model to assess population dynamics of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Washington State, USA. The Wildlife Society 29th Annual Meeting, Spokane, WA. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S., Gardner, B., Maletzke, B.T., and S.J. Converse. 2021. A semi-spatial integrated population model to assess population dynamics of a recolonizing species. The Wildlife Society 28th Annual Meeting, virtual. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S. 2020. Modeling community occupancy from line transect data: A case study with large mammals in post-war Angola. The Wildlife Society 27th Annual Meeting, virtual. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S. 2019. Sex-Mediated Behavioral Response to Induced Risk in a Large Carnivore. Joint Annual Conference of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society, Reno, NV. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S.* 2019. Robust Inference on Large-Scale Species Habitat Use with Interview Data Prone to False Positives. Joint Annual Conference of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society, Reno, NV. Oral presentation.

***INVITED TALK**

Petracca, L.S. 2016. Robust inference on species distribution in human-dominated landscapes using interview data: The status of jaguar across Central America. The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Raleigh, NC. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S. 2016. Robust inference on species distribution in human-dominated landscapes using interview data: The status of jaguar across Central America. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Oral presentation.

Petracca, L.S. 2015. Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) habitat use outside protected areas in Central America. Student Conference on Conservation Science, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY. Oral presentation.

STATE CONFERENCES

Bostwick, T.A., DeYoung, R.W., Martin, A.M., Reeves, A.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Informing Recovery: Current Genetic Status of Isolated Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) Populations in South Texas. Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Houston, Texas. Poster presentation.

Haiflich, S.M., McDaniel, K.G., Nouzille, C.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Diet composition of mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) in the Southwestern United States. Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Houston, Texas. Poster presentation.

Hiott, A.N., Martin, A.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Understanding Disease Transmission Dynamics in a Multi-felid System. Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Houston, Texas. Poster presentation.

Locke, V.L., Reeves, A.M., Tanner, E.P., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Kitten Survival and Den Site Selection of South Texas Felids. Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Houston, Texas. Poster presentation.

Nouzille, C. M., Cherry, M.J., McDaniel, K.G., DeYoung, R.W., Evans, J.W., Harris, G.M., Heffelfinger, L.J., Hilton, C.D., Karelus, D.L., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Movement and foraging ecology of mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) in South Texas. Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Houston, Texas. Poster presentation.

Helferich, J.N., DeYoung, R.W., Martin, A.M., Scognamillo, D.G., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Estimating site-specific and region-wide density of an endangered South Texas felid using spatially explicit capture-recapture. Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Houston, Texas. Poster presentation.

McDaniel, K.G., Cherry, M.J., Nouzille, C.M., Hewitt, D.G., DeYoung, R.W., Heffelfinger, L.J., Hilton, C.D., Karelus, D.L., Evans, J.W., Harris, G.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Movement ecology, dispersal, and genetic relatedness of mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) in South Texas and Mexico. Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference. Houston, TX. Poster presentation.

Petracca, L.S. 2020. The effectiveness of hazing African lions as a conflict mitigation tool: Implications for carnivore management. New York State Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, Fayetteville, NY. Oral presentation.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Hediger, J.A., Moore, M.T., **Petracca, L.S.**, Anderson, C.C., DeYoung, C.A., Hewitt, D.G., Stedman, S.W., DeYoung, R.W., and M.J. Cherry. 2023. Antler growth dynamics of white-tailed deer. 77th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Corpus Christi, TX. Oral presentation.

NONREFEREED PRESENTATIONS

INVITED LECTURES

Petracca, L.S. 2024. New perspectives on ocelot and mountain lion ecology in the Texas-Mexico borderlands. Utah State University Ecology Center Spring Seminar Series. Logan, UT.

Petracca, L.S. 2024. New perspectives on ocelot and mountain lion ecology in the Texas-Mexico borderlands. Biodiversity and Conservation Graduate Course, Harte Research Institute, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX

Petracca, L.S. 2024. New perspectives on ocelot and mountain lion ecology in the Texas-Mexico borderlands. Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. Monterrey, Mexico.

Petracca, L.S., 2024. Situación actual de los grandes depredadores y su relación con el venado cola blanca en el sur de Texas. XXV Seminario Binacional Venado Cola Blanca. Monterrey, Mexico.

Petracca, L.S. 2023. El proyecto de pumas del sur de Texas y sus implicaciones para el venado cola blanca. XXIV Seminario Binacional Venado Cola Blanca. Monterrey, Mexico

Petracca, L.S., Gardner, B., and S.J. Converse. 2022. Optimizing range-wide monitoring strategy for tufted puffins. School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (SAFS) Quantitative Seminar, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Petracca, L.S. 2021. Chasing lions & how this can assist large-scale species conservation. Guest lecture in 80-person upper undergraduate course (RANG 374: Habitat Conservation and Management), South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD. Virtual talk.

Petracca, L.S. 2021. Novel analytical approaches in guiding big cat conservation and management. Hoch Cunningham Environmental Lecture Series, Tufts University, Medford, MA. Virtual talk.

Petracca, L.S. 2020. Novel analytical approaches in guiding big cat conservation and management. School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (SAFS) Quantitative Seminar, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Petracca, L.S. 2020. Chasing lions & how this can assist large-scale species conservation. Nicholas School of the Environment Graduate Seminar, Duke University, Durham, NC. Virtual talk.

Petracca, L.S. 2020. Chasing lions & how this can help their conservation. Draper Natural History Museum, Cody, WY. Virtual talk.

Petracca, L.S. 2019. Metapopulations and the Mesoamerican Jaguar Corridor. Nicholas School of the Environment Graduate Seminar, Duke University, Durham, NC. Virtual talk.

Petracca, L.S. October 2019. Tackling human-carnivore conflict on the African continent. Allegheny College, Meadville, PA. Virtual talk.

Petracca, L.S. November 2012 and November 2013. Geospatial initiatives at Panthera. Nicholas School of the Environment Graduate Seminar, Duke University, Durham, NC. Virtual talks.

Petracca, L.S. November 2012. The use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the conservation of the world's big cat species. Environmental Studies Lunch & Learn Program, Tufts University, Medford, MA.

STUDENT SYMPOSIA

Helferich, J.N., DeYoung, R.W., Gardner, B., Martin, A.M., Reeves, A., Scognamillo, D.G., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Applying spatially explicit and genetic capture-recapture for ocelot density estimation. 2024 Welder Wildlife Foundation Research Symposium. Sinton, TX. Oral presentation.

Haiflich, S.M., Helferich, J.N., Hiott, A.N., Schofield, L., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Spatiotemporal niche separation of a sympatric specialist and generalist felid in Tamaulipan thornscrub. LEADING Program Research Symposium & Career Fair. Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Poster presentation.

Haiflich, S.M., McDaniel, K.G., Nouzille, C.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Diet composition of mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) in the Southwestern United States. LEADING Hispanics Research Symposium & Career Fair. Kingsville, Texas. Poster presentation.

Nouzille, C. M. Cherry, M.J., Hewitt, D.G., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024 Ecology and Management of Mountain Lions (*Puma concolor*) in South Texas. Boone and Crockett Club Spring Meeting. Grand Rapids, MI. Oral presentation.

LOCAL PRESENTATIONS

Petracca, L.S. 2024. Mountain Lion Ecology in the South Texas Borderlands. South Texas Wildlife Conference. Pleasanton, TX.

Petracca, L.S., and A.M.V. Dutt. Assessing and mitigating potential ecological impacts to large mammals from border barrier system construction and installation in South Texas, USA. 2024. USFWS Texas Border Wall Research Partner Meeting. Santa Ana NWR, TX.

Reeves, A.M., **Petracca, L.S.**, and R.R. Lopez. 2024. South Texas Endangered Ocelot Protection and Recovery. USFWS Texas Border Wall Research Partner Meeting. Santa Ana NWR, TX.

Petracca, L.S., Gardner, B., Maletzke, B.T., and S.J. Converse. 2024. Use of a spatially explicit projection model to assess population dynamics of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Washington State, USA. TAMUK Wildlife and Agriculture Graduate Student Organization Eco-Lunch Presentation. Kingsville, TX.

Alonso, R.A., McDaniel, K.G., Nouzille, C.M., Cherry, M.J., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Ecology and Management of Mountain Lions (*Puma concolor*) in South Texas. Chaparral WMA Field Day. Chaparral WMA, TX.

Hediger, J.A., Moore, M.T., **Petracca, L.S.**, Anderson, C.C., DeYoung, C.A., Hewitt, D.G., Stedman, S.W., DeYoung, R.W., and M.J. Cherry. 2024. The effects of early-life conditions on antler growth and senescence in white-tailed deer. Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute Deer Research Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

Hediger, J.H., DeYoung, R.W., Hewitt, D.G., Hilton, C.D., **Petracca, L.S.**, Sheriff, M.J., and M.J. Cherry. 2024. Optimizing Management for Deer Productivity. Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute Partner Reception. Houston, TX.

Locke, V.L., Tanner, E.P., Hilton, C.D., Reeves, A.M., Young, J.K., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Ocelot and bobcat kitten survival and den site selection. Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute Partner Reception. Houston, TX.

McDaniel, K.G., Nouzille, C.M., Alonso, R.A., Cherry, M.J., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Ecology and Management of Mountain Lions (*Puma concolor*) in South Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department District 11 Meeting. Kingsville, TX.

McDaniel, K.G., Nouzille, C.M., Alonso, R.A., Cherry, M.J., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Ecology and Management of Mountain Lions (*Puma concolor*) in South Texas. Dimmit County Landowners' Meeting. Carrizo Springs, TX.

McDaniel, K.G., Cherry, M.J., Nouzille, C.M., Alonso, R.S., Hewitt, D.G., DeYoung, R.W., Heffelfinger, L.J., Hilton, C.D., Karelus, D.L., Harris, G.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Introduction to the South Texas Lion Project. Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute Partner Reception. San Antonio, TX.

Petracca, L.P. 2023. The South Texas Lion Project. Joint meeting of TPWD, CKWRI, and Sul Ross. Del Rio, TX.

Petracca, L.P. 2023. A new paradigm for ocelot recovery in the United States. Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute Partner Reception. Houston, TX.

Petracca, L.P. 2023. A roadmap for ocelot recovery in the United States. Presentation to TAMU Regent John Bellingr. Kingsville, TX.

Petracca, L.P. 2023. Me, my work, and the ocelots of South Texas. Presentation to the CKWRI Advisory Board. Kingsville, TX.

Petracca, L.P. 2023. A quantitative lens to explore spatial and population ecology: A chat with WAGSO. Presentation to the Wildlife and Agriculture Graduate Student Organization. Kingsville, TX.

Petracca, L.S. 2010. Use of site occupancy modeling to delineate a jaguar corridor in southern Belize. Nicholas School Masters of Environmental Management Symposium, Duke University, Durham, NC. Oral presentation.

THREE MINUTE THESIS PRESENTATIONS

Bostwick, T.A., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Under the hood: Using Genomics to Inform Ocelot Conservation. Private Lands Summit TWA Convention. San Antonio, TX.

Bostwick, T.A., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Genetic Diversity of the Federally Endangered Ocelots of South Texas. TAMUK College of Graduate Studies Three Minute Thesis Competition. Kingsville, TX.

Locke, V.L., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Kitten Survival and Reproduction of Bobcats and Ocelots. Private Lands Summit TWA Convention. San Antonio, TX.

Helferich, J.N., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Applications of spatially explicit and genetic capture-recapture in estimating density of endangered ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*). TAMUK College of Graduate Studies Three Minute Thesis Competition. Kingsville, TX.

Hiott, A.N., Martin, A.M., and **L.S. Petracca**. 2024. Understanding Disease Transmission Among Domestic and Wild Cat Species. Private Lands Summit TWA Convention. San Antonio, TX.

HONORS AND AWARDS

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Junior Research Award, Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	2024
Robert L. Burgess Outstanding Doctoral Scholar Award*, SUNY-ESF	2018
*awarded to the most accomplished doctoral student at the culmination of their program	
Wilford A. Dence Fellowship for Excellence in Wildlife Science*, SUNY-ESF	2017
*awarded to the top SUNY-ESF graduate student in the wildlife sciences	
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Honorable Mention	2016
Ford Foundation Fellowship Program Predoctoral Competition, Honorable Mention	2016
Best Speed Talk, Student Conference on Conservation Science, New York, NY	2015
Class of 2010 Commencement Speaker, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University	2010
Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Tufts University	2006
Psi Chi Honor Society, Tufts University	2006
Dean's List, Tufts University	2002-2006

ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND SMALL GRANTS

Kaplan Graduate Research Award, Panthera, 2016-2018	\$15,000
Alumni Association Graduate Student Grant, SUNY-ESF, 2016-2017	\$1,900
Graduate Student Association (GSA) Research Grant, SUNY-ESF, 2017	\$500
Office of Instruction & Graduate Studies (OIGS) Travel Grant, SUNY-ESF, 2016-2017	\$1,250
Graduate Student Association (GSA) Travel Grant, SUNY-ESF, 2015-2016	\$500
Doris Duke Conservation Fellowship, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, 2009-2010	\$35,000

SIDG-Lazar Foundation Research Grant, Duke University, 2009	\$300
Nicholas School International Internship Fund Research Grant, Duke University, 2009	\$500
Nicholas School of the Environment Merit Scholarship, Duke University, 2008-2010	\$30,000
Andrew Mellon Scholarship, Duke University, 2008-2010	\$4,000
Tufts Summer Scholars Research Grant, Tufts University, 2005	\$4,500

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group, member	2023-present
Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, member	2023-present
The Wildlife Society, member	2015-present
American Society of Mammalogists, member	2023-present
Society for Conservation Biology, member	2010-2019, 2024-present

LEADERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Invited member, Cat Mapping Working Group of the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group	2023-present
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EDITORIAL BOARDS

Associate Editor, <i>Animal Conservation</i>	2020-present
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PEER REVIEW WORK

Peer reviewer for <i>Trends in Ecology and Evolution</i> , <i>Conservation Biology</i> , <i>Conservation Letters</i> , <i>Ecological Applications</i> , <i>Biological Conservation</i> , <i>Journal of Applied Ecology</i> , <i>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B</i> , <i>Diversity and Distributions</i> , <i>Animal Conservation</i> , <i>Ecosphere</i> , <i>Global Ecology and Conservation</i> , <i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i> , <i>Journal of Mammalogy</i> , <i>Nature Ecology & Evolution</i> , <i>Conservation Science and Practice</i> , <i>Landscape Ecology</i> , <i>Oryx</i> , <i>PLOS ONE</i> , <i>Environmental Monitoring and Assessment</i> , <i>European Journal of Wildlife Research</i> , <i>Human Dimensions of Wildlife</i> , <i>Journal for Nature Conservation</i> , <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> , <i>Wildlife Research</i> , <i>PeerJ</i> , <i>African Journal of Ecology</i> , <i>Tropical Conservation Science</i>	2013-present
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SERVICE

ACADEMIC COMMITTEES

Caring Campus Faculty Committee. Texas A&M – Kingsville.	2025-present
Student Rating of Instruction (SRI) Review Committee. Texas A&M – Kingsville.	2024-present
Bold Step 3 Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences Department Strategic Planning Committee, Texas A&M – Kingsville	2023-present
Search Committee, Assistant/Associate Professor in Geospatial Sciences and Remote Sensing, Texas A&M – Kingsville	2023-2024
Hiring Committee, Research Assistant Professor, Patton Center for Deer Research, Texas A&M -- Kingsville	2024
Equity and Inclusion Committee, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington	2021-2022
Search Committee, Camp Fire Professor of Wildlife Conservation, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry	2018

STUDENT RESEARCH

GRADUATE STUDENTS

CURRENT TAMUK GRADUATE ADVISING (N = 10; 8 M.S., 2 Ph.D.)

Kyle Yorke. M.S. Program. 2025-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Bobcat and coyote spatial ecology in a pre-reintroduction landscape.

Truman Collins. M.S. Program. 2025-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Bobcat and coyote niche differentiation in a pre-reintroduction landscape.

Tam Ta. M.S. Program. 2025-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Ocelot genomics to inform recovery.

Raymond Turner. M.S. Program. 2025-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Community ecology in the Texas-Mexico borderlands.

James Helferich. Ph.D. Program. 2023-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Comparative analysis of density estimation methods for ocelots in South Texas.

Tori Locke. M.S. Program. 2023-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Ocelot reproduction and kitten survival in South Texas.

Zachary Wardle. M.S. Program. 2023-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Spatial and movement ecology of the Florida panther.

Alexandria Hiott. M.S. Program. 2023-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Movement ecology and disease transmission among ocelots, bobcats, and domestic cats. Co-advised with Dr. Alynn Martin.

Katie McDaniel. M.S. Program. 2023-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Population structure and dispersal ecology of mountain lions in South Texas. Co-advised with Dr. Michael Cherry.

Chloe Nouzille. Ph.D. Program. 2023-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Population status and foraging ecology of mountain lions in South Texas. Co-advised with Dr. Michael Cherry.

CURRENT TAMUK GRADUATE COMMITTEES (N = 4; 1 M.S., 3 Ph.D.)

Raziel Flores. Ph.D. Program. 2024-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Tamaulipan thornscrub restoration in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Levi Sweeten. M.S. Program. 2024-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Patterns of persistence and place: Exploring cross-scale drivers of survival and reproduction of quail species in semi-arid rangelands.

Marlin Dart. Ph.D. Program. 2023-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Movement ecology of pronghorn in Oklahoma.

Joseph Hediger, DVM. Ph.D. Program. 2023-present. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. The influence of early life conditions on white-tailed deer anatomy, physiology, and life history traits.

CURRENT NON-TAMUK GRADUATE COMMITTEES

Emily Madsen. Ph.D. Program. 2022-present. Oxford University. Oxford, UK. In the shadow of big cats: how intraguild interactions and anthropogenic pressures influence medium carnivores in East African savannahs.

COMPLETED TAMUK GRADUATE STUDENTS

Tyler Bostwick. M.S. Program. 2023-2025. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. Informing recovery: Genomic insights into endangered felid populations.

COMPLETED NON-TAMUK STUDENT COMMITTEES

Karma Choki. M.S. Program. 2023-2025. South Dakota State University. Brookings, SD. The influence of carnivore guild structure and anthropogenic activity on common leopard.

Sandy Slovikosky. M.S. Program. 2020-2023. State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Syracuse, NY. A global assessment of drivers of carnivore-human conflict and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) density.

Daisy de Fatima Sanchez Mosqueda. M.S Program. 2020-2023. State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Syracuse, NY. A nationwide connectivity assessment for jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in Peru.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

TAMUK UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI

Shayla Haiflich. Undergraduate. 2023-2025. Texas A&M University – Kingsville. LEADING Program

Project 1: Diet composition of mountain lions in South Texas

Project 2: Spatiotemporal niche separation of a sympatric specialist and generalist felid in Tamaulipan thornscrub

NON-TAMUK COMPLETED UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Tam Ta. Undergraduate. 2021-2024. University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

Project 1: Impacts of housing and road density on carcass visitation by mountain lions in northeast Washington, USA

Project 2: Assessment of reproduction in wolf packs in Washington State, USA, via camera trap imagery

Caitlyn Bell. Undergraduate. 2021-2022. University of Washington. Seattle, WA. Potential drivers of wolf territory size in Washington State.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Languages: English (native), Spanish (intermediate), Marshallese (intermediate), Swahili (basic, formerly intermediate).

Computer programs/languages: R, JAGS, NIMBLE, WinBUGS, Google Earth Engine, ArcGIS, ERDAS Imagine, PRESENCE, MARK, Distance, Maxent, Fragstats, Adobe Illustrator.

Other: Have conducted research in or traveled to over 35 countries and gained global perspective on the challenges of international conservation efforts.

REFERENCES

Sarah Converse, Unit Leader, Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Associate Professor, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. Postdoctoral Research Advisor. [sconver\[at\]uw.edu](mailto:sconver[at]uw.edu)

Jacqueline Frair, Professor and Director, Roosevelt Wildlife Station, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY. Doctoral Advisor. [jfrair\[at\]esf.edu](mailto:jfrair[at]esf.edu)

Beth Gardner, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Quantitative Sciences, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. Postdoctoral Research Advisor. [bg43\[at\]uw.edu](mailto:bg43[at]uw.edu)

Luke Hunter, Executive Director, Big Cats Program at Wildlife Conservation Society, New York, NY. Former work supervisor. [lhunter\[at\]wcs.org](mailto:lhunter[at]wcs.org)