



 AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Student Conference on
Conservation Science
New York

October 9-12, 2012



AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

STUDENT CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION SCIENCE
NEW YORK (SCCS-NY)

OCTOBER 9-12, 2012

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Full abstracts are available on the SCCS-NY website:
<http://symposia.cbc.amnh.org/sccsny/>

Organized by:



In partnership with:



The Center for Biodiversity and Conservation is grateful to the Edgar M. Cullman, Jr. Family for their generous support of this conference.

Funding for the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation's International Fellowship and Capacity Building Initiatives has been provided by Ms. Vivian H. Donnelley, Strachan Donnelley Family Charitable Lead Unitrust.

 AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

**STUDENT CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION SCIENCE
NEW YORK (SCCS-NY)
OCTOBER 10-12, 2012**

The Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) is the only international conference designed for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and early-career professionals pursuing or considering the field of conservation science. Interactions with established conservationists encourage collaborations, and advance research. SCCS-New York is a sister conference to the highly successful SCCS-Cambridge, begun in 2000 by the University of Cambridge, as well as SCCS-Bangalore and SCCS-Australia.

The Student Conference on Conservation Science-New York 2012 (SCCS-NY) has been organized by the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation in partnership with the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Columbia University Earth Institute, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, Princeton University, Fordham University, and the University of Cambridge. The conference benefited greatly from the support provided by experts and mentors from Archipelago Consulting, Bard College, Barnard College, City University of New York, Clarkson University, Clemson University, Columbia University, EcoHealth Alliance, Foundations of Success, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, International Peace Park Exhibitions, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), Rutgers University, Stony Brook University, United States Geological Service (USGS), University of Florida, University of Maine, and University of Miami.

In conjunction with SCCS-NY, the American Museum of Natural History is proud to host the *Mack Lipkin Man and Nature Series* panel discussion, which was established in honor of the late physician, Dr. Mack Lipkin, Sr., by his many friends and admirers. Dr. Lipkin was a gentle and powerful force who dedicated his life and career to advancing the most humane and caring practice of medicine.

This year the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation has also partnered with the Center for Humans and Nature to present a pre-conference event, *Questions for a Sustainable Future*, an afternoon of speaker presentations and panel discussions featuring diverse perspectives on humanity's relationship with the world. The Center for Humans and Nature partners with some of the brightest minds in ethical thinking to explore humans and nature relationships.

For their significant role in shaping the form and content of this conference, we especially wish to acknowledge the SCCS-NY's many advisors, reviewers, and mentors, who are named in the back of this program.

SCCS-NY Content

Coordinators:

Ana Luz Porzecanski
Felicity Arengo
Eleanor J. Sterling

Symposium Logistics

Coordinators:

Fiona Brady
Robin C. Gold

Logistics Support:

Steve Brady
Hannah Burnett
Kristin Douglas

Technology Coordinators:

Pete Ersts
Tony Alexander
Ho-Ling Poon

Program:

Robin C. Gold
Michael Esbach

Registration:

Margaret Law

RECORDING AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES:

SCCS-NY is designed to foster dialogue and collaboration between the students, post-doctoral fellows, early career professionals and established conservationists in attendance. We care deeply about preserving the integrity of work, research, and personal interactions of our speakers, mentors, presenters, and attendees.

Only official, AMNH-contracted vendors and working journalists with approved press credentials will be permitted to photograph, film, audio tape, or publish written content about the conference sessions and special events/receptions.

In addition, we respectfully discourage the use of social media (e.g. Twitter, Tumblr, Google+, Facebook, personal blogs) by attendees during presentations, poster sessions, mentor lunches, and speed talk discussions.

Individuals filming or photographing with personal video/audio equipment or other recording devices (mobile phones, digital or film cameras, tape recorders) without prior permission from the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation or the American Museum of Natural History, or without proper credentials, will be asked to cease recording or using these devices immediately.

If you choose to write about the event following the scheduled sessions, you must gain approval from speakers/presenters prior to quoting, publishing, or otherwise referencing their research on the Internet or through other forms of media.

Please keep in mind that our speakers and presenters have invested considerable time and effort in the development of their material and copyright laws apply.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

2:00 pm –
6:00 pm

QUESTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Hosted by the Center for Humans and Nature and the American Museum of Natural History

•What Does it Mean to Be Human?

David Sloan Wilson, SUNY Distinguished Professor, Departments of Biology and Anthropology, Binghamton University

•To Build or Not to Build a Road...How Do We Honor the Landscape?

Nina-Marie Lister, Associate Professor, School of Urban Design and Regional Planning, Ryerson University, Toronto; and Visiting Associate Professor, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University

Ingrid Stefanovic, Professor of Philosophy, University of Toronto

Panel Discussion with David Sloan Wilson, Nina-Marie Lester, and Ingrid Stefanovic with moderator Eleanor Sterling, Ph.D., Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History

•How Do You Envision a Successful Economy without Continuous Economic Growth?

Richard Howarth, Pat and John Rosenwald Professor, Dartmouth College and Editor-in-Chief, Ecological Economics

Peter Victor, Professor in Environmental Studies, York University

Panel discussion with Richard Howarth and Peter Victor with moderator Brooke Hecht, Ph.D., President, Center for Humans and Nature

S C C S - N Y A G E N D A

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10	
8:00 am	Breakfast and Registration (Grand Gallery, 77 th Street Lobby)
	Welcome and Introduction (Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)
9:00 am	Eleanor J. Sterling Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History
	Plenary Address: Robin Kimmerer Restoration and Reciprocity: Indigenous Knowledge in Ecological Restoration Professor and Director, Center for Native Peoples, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York
	Talk Session: Priority-Setting and Modeling in Conservation (Kauffman / Linder Theaters)
9:55 am	Session Chair: Eleanor J. Sterling Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History
	Ximena Velez-Zuazo Phylogenetic Conservation Priorities for Sharks University of Puerto Rico
	Luis Darcy Verde Arregoitia Modern Threats to Older Species: Evolutionary Age and Extinction Risk in Mammals University of Queensland, Australia
	Pen-Yuan Hsing Tracking and Modelling Deepwater Horizon Disaster Impact on Deep Coral Communities Pennsylvania State University
	Didem Ikis What to Inventory in a Changing world? Pennsylvania State University Izenbek National Wildlife Refuge: A Case Study
11:00 am	Break (Northwest Coast Indians, 1 st Floor)
	Talk Session: Genetic Tools for Conservation (Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)
11:30 am	Session Chair: George Amato Director, Sackler Institute for Comparative Genomics, American Museum of Natural History
	Isabel Caballero Genetic Analysis of the Island Loggerhead Shrike, <i>Lanius ludovicianus anthonyi</i> Texas A&M University
	Andrea Aplasca Conservation and Genetics of the Allen Cays Rock Iguana (<i>Cyclura cyclura inornata</i>) Fordham University
	Trishna Dutta Genetic Structure of Leopards in the Satpura-Maikal Landscape of Central India Smithsonian Institution
	Catalina Vasquez Carrillo Adaptive Genetic Variability in the Marbled Murrelet: Implications for Conservation University of Wisconsin-Madison
12:45 pm	Lunch: Mentor-Hosted Tables (Kathryn W. Davis Science Teaching Classroom, 2 nd floor)

Speed Talk Session: Understanding Species Responses to Changing Environments (Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)																	
2:15 pm	<p>Session Chair: Jason Munshi-South Assistant Professor, Baruch College & The Graduate Center, City University of New York</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Christina Frare Fordham University</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">A Century of Change in Small Mammal Populations in the Tahoe Basin, California</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Paola Dolcemascolo Montclair State University</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Hopping into New Territory: A Case of Amphibian Range Expansion in New Jersey</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Tatiana Escovar Columbia University</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Testing Predictive Ability of Bioclimatic Envelope Models Using Data from Alaska</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Andrew Mashintonio Rutgers University</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Modeling the Habitat Preference of Large Mammals at Multiple Landscape Scales</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Bjorn Erickson University of California, Davis</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Genetic Tools for Detecting Hybridization in Native Rainbow Trout</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Jens Stevens University of California, Davis</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Fuel Treatment Impacts on Post-Wildfire Dynamics in Dry Conifer Forests of California</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Andrea Reid McGill University, Canada</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Living on the Edge: Wetland Ecotones as Peak Refugia from an Introduced Predator</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Anthony Caragiulo Fordham University</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Population Genetics of Neotropical Cougars (<i>Puma concolor</i>)</td> </tr> </table>	Christina Frare Fordham University	A Century of Change in Small Mammal Populations in the Tahoe Basin, California	Paola Dolcemascolo Montclair State University	Hopping into New Territory: A Case of Amphibian Range Expansion in New Jersey	Tatiana Escovar Columbia University	Testing Predictive Ability of Bioclimatic Envelope Models Using Data from Alaska	Andrew Mashintonio Rutgers University	Modeling the Habitat Preference of Large Mammals at Multiple Landscape Scales	Bjorn Erickson University of California, Davis	Genetic Tools for Detecting Hybridization in Native Rainbow Trout	Jens Stevens University of California, Davis	Fuel Treatment Impacts on Post-Wildfire Dynamics in Dry Conifer Forests of California	Andrea Reid McGill University, Canada	Living on the Edge: Wetland Ecotones as Peak Refugia from an Introduced Predator	Anthony Caragiulo Fordham University	Population Genetics of Neotropical Cougars (<i>Puma concolor</i>)
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5:10 pm	Poster Session / Reception (Astor Turret and Fossil Mammal Array, 4 th floor) <i>Sponsored in part by the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation</i>																

7:00 pm

This Year in Conservation: A Panel Discussion
2012 Mack Lipkin Man and Nature Series

(Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)

Four conservation professionals explore the important events, milestones, and innovations that have challenged and inspired conservation action on the world stage and in their own careers. Introduced by **Michael J. Novacek**, Senior Vice President, Provost of Science at the American Museum of Natural History, the evening's panelists include:

Avecita Chicchón

Andes-Amazon Initiative at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Malcolm L. Hunter, Jr.

Libra Professor of Conservation Biology, Department of Wildlife Ecology,
University of Maine

Robin Kimmerer

Center for Native Peoples, College of Environmental Science and Forestry,
State University of New York

Eleanor J. Sterling (Moderator)

Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History

The *Mack Lipkin Man and Nature Series* was established in honor of Dr. Mack Lipkin, Sr., by his many friends and admirers. Dr. Lipkin was a physician who was a gentle and powerful force towards advancing the most humane and caring practices of medicine.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:00 am	Breakfast and Registration (Grand Gallery, 77 th Street Lobby)	
	Talk Session: Conservation of Human-Natural Systems (Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)	
9:00 am	Session Chair: Martha Groom Professor, University of Washington Bothell & Adjunct Professor University of Washington	
	Valeria Pasquarella Boston University	Modeling Dynamic Ecosystem Processes Within and Beyond Urban Conservation Boundaries
	Getachew Eshete University of California, Santa Cruz	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Changing Ethiopian Coffee Agroecosystems
	Brian Miller University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Rangeland Conservation and Pastoralist Resource-Use Decisions During Droughts
	Rico Ancog University of the Philippines Los Baños	Plant Diversity and Vulnerability Analysis of Philippine Indigenous Upland Ecosystems
	Jennifer McCarthy University of Massachusetts, Amherst	Mitigation of Human-Felid Conflict in the Face of a Quickly Rising Human Population
10:30 am	Break (Northwest Coast Indians, 1 st floor)	
	Talk Session: Restoring Landscapes, Ecosystems, and Species (Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)	
11:00 am	Session Chair: Elizabeth Johnson Metropolitan Program Manager, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History	
	Emily Kelly Scripps Institution of Oceanography	Herbivore Enhancement as a Tool for Reef Restoration
	Catherine Benson Clarkson University	Ecological Value of Restored Wetlands in the St. Lawrence Valley of New York
	Nehru Prabakaran Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History	Natural Recovery of Tsunami Affected Littoral Forests in Nicobar Islands, India
	Vanessa Boukili University of Connecticut	Using Plant Functional Traits to Refine Ecological Restoration Techniques
	Zach Hecht-Leavitt New York Department of State	Indicators and Drivers of Habitat Quality and Water Quality in Inland Michigan Lakes
	Aerin Jacob McGill University, Canada	Exotic Trees Facilitate Native Forest Regeneration on Abandoned Farmland
12:40 pm	Lunch: Mentor-Hosted Tables (Kathryn W. Davis Science Teaching Classroom, 2 nd floor)	
2:10 pm	Group Photo	

Speed Talk Session: Understanding Human Impact and Potential in Conservation (Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)																	
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4:40 pm	<p>Awards and Closing (Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)</p>																
5:10 pm	<p>Resource & Career Fair / Reception (Astor Turret & Fossil Mammal Array, 4th floor)</p>																

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12		
Workshop Session I		
9:00 am	<p>Conflicts about Wildlife: Preparing the Next Generation of Conservation Scientists (90 min) <i>Linder Theater, 1st Floor</i></p>	<p>Led by: Leo R. Douglas, Visiting Scientist, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History</p>
	<p>Environmental Peacebuilding - International Peace Parks and Transboundary Conservation (180 min) <i>Kaufmann Theater, 1st Floor</i></p>	<p>Led by: J. Todd Walters, Executive Director, International Peace Park Exhibitions & Fellow, Institute for Environmental Diplomacy & Security</p>
	<p>Expanding Your Teaching Toolbox: An Introduction to Active and Scientific Teaching Approaches (180 min) <i>Sackler Education Laboratory, 1st Floor</i></p>	<p>Led by: Ana Luz Porzecanski, Associate Director for Capacity Development and NCEP Project Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History; and Martha Groom, Professor, University of Washington Bothell & Adjunct Professor University of Washington</p>
10:30 am	<p>Harnessing Social Media for Conservation (90 min) <i>Linder Theater, 1st Floor</i></p>	<p>Led by: Colin Donihue, Ph.D. student, Yale University</p>
12:00	Lunch Break	
Workshop Session II		
2:00 pm	<p>Modeling Ecological Niches and Geographical Distributions: What, Why, and How? (180 min) <i>RGGS Lecture Hall, 5th Floor</i></p>	<p>Led by: Richard Pearson, Director, Biodiversity Informatics Research, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History</p>
	<p>An Introduction to Adaptive Management: Practical Training for Tomorrow's Leaders in Conservation (180 min) <i>Kathryn W. Davis Science Teaching Classroom, 2nd Floor</i></p>	<p>Led by: Vinaya Swaminathan, Program Officer, Foundations of Success (FOS), and Kate Christen, Training Manager, Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation</p>
5:00 pm	Adjourn	

ROBIN W. KIMMERER

Professor and Director, Center for Native Peoples and College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York

RESTORATION AND RECIPROCITY: INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of indigenous peoples is increasingly being recognized by scientists and policy makers as a potential source of ideas for emerging models of sustainability, conservation biology, and ecological restoration. TEK has value not only for the wealth of ecological information it contains, but for the cultural framework of respect, reciprocity, and responsibility in which it is embedded. This talk will explore how TEK and the indigenous philosophies of reciprocity might guide the science of sustainability. The indigenous concept of the “honorable harvest” provides a framework for expressing reciprocity between land and people. Ecological restoration is a vital element in the exercise of reciprocity in which humans actively participate in the well-being of the land. Finding common ground between indigenous and scientific principles of restoration can couple the wisdom of TEK and the power of environmental science for shared goals of sustainability.

MALCOLM L. HUNTER, JR.

Libra Professor of Conservation Biology, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Maine

“REACHING BEYOND THE CHOIR” AND OTHER CAREER LESSONS FROM THE HISTORY OF CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

Conservation biology is a relatively young discipline, making it quite easy to review some of its highlights with a view toward extracting a few insights about how young conservation professionals can be more effective. For example, we have learned that applied science cannot end with publication in scientific journals and talks at professional conferences; wider communication is essential. The importance of striving for creativity and being willing to challenge conventional wisdom is also apparent from a review of conservation biology. Thinking about moving from research to application reveals the need for being willing to take action but without compromising objectivity. Lastly, one cannot overlook personal considerations such as maintaining balance and hope in one’s life.

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY PRESENTER'S LAST NAME

- Goli Ardestani
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and University of the Philippines, Los Baños
GENETIC DIVERSITY OF TWO THREATENED FRESHWATER GOBY SPECIES IN THE PHILIPPINES
- Niloufar Bayani
Columbia University
EFFECTS OF CHANGING CORAL COVER ON REEF FISH RECRUITMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN
- Emilia Braga
University of Brasília
USING QUALITATIVE REASONING TO MODELLING THE INVASIVENESS OF ALIEN GRASS INTO SAVANNA
- Shannon Buckley
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
NEST PREDATION AND HABITAT OF THE DECLINING RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*EUPHAGUS CAROLINUS*)
- Rowshyra Castaneda
McGill University, Canada
SOME LIKE IT HOT: AN AQUATIC INVADER (*CORBICULA FLUMINEA*) ALONG A THERMAL GRADIENT
- Sara Collins
Carleton University, Canada
TOXICITY OF DEICING SALT COMPONENTS TO EARLY AMPHIBIAN LIFE STAGES
- April Conway
University of Georgia
RURAL PEOPLES' ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONSERVATION NEAR TIWAI ISLAND, SIERRA LEONE
- Seth Cunningham
Fordham University
GENETIC VARIATION AMONG CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICAN *CROCODYLUS SUCHUS* POPULATIONS
- Mariano Andres De La Maza Musalem
Fauna Australis Wildlife Laboratory and Pontifica Universidad Católica de Chile
NEST BOX OCCUPATION BY *DROMICIOPS GLIROIDES*: RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES
- Catherine Doyle-Capitman
Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
MANAGING WHITE-TAILED DEER IN NORTHEASTERN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
- Stacie Flood
North Carolina State University
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