

CESAR O. ESTIEN

PhD Candidate, UC Berkeley

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[Google Scholar](#)

EDUCATION

- PhD **University of California, Berkeley** August 2021 – Present
Environmental Science, Policy, & Management
Dissertation: The Ecology of Inequitable Cities
Committee: Drs. Christopher J. Schell (Chair), Rachel Morello-Frosch,
Justin Brashares, & Alex McInturff
- Post-Baccalaureate, University of Cincinnati** February 2021 – July 2021
Department of Biological Sciences
Project: Playbacks as a Tool for Management and Understanding
Relationship Dynamics
Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth A. Hobson
- BS **Florida State University** May 2020
Biological Sciences, Minor: Chemistry
Independent Project: The Influence of Microplastics on Fertilization
Success and Sperm Availability in Purple Sea Urchins (*Arbacia punctulata*)
Advisor: Dr. Don R. Levitan

AWARDS & HONORS

- Trailblazing Award in Education, *Ecological Society of America Student Section* 2022
Trailblazing Award in Diversity & Inclusion, *Ecological Society of America Student Section* 2021
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Scholar, *Princeton University* 2020
Charles H. Turner Award, *Animal Behavior Society* 2020
Dean's List, *Florida State University* Fall 2019, Spring 2020

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS *equal contribution

Published

4. van der Marel, A, X Francis, CL O'Connell, **CO Estien**, C Carminito, VD Moore, N Lormand, BM Kluever, EA Hobson. 2023. Perturbations highlight importance of social history in parakeet rank dynamics. *Behavioral Ecology*. 34(3), 457-67. ([link](#))
3. Cheng, SJ, KM Gaynor, A Moore, K Darragh, **CO Estien**, JW Hammond, C Lawrence, K Mills, M Biaz, D Ignace, L Khadempour, M McCary, MM Rice, SJ Tumber-Davila, JA Smith. 2023. Championing Inclusive Terminology in Ecology and Evolution. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*. 38(5), 381-84. ([link](#))
2. **Estien, CO**, CL O'Connell, X Francis, G Smith-Vidaurre, BM Kluever, EA Hobson, A van der Marel. 2022. Temporary behavioral responses to playbacks by a pest parrot and implications for management. *Animal Behavior & Cognition*. 9(4), 363-384. ([link](#)) ***Post-baccalaureate project**
1. **Estien, CO**, B Quintana, D Olivares-Zambrano. 2022. Reimagining the Broader Impact Criterion in the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. *Frontiers in Education*. 7: 977836. ([link](#)) ***Inside HigherEd Magazine Coverage** ([link](#))

In Revision

- Estien, CO***, EJ Carlen*, CJ Schell. Multi-city case studies across the United States reveal the influence of city history and societal inequity on participatory science data. *Ecology & Society*

Carlen, EJ*, **CO Estien***, T Caspi, DJ Perkins, B Goldstein, SES Kreling, Y Hentati, TD Williams, LA Stanton, S Des Roches, R Johnson, A Young, CB Cooper, CJ Schell. A framework for contextualizing socio-ecological biases in participatory science data. *People & Nature*

Estien, CO. Queering ecology: (Re)Constructing ecology as a home to better understand the social-ecological pressures of wildlife. *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, & Technoscience*. Preprint: <https://doi.org/10.32942/X2SK5H>. *Sierra Magazine Coverage ([link](#))

In Review

Estien, CO, CE Wilkinson, R Morello-Frosch, CJ Schell. Historical redlining is associated with disparities in environmental quality across California. **Submitted: *Environmental Science & Technology Letters*. *1st Dissertation Chapter**

Estien, CO, M Fidino, CE Wilkinson, R Morello-Frosch, CJ Schell. Historical redlining is associated with disparities in wildlife biodiversity across California. **Submitted: *Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences*. *2nd Dissertation Chapter**

Moore, A, K Calhoun, CE Wilkinson, E Alford, A Ellington, **CO Estien,** GS Fleury, N Garcia, A Hicks, C Mosley, N Vitale-Penniman. Queer Black Voices in Conservation. *Conservation Biology*. **Invited: Special Issue in Conservation Biology**

Williams, TD, SES Kreling, LA Stanton, CE Wilkinson, **CO Estien,** CJ Schell, EJ Carlen. Of Rarity and Symbolism: Understanding the Human Social Perceptions of Charismatic Color Morphs. *Human Ecology*. Preprint: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-3222187/v1>

van der Marel, A, X Francis, CL O'Connell, **CO Estien,** C Carminito, EA Hobson. Perturbations of key individuals trigger shifts in group-level dominance patterns. *Current Biology*. Preprint: <https://ecoevorxiv.org/9qyb2/>

In Prep

Rice, MM et al. [including **CO Estien** and 14 other co-authors]. Terminology in ecology and evolutionary biology disproportionately harms individuals from marginalized groups. Target: *Nature Human Behavior*

OTHER JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS *equal contribution

2. **Estien, CO,** M Chapman, CJ Schell, N Lowy, JR Gerson. 2022. Demystifying the graduate school application process. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America*. 00(00):e2029. ([link](#))

1. **Estien, CO***, EB Myron*, CA Oldfield, A Alwin; Ecological Society of America Student Section. 2021. Virtual Scientific Conferences: Benefits and How to Support Underrepresented Students. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America*. 102(2):e01859. ([link](#))

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS total > \$200,000

Research & Outreach Grants

Oliver B. Lyman Award (\$3,812), UC Berkeley Wildlife & Fisheries Program	2022
William Simes Research Award (\$1,000), Hastings Natural History Reservation	2022
Community Fund for Carmel Valley (\$2,992), Monterey County	2021
Carol Baird Graduate Research Award (\$25,000), University of California	2021

Fellowships

Graduate Research Fellowship (\$102,000 + tuition/fees), National Science Foundation	2023 – 2026
Chancellor's Fellowship for Graduate Study (\$68,000 + tuition/fees), UC Berkeley	2021 – 2023

Conference Related Grants

Travel Award (\$500), Ecological Society of America	2023
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Broadening Participation Award (\$2500), Animal Behavior Society	2023
Travel Award (\$800), <i>SEEP Workshop</i>	2023
Travel Award (\$800 - declined), <i>International Association for Landscape Ecology</i>	2023
Travel Award (\$600), <i>Ecological Society of America</i>	2022
Trailblazing in Education Travel Award (\$500), <i>Ecological Society of America Student Section</i>	2022
Travel Grant (\$1500), <i>UC Berkeley Graduate Division</i>	2022
Travel Award (\$1500), <i>SEEP Workshop</i>	2022
Registration Grant (\$35), <i>Urban Wildlife Working Group</i>	2021
SEEDS Travel Grant (travel costs + registration), <i>Ecological Society of America</i>	2020

PRESENTATIONS & PANELS *invited

- Estien, CO.** November 15 2023. *The ecology of inequitable cities. *University of Texas - Austin.* ([link](#))
- Estien, CO.** October 24 2023. *The ecology of inequitable cities. *Utah Valley University.*
- Estien, CO.** October 11 2023. *Urban environments, rewilding, and environmental justice. *University of California, Berkeley*
- Estien, CO** et al. August 4 2023. *Historical redlining is associated with urban ecosystem health and heterogeneity in biodiversity. “Justice First: Interdisciplinary Approaches in Environmental Justice Research and Efforts” Symposium. *Ecological Society of America.* ***1st and 2nd Dissertation Chapters**
- Estien, CO** et al. July 13 2023. Risky Landscapes: Social-ecological heterogeneity and risk-prone behavior in mesocarnivores. *Animal Behavior Society.* ***3rd Dissertation chapter**
- Estien, CO.** June 10 2023. *Street Smarts: The social and ecological factors driving carnivore boldness. *Hastings Natural History Reservation.*
- Estien, CO** et al. June 7 2023. *Historical redlining is associated with urban ecosystem health and heterogeneity in biodiversity. “One Health in Wild Cities” Symposium. *International Urban Wildlife Conference.* (S*) ***1st and 2nd Dissertation Chapters**
- Estien, CO.** March 22 2023. From Fields to Concrete Jungles: Exploring how Landscape Differences May Yield Behavioral Variability. *BairdFest Symposium.*
- Estien, CO.** March 15 2023. *Broadening our view of environmental justice. *University of California, Berkeley.*
- Estien, CO.** December 7 2022. *A More Intimate Ecology: Reimagining the Relationship between the Researcher and the Research(ed). Behavior, Ecology, and Evolution (BEE) Seminar Series. *University of Leeds.* ([link](#))
- Estien, CO.** November 14 2022. *Societal inequity and urban environments. *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.*
- Estien, CO** et al. July 22 2022. *Playback Responses as a Tool to Understand Relationship Dynamics. “Social competency: an integrative approach to understanding connections between social information, decision-making, and cognition” Symposium. *Animal Behavior Society* ***Post-baccalaureate project**
- Estien, CO.** January 28 2022. *The Village Makes the Person. Wildlife & Conservation Biology Seminar Series. *University of California, Berkeley* ([link](#))
- Estien, CO.** The Influence of Microplastics on Fertilization Success and Sperm Availability in Purple Sea Urchins (*Arbacia punctulata*). October 16 2020. Princeton Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Scholar Program. *Princeton University* (T) ***Undergraduate independent project**

Posters

- Estien, CO** et al. May 21 2022. Mesocarnivore Behavior in a Periurban Gardenscape. *SEEP Conference/Workshop.* ***3rd Dissertation chapter**

- Estien, CO** et al. August 3 2021. Virtual Scientific Conference: Benefits and How to Support Underrepresented Students. *Animal Behavior Society Conference*.
- Estien, CO** et al. The Influence of Microplastics on Fertilization Success and Sperm Availability in Purple Sea Urchins (*Arbacia punctulata*). August 3 2020. *Ecological Society of America Conference*.
- *Undergraduate independent project**

Co-Authored Presentations

- Schell, CJ, T Caspi, **CO Estien**, & BN Sacks. August 4 2023. *Stressed out: environmental health predicts variability in coyote ecophysiology in San Francisco, CA. “Justice First: Interdisciplinary Approaches in Environmental Justice Research and Efforts” Symposium. *Ecological Society of America Conference*.
- Stanton, LA, **CO Estien**, & CJ Schell. July 14 2023. *Stress and the City: Using conservation behavior to improve urban living for humans and wildlife. “Effects of Anthropogenic Stressors” Symposium. *Animal Behavior Society*.
- Stanton, LA, **CO Estien**, & CJ Schell. June 5 2023. Cognition and the City: Exploring how social-ecological factors shape urban carnivore cognition and problem-solving. *International Urban Wildlife Conference*.
- Carlen, EA, **CO Estien**, & CJ Schell. June 5 2023. Inequity’s Cloud: The Bias in Participatory Science Data. *International Urban Wildlife Conference*.
- Tumber-Davilla et al. (**including Estien, CO and 14 other co-authors**). August 17 2022. Championing Inclusive Terminology in Ecology and Evolution. ESA Inspire Session: Decolonizing and Diversifying Ecology. *Ecological Society of America Conference*.
- Stanton, LA, **CO Estien**, JK Young, J Lambert, & CJ Schell. July 21 2022. The effect of dietary supplementation on the cognitive performance of coyotes. *Animal Behavior Society Conference*.

Panels

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| *Pride in our Future, <i>Exploratorium</i> | June 2023 |
| *Early Career Researchers, <i>California Academy of Sciences</i> | June 2023 |
| *Diversity and Identity in Biodiversity Science Careers, <i>California Academy of Sciences</i> | May 2023 |
| *Africa Diaspora and Intersectionality in Mammalogy, <i>Black Mammalogists</i> (link) | May 2022 |
| *SEEDS Career Pathways, <i>University of California, Berkeley</i> | April 2022 |
| *Student Research in Ecology and Evolution (Panel), <i>Syracuse University</i> | November 2021 |
| Perspective about Diversity in Skill Development, <i>ESA Student Section</i> | January 2021 |
| *Student Research in Ecology and Evolution, <i>Syracuse University</i> | November 2020 |
| *Opportunities for Summer STEM Research, <i>Florida State University</i> | October 2019 |

TEACHING

- Urban Ecology – Field Course**, (Host: Fred Abbott (Ecological Society of America) and Matt McCarry (Rice University)): invited to assist 19 students in developing, executing, and presenting research projects on the relationship between social and ecological variables in Houston, TX (Fall 2023)
- Intro to Methods of Environmental Science, ESPM 100ES** (Instructor: Patina Mendez; University of California, Berkeley): invited guest lecture on building a research question, crafting hypotheses, and preliminary doctoral research (Spring 2022)

MENTORING

Undergraduate Thesis Mentees:

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|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Vishal Subramanyan, <i>UC Berkeley</i> | Fall 2023 – Present |
| “Human disturbance and puma activity in the Bay Area” | |

Dhruthi Mandavilli, *UC Berkeley* Fall 2023 – Present
 “Gentrification and biodiversity in San Francisco”

Undergraduate Research Assistants

Esteban Contreras, *UC Berkeley* February 2023 – Present
 Vishal Subramanyan, *UC Berkeley* April 2022 – Present
 Nicole Cantangay, *UC Berkeley* February 2023 – May 2023

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

Select Media Articles

Social-ecological frameworks and what the future may hold. May 26th, 2022. *Life in the City Blog*. ([link](#))
 What’s missing in urban ecology? May 10th, 2022. *Life in the City Blog*. ([link](#))
 How do we begin to center environmental justice? August 17th, 2021. *Life in the City Blog*. ([link](#))

Science Communication

Contributor, *Life in the City: Urban Evolution Blog* ([link](#)) August 2020 – Present
 #SciQFriday Guest, *Twitter* ([link](#)) August 2020

Press

K9 Conservationists Podcasts, “Urban Ecology” with Cesar Estien ([link](#)) August 2023
“Word for Word” Interview, DEI Newsletter at UC Berkeley ([link](#)) July 2023
Sierra Magazine, “What is Queer Ecology?” Interview ([link](#)) June 2023

Outreach

Real Talk Buddies Mentoring Program, *University of California, Berkeley* March 2022 – Present
 After Dark College Night, *The Exploratorium* September 2023
 Open House Event, *Hastings Natural History Reservation* June 2023
 PEN Outreach Program (Founder), *Hastings Natural History Reservation* ([link](#)) May 2022, 2023
 Office Hours for Graduate School, *UC Berkeley: ESPM* Oct. 2021, Nov. 2022
 Diversity Forum, *SEEDS Program at ESA Conference 2022* August 2022
 Pride Nightlife Event, *California Academy of Sciences* June 2022
 Working Towards Diversity and Inclusion, *Walters Lab* April 2022
 Undergrad-Grad Pipeline, *UC Berkeley: ESPM* February 2022
 STEM Day (Keynote Speaker for 8th-12th grade), *Metas* November 2021
 “Trophic Level Pyramid Activity”, Involvement Fair, *Florida State University* September 2019
 “SustainabiliTEA”, University Housing, *Florida State University* October 2017

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Field Technician, Walters Laboratory, *Hastings Natural History Reservation* August 2020 – December 2020
Wildlife Intern, *Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge* June 2020 – August 2020
Lab Technician, Levitan Laboratory, *Florida State University* August 2018 – May 2020
Research Technician, Johnson Laboratory, *Florida State University* September 2019 – December 2019
Field Technician, Dantzer Laboratory, *Kluane Red Squirrel Project* May 2019 – August 2019
Research Technician, DuVal Laboratory, *Florida State University* January 2018 – May 2018

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Core Organizer, Real Talk Buddies Mentoring Program, *UC Berkeley* ([link](#)) March 2022 – Present
 Co-Chair, *Ecological Society of America: Environmental Justice Section* September 2021 – October 2023
 Outreach & Marketing Coord., *Ecological Society of America: Student Section* September 2020 – August 2021

President & Co-founder, *FSU Ecological Society of America SEEDS Chapter* January 2019 – May 2020

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Review

Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution (1x)

Animal Behavior and Cognition (1x)

Award Review

Charles H. Turner Award Reviewer, *Animal Behavior Society*

May 2021

Professional Society Service

ESA Visioning Project, *Ecological Society of America*

January 2023

Symposia/Special Session Reviewer, *Ecological Society of America*

November 2021, 2022

Search Committee: EIC for the Bulletin of ESA, *Ecological Society of America*

May 2021 – October 2021

Abstract Reviewer, *Ecological Society of America*

March 2021

Department/University Service

Undergrad Outreach, *Graduate Diversity Council, UC Berkeley: ESPM*

August 2021 – May 2022

Organized Conference Events

Environmental Justice Symposium, *Ecological Society of America*

August 2023

Modeling Workshop, *Ecological Society of America*

August 2023

Think Globally, Act Locally Special Session, *Ecological Society of America*

August 2023

Modeling Workshop, *Ecological Society of America*

August 2022

TRAINING / SKILLS

Computer Software: RStudio, Raven Sound, VLC media player, ImageJ, ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Collector on iPad, BORIS, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Adobe Illustrator, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, Movie Studio Platinum 13.0 Some experience with: Netlogo, Ecos Database, ArcPad 10

Animals Handling and Care: Palping and collaring of small mammals, Mist-netting and avian extraction, Adult and juvenile avian handling (measurements), Identification of stress behavior and attitude

Field Work: Live trapping, Telemetry, Tree climbing, GPS use/navigation, Working in bear country, Working alone in remote backcountry in northern latitudes, Proficient at navigating in backcountry environments and bushwhacking, Hiking 10-15km per day, Trimble/Garmin, Recognize and conduct behavioral observations on uniquely marked individuals (e.g., ear tags w/ color combination, avian color bands), Use of scope and binoculars for avian surveys and re-sighting color bands, Plant surveying (DBH tape use, invasive plant survey), Avian nest-searching, Camera-Traps, ATV/Mules, Marantz

Laboratory Work: Preparation of solutions, Microscopes, Dissections, Autoclave, Data Entry, Database Management, Hemocytometer Use, Growth and maintenance of algae, Preparation of sediment, water, and avian eggs for selenium testing, Some experience with: Inducing spawning in Sea Urchins, Use of microsattellites, DNA extraction