

I received the NSF Graduate Research in March 2021 and was admitted to the University of California, Berkeley's Environmental Science, Policy, and Management PhD program for Fall 2021. My graduate research at UC Berkeley seeks to understand more about the human-wildlife-environment nexus. I will investigate how heterogeneity in cities driven by societal inequity influences wildlife behavior, health, and community dynamics for my dissertation. During my first year as an NSF fellow, I have been working towards acquiring the necessary skills and awards to complete this research. I have taken courses related to my core research, including grant writing and occupancy modeling, and ones that add breadth to my tool set, such as queer ecology. At the end of my first year, I will have taken 27 credits and will likely finish with a 4.0/4.0 GPA. Throughout this time, I have also participated in several outreach initiatives, acquired several grants, prepared two first-author papers for publication and two co-authored papers, and given several presentations. These papers will be submitted in late April and early May. Lastly, I will be submitting two abstracts to present a poster and give a lightning talk.

This year, I began working towards the initial part of my question, understanding wildlife behavior in cities, by submitting and securing two grants within the University of California system: the Baird Award for Graduate Study and the William H Simes Award. These awards will support the first chapter of my dissertation, which seeks to understand how landscape differences shape behaviors in mesocarnivores in California. I will focus on the Bay Area and use two UC reserves to investigate this question. Part of the Baird Award funding will be combined with an additional grant, the Carmel Valley Community Fund, to create my outdoor program, PEN. PEN (POC engaging in nature) is an outdoor program built by POC for POC that I hope to expand to other multiple areas, including the Bay. During this time, I was fortunate enough to be invited as a speaker in two places. The first was the wildlife seminar series within my department where I spoke about how my unique experiences have shaped my path in academia, components of my post-baccalaureate (post-bac) research, and what I hope to complete during my time at Berkeley. The second was a guest lecture for Berkeley's "Intro to Environmental Methods" course. Here, I presented how to approach and complete a research question and used my research projects as an example. In terms of other outreach, I have worked in my department to host panels geared toward demystifying the graduate school process, created an information packet on graduate school, and helped create a mentorship system between graduate students-undergraduates with students in my cohort.

At the end of my first year, four papers are in prep, two of which are first-author. Three of these papers are from my post-bac, where I researched monk parakeets. The first-author paper from my post-bac will focus on my work using playbacks to investigate which auditory stimuli may be useful for management objectives and ultimately contribute toward providing options for alleviating human-wildlife conflict. This paper was recently submitted to *Animal Behavior & Cognition*. The other co-authored papers, investigating rank emergence and dominance patterns in the dominance hierarchy of monk parakeets, will be submitted in late April/early May to *Behavioral Ecology* and *Current Biology*, respectively. For the other first-author paper, I used my perspective as an NSF Fellow and marginalized body to work with two other graduate students on reimagining a more equitable NSF GRF. To make the GRFP as strong as it can be, we focused on reimagining the broader impact criterion of the GRFP. This paper provides several recommendations for NSF and universities hosting NSF fellows that can help strengthen what the GRFP can offer local communities. This project is a product of my time as the Chair of the Environmental Justice Section of the Ecological Society of America. We will likely submit this to the *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* for publication in May. Lastly, I will be submitting two abstracts to present (1) preliminary results from my urban work, focusing on one site, at SEEP, an urban ecology workshop, and (2) results from a post-bac project unrelated to the manuscripts above at the Animal Behavior Society as a lightning talk in a symposium.