CESAR O. ESTIEN, PHD

Urban Ecologist
Second Nature Ecology + Design
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Google Scholar

EDUCATION

PhD **University of California, Berkeley** August 2021 – December 2024
Environmental Science, Policy, & Management
Committee: Drs. Christopher J. Schell (Chair), Rachel Morello-Frosch, Justin Brashares, & Alex McInturff

BS **Florida State University** May 2020
Biological Sciences, Minor: Chemistry

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Ecologist, *Second Nature Ecology + Design, CA* June 2024 – Present
NSF Graduate Researcher, Schell Laboratory, *UC Berkeley, CA* August 2021 – December 2024
Post-Baccalaureate Researcher, Hobson Laboratory, *University of Cincinnati, OH* February 2021 – July 2021
Field Technician, Walters Laboratory, *Hastings Natural History Reservation, CA* August 2020 – December 2020
Wildlife Intern, *Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge, MT* June 2020 – August 2020
Lab Technician, Levitan Laboratory, *Florida State University, FL* August 2018 – May 2020
Research Technician, Johnson Laboratory, *Florida State University, FL* September 2019 – December 2019
Field Technician, Dantzer Laboratory, *Kluane Red Squirrel Project, Canada* May 2019 – August 2019
Research Technician, DuVal Laboratory, *Florida State University, FL* January 2018 – May 2018

AWARDS & HONORS

Joe McBride Urban Forestry & Ecological Design Scholarship, *UC Berkeley* 2024
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

PUBLICATIONS *equal contribution

Published

18. Williams TD, DJ Herrera, **CO Estien**, CE Wilkinson, J Brashares, CJ Schell. 2025. Housing proximity and vegetation cover affect diel activity patterns of domestic cats (*Felis catus*) in regionally protected shorelines. ***Journal of Urban Ecology.*** (link)
17. **Estien CO**, LA Stanton, CJ Schell. 2025. Differential effects of human density, environmental health, and group size urban coyote detection, boldness, and exploration. ***Scientific Reports***. (link)
16. Spotswood E, M Aronson, M Bazo, E Beller, JD Brown, J Burg, I Dronova, **CO Estien,** and 13 other co-authors. 2025. Will biodiversity actions yield healthy places? Exploring the co-benefits and tradeoffs for human health associated with biodiversity-focused urban greening. ***People & Nature.*** (link) ***featured in the Guardian** (link)
15. Hentati Y, **CO Estien**, Z Hawn, M Jordon, R Long, R Mueller, K Remine, L Prugh, CJ Schell. 2025. Environmental contamination predicts mammal diversity and mesocarnivore activity in the Seattle-Tacoma metro area. ***Urban Ecosystems***. (link)

14. **Estien, CO.** 2025. Queering ecology: (Re)Constructing ecology as a home to better understand the social-ecological pressures of wildlife. ***Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, & Technoscience.*** (link) ***featured in Sierra Magazine** (link)
13. Rice MM, MD Biaz, SJ Tumbler-Davila, SJ Cheng, K Darragh, **CO Estien**, JW Hammond, D Ignace, L Khadempour, KM Gaynor, KL Mills, JA Smith, AC Moore. 2025. Language matters: Ecology and evolutionary biology terminology disproportionately harms marginalized groups. ***Plos One Biology***. (link)
12. Moore, AC, K Calhoun, CE Wilkinson, E Alford, A Ellington, **CO Estien**, GS Fleury, N Garcia, A Hicks, C Mosley, N Vitale-Penniman. 2024. Queer Black Voices in Conservation. ***Conservation Biology***. (link)
11. **Estien, CO***, EJ Carlen*, CJ Schell. 2024. Examining the influence of sociodemographics, residential segregation, and historical redlining on eBird and iNaturalist data disparities in three US cities. ***Ecology & Society.*** (link)
10. **Estien, CO**, M Fidino, CE Wilkinson, R Morello-Frosch, CJ Schell. 2024. Historical redlining is associated with disparities in wildlife biodiversity in four California cities. ***Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.*** (link) ***featured by the Hill** (link)**, iNaturalist** (link)**, & more!**
9. Williams, TD, SES Kreling, LA Stanton, CE Wilkinson, **CO Estien**, CJ Schell, EJ Carlen. 2024. Of Rarity and Symbolism: Understanding the Human Social Perceptions of Charismatic Color Morphs. ***Human Ecology.*** (link)
8. **Estien, CO*,** EJ Carlen*, 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. 2024. A framework for contextualizing social-ecological biases in contributory science data. ***People & Nature.*** (link) ***2024 Rachel Carson Prize Winner, featured on St. Louis public radio** (link)
7. **Estien, CO**, CE Wilkinson, R Morello-Frosch, CJ Schell. 2024 Historical redlining is associated with disparities in environmental quality across California. ***Environmental Science & Technology Letters.*** (link).
6. 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)
5. Cheng, SJ, KM Gaynor, AC Moore, K Darragh, **CO Estien**, JW Hammond, C Lawrence, KL Mills, MD Biaz, D Ignace, L Khadempour, MA 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)
4. **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)
3. **Estien, CO**, M Chapman, CJ Schell, N Lowy, JR Gerson. 2022. Demystifying the graduate school application process. ***Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America.*** (link)
2. **Estien, CO,** B Quintana, D Olivares-Zambrano. 2022. Reimagining the Broader Impact Criterion in the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. ***Frontiers in Education***. (link) ***featured in Inside HigherEd Magazine** (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.*** (link)

In Revision

Wilkinson CE, **CO Estien**, O Nguyen, A Green. Who Belongs Outside? Rethinking Access and Inclusion in ***Inclusive Nature.*** John Hopkins Press, forthcoming 2026.

Eppley M, L Curtis, RJ Dellinger, **CO Estien**, L Forg, AJ Jones, A Lee, A Swank. Centering justice and belonging in DEI initiatives to mitigate harm and advance LGBTQIA+ inclusion in ecology and evolutionary biology. ***Ecology and Evolution***.

Estien, CO, DL Forrest, GI Gadsden. Human-wildlife Interactions. ***The Environmental Justice Encyclopedia***. Sage Publications, forthcoming 2026.

Estien CO, LA Stanton, CJ Schell. Urban raccoon group size, activity, and risk-taking varies with environmental health and urbanization. ***Biology Letters***.

In Review

Estien CO, AP Hill, T Robinson, R Johnson, CJ Schell, CE Wilkinson. Leveraging urban areas can bolster regional conservation goals for habitat, connectivity, and biodiversity. ***Conservation Science and Practice***

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

M Swink, **CO Estien**. More than just trees: Associations between trees, air pollution, poverty, and historical redlining. ***Urban Forestry and Greening*** ****Undergrad Mentee***

Stanton LA, T Caspi, CO Estien, GE Huber, CJ Schell. Big City Thinking: Differences in Effort and Exploration Predict Problem-Solving in Urban Mesopredators. ***Proceedings B***.

OTHER JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. **Estien, CO**, B Quintana, C Ramirez, LM Rodriguez. 2024. Justice First: Interdisciplinary Approaches in Environmental Justice Research and Efforts. ***Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America.*** (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 Grant (**$2800**), *International Society of Behavioral Ecologists*	2024
Travel Grant (**$1500**), *UC Berkeley Graduate Division*	2024
Travel Award (**$500**), *Ecological Society of America*	2023
Broadening Participation Award (**$2500**), Animal Behavior Society	2023
Travel Award (**$800**), *SEEP Workshop*	2023
Travel Award (**$800 - declined**), *International Association for Landscape Ecology*	2023
Travel Award (**$600**), *Ecological Society of America*	2022
Trailblazing in Education Travel Award (**$500**), *Ecological Society of America Student Section*	2022
Travel Grant (**$1500**), *UC Berkeley Graduate Division*	2022
Travel Award (**$1500**), *SEEP Workshop*	2022

Registration Grant (**$35**), *Urban Wildlife Working Group* 2021
SEEDS Travel Grant (**travel costs + registration**), *Ecological Society of America* 2020

MENTORING

Undergraduate Thesis Mentees:

Natasha Keough, *UC Berkeley* Fall 2025 – Present
"Understanding biodiversity in San Francisco's greenspaces"
Misha Swink, *UC Berkeley* Fall 2024 – Present
"Exploring the ecological and social dimensions of San Francisco's tree planting intiative"
Vishal Subramanyan, *UC Berkeley* Spring 2024 – Fall 2024
"Human disturbance and puma activity in the Bay Area"
Dhruthi Mandavilli, *UC Berkeley* Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
"Gentrification and bird biodiversity in San Francisco"

Undergraduate Research Assistants

Esteban Contreras, *UC Berkeley* February 2023 – Spring 2024
Vishal Subramanyan, *UC Berkeley* April 2022 – Spring 2024
Nicole Cantangay, *UC Berkeley* February 2023 – May 2023

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Core Organizer, Real Talk Buddies Mentoring Program, *UC Berkeley* (link) March 2022 – August 2024
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

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 – May 2022
#SciQFriday Guest, *Twitter* (link) August 2020

Press

We Out Here Podcasts, "Cesar Estien: ¡Yukon Ho!" with Cesar Estien (link) May 2024
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 – August 2024
Biodiversity in Our Urban Spaces, *Manny's & California Academy of Sciences* April 2024
Nature Walk, *Richmond City Earth Day Celebration* April 2024
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 SERVICE

Peer Review
Environmental Science & Technology Letters, Ecosphere, Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution, Animal Behavior and Cognition

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

PRESENTATIONS & PANELS *invited

24. **Estien, CO**. October 20 2025 *****Intersections between (in)equity and the ecology of cities. *University of Richmond.*
23. **Estien, CO**. May 15 2025 *****Yesterday's Tomorrow: Intersections between (in)equity and ecology. SIGNAL Workshop. *Animal Behavior Society.* ***Keynote Speaker**
22. **Estien, CO**. November 22 2024 Yesterday's Tomorrow: Exploring how societal inequities shapes the ecology of cities. Wildlife & Conservation Biology Seminar Series. (link) *University of California, Berkeley.*
21. **Estien, CO**. October 21 2024 *****Exploring how societal inequities shapes the ecology of cities. *University of Richmond.*
20. **Estien, CO**. October 3 2024 *****Exploring how societal inequities shapes the ecology of cities. *Utah Valley University.*
19. **Estien, CO**. Sept 11 2024. *****The Social-Ecological Legacies of Injustice on Urban Biodiversity. *Californai Department of Fish & Wildlife, Biodiversity Week*
18. **Estien, CO**. June 27 2024. *****Urban carnivores & the human-wildlife interface. *Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History in Monterey, CA*

17. **Estien, CO** et al. June 18 2024. *****Historical redlining is associated with disparities in wildlife biodiversity in California. Ecology of Human-Nature Interactions Symposium. *American Association for the Advancement of Science's Pacific Division*.
16. **Estien, CO**. May 8 2024. *****Complexity of Urban Biodiversity. *TOGETHER Bay Area*, *San Francisco*
15. **Estien, CO**. March 1 2024. *****The legacy effects of historical redlining on environmental quality and wildlife biodiversity in California. *Richmond City Council.*
14. **Estien, CO**. November 15 2023. *****The ecology of inequitable cities. *University of Texas - Austin*. (link)
13. **Estien, CO**. October 24 2023. *****The ecology of inequitable cities. *Utah Valley University*.
12. **Estien, CO**. October 11 2023. *****Urban environments, rewilding, and environmental justice. *University of California, Berkeley*
11. **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.*
10. **Estien, CO** et al. July 13 2023. Risky Landscapes: Social-ecological heterogeneity and risk-prone behavior in mesocarnivores. *Animal Behavior Society*.
9. **Estien, CO**. June 10 2023. *****Street Smarts: The social and ecological factors driving carnivore boldness. *Hastings Natural History Reservation*.
8. **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*)
7. **Estien, CO**. March 22 2023. From Fields to Concrete Jungles: Exploring how Landscape Differences May Yield Behavioral Variability. *BairdFest Symposium*.
6. **Estien, CO**. March 15 2023. *****Broadening our view of environmental justice. *University of California, Berkeley*.
5. **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)
4. **Estien, CO**. November 14 2022. *****Societal inequity and urban environments. *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*.
3. **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*
2. **Estien, CO.** January 28 2022. *****The Village Makes the Person. Wildlife & Conservation Biology Seminar Series. *University of California, Berkeley* (link)
1. **Estien, CO.** October 16 2020. The Influence of Microplastics on Fertilization Success and Sperm Availability in Purple Sea Urchins (*Arbacia punctulata).* Princeton Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Scholar Program. *Princeton University* (T)

Posters

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

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. August 3 2020. The Influence of Microplastics on Fertilization Success and Sperm Availability in Purple Sea Urchins (*Arbacia punctulata). Ecological Society of America Conference.*

Co-Authored Presentations

K Darragh et al. (including **Estien, CO** and 14 other co-authors). November 2024. The EEB Language Project: Championing inclusive terminology in ecology and evolution. *Entomological Society of America.*

MM Rice et al. (including **Estien, CO** and 14 other co-authors). August 2024. Language matters: Ecology and evolutionary biology terminology disproportionately harms marginalized groups. *Ecological Society of America Conference.*

MA McCary, K Bailey, F Abbott, C Nilon, & **CO Estien**. August 2024. Inspiring the next generation of diverse ecologists: a national field trip on urban ecology for underrepresented minorities. *Ecological Society of America Conference.*

M Epply, Lee A.*, Swank A.*, Curtis L.*, Estien C., Forg L., Dellinger R., Jones A. July 2024. Queer perspectives on ineffective DEI initiatives in ecology and evolutionary biology. *3rd Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology.* (Poster)

LA Stanton, **CO Estien**, G Huber, CJ Schell. July 2024. Societal and ecological heterogeneity is associated with mesopredators problem-solving ability. *Animal Behavior Society.*

G Huber, LA Stanton, **CO Estien**, CJ Schell. July 2024. Backyard Boldness: Investigating how urban landscape heterogeneity affects mesopredator risk-taking behavior. *Animal Behavior Society.* (Poster)

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 (all invited)

Nature Justice in Cities, (*New York University*)	November 2024
Resilient Mammals, *Black Mammalogists* (link)	September 2024
Backyard Predators, *Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History*	June 2024
Complexity of Conservation, *Together Bay Area*	May 2024
Biodiversity in Our Urban Spaces, *Manny's & California Academy of Sciences*	April 2024
Pride in our Future, *Exploratorium*	June 2023
Early Career Researchers, *California Academy of Sciences*	June 2023
Diversity and Identity in Biodiversity Science Careers, *California Academy of Sciences*	May 2023
Africa Diaspora and Intersectionality in Mammalogy, *Black Mammalogists* (link)	May 2022
SEEDS Career Pathways, *University of California, Berkeley*	April 2022
Student Research in Ecology and Evolution (Panel), *Syracuse University*	November 2021
Perspective about Diversity in Skill Development, *ESA Student Section*	January 2021
Student Research in Ecology and Evolution, *Syracuse University*	November 2020

Opportunities for Summer STEM Research, *Florida State University* October 2019

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, QGIS

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 microsatellites, DNA extractio