

# CESAR O. ESTIEN

PhD Candidate, UC Berkeley

email: [cestien@berkeley.edu](mailto:cestien@berkeley.edu)

website: [cesaroestien.com](http://cesaroestien.com)

[Google Scholar](#)

## EDUCATION

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- 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

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- 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

## FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS total > \$200,000

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### 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  
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

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### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS \*equal contribution

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#### Published

6. 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. 2024. A framework for contextualizing socio-ecological biases in contributory science data. *In Press at People & Nature*
5. **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](#)). \*1<sup>st</sup> Dissertation Chapter
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

- 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
- 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*
- 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**, M Fidino, CE Wilkinson, R Morello-Frosch, CJ Schell. Historical redlining impacts wildlife biodiversity across California. *Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences*. Preprint: <https://doi.org/10.32942/X24K60> \*2<sup>nd</sup> Dissertation Chapter
- 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. *Submitted to Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences*. Preprint: <https://ecoevorxiv.org/9qyb2/>

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### OTHER JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS \*equal contribution

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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](#))

#### PRESENTATIONS & PANELS \*invited

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- 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*. **\*1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dissertation Chapters**
- Estien, CO** et al. July 13 2023. Risky Landscapes: Social-ecological heterogeneity and risk-prone behavior in mesocarnivores. *Animal Behavior Society*. **\*3<sup>rd</sup> 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\*) **\*1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**. 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* (I) **\*Undergraduate independent project**

#### Posters

- Estien, CO** et al. May 21 2022. Mesocarnivore Behavior in a Periurban Gardenscape. *SEEP Conference/Workshop*. **\*3<sup>rd</sup> 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. August 3 2020. The Influence of Microplastics on Fertilization Success and Sperm Availability in Purple Sea Urchins (*Arbacia punctulata*). *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> ( <a href="#">link</a> ) | 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, <i>UC Berkeley</i>                | Fall 2023 – Present |
| “Gentrification and biodiversity in San Francisco”    |                     |

Undergraduate Research Assistants

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| Esteban Contreras, <i>UC Berkeley</i>  | February 2023 – Present |
| Vishal Subramanyan, <i>UC Berkeley</i> | April 2022 – Present    |

Nicole Cantangay, *UC Berkeley*

February 2023 – May 2023

**SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH**

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*Select Media Articles*Social-ecological frameworks and what the future may hold. May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022. *Life in the City Blog*. ([link](#))What's missing in urban ecology? May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. *Life in the City Blog*. ([link](#))How do we begin to center environmental justice? August 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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**

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**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**

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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**

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*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**

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*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 microsatellites, DNA extraction