

Francis A. Commerçon

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MISSION

I aspire to re-shape how science informs environmental conservation to improve social justice and ecological outcomes. I will do so through an applied environmental anthropology career, applying qualitative and quantitative research skillsets and theories from political ecology and critical human geography to promote ethical, respectful, and effective cross-cultural collaboration on the planet's most pressing environmental challenges. In all aspects of my life I strive for honesty, humility, accountability, and hope.

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley August 2024 - present
PhD in Environmental Science, Policy and Management

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI Summer 2023
Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute Lao course – 20 hr/wk of class time

Yale School of the Environment, New Haven, CT Graduated May 2023
Master of Environmental Science
Researching sociology of knowledge production and policy influence in Chinese migratory shorebird conservation

Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies August – December 2018
Intensive Mandarin training at Tsinghua University, Beijing - 20hr/wk of class time

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO Graduated May 2018
Bachelor of Science in **Biological Science** (*Summa Cum Laude*) *GPA: 3.99/4.00*
Bachelor of Science in **Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology** (*Summa Cum Laude*)
Concentrations: Ecology and Conservation; Minor: Chinese Language

AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship – \$38,000
- 2023 Yale Fox International Fellowship - \$27,800
- 2022 Yale Law School Law, Ethics, and Animals Program Fellowship - \$1,000
- 2022 Coca-Cola World Fund at Yale - \$3,000
- 2021 Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies Master's Research Grant - \$3,000
- 2021 & 2022 Yale Tropical Resources Institute Fellowship - \$6,554
- 2021 & 2022 Yale Council on East Asian Studies Summer Travel and Research Grant - \$3,980
- 2018 US Fulbright Research Grant - \$22,800
- 2018 Warner College of Natural Resources Robert Davis Honors Senior Award - \$500
- 2017 Truman Scholarship (for graduate school) - \$30,000
- 2017 Udall Scholarship Honorable Mention
- 2016 & 2017 Briggs-Kerst Scholarships - \$7,800
- 2016 Dale and Marilyn K Hein Award - \$2,400
- 2016 CSU Honors Program Spot's Scholarship - \$1,250
- 2015 & 2016 Boettcher Enrichment Grants - \$3000
- 2015 Boettcher Foundation International Education Grant - \$10,000
- 2014 Boettcher Scholarship - Full cost of college in Colorado, USA

PROFESSIONAL, ACADEMIC, AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2023 (Aug) – 2024 (June) **Yale Fox International Fellow at Fudan University, Shanghai Research Fellow**
Researching the social dynamics of trust in data sharing among Chinese and international waterbird scientists.

- 2020 (Aug) – 2023 (May) **Yale Program on Climate Change Communication** *Social Data Scientist*
Create online experiments on climate change messaging and analyze results (using R and Qualtrics software)
- 2021 (Feb) – 2022 (Oct) **The Paulson Institute** *Translation consultant*
Facilitate US-China communication about Chinese environmental protection projects by editing English document translations to match original Chinese text.
- 2021 (Feb – May) **Conserve Natural Forests** *Research Design Consultant*
Collaborated with a student team to advise a Thai NGO on qualitative research methods for understanding community perspectives on forest fire and air pollution. Resulted in 47-page report and 58-page bibliography.
- 2021 (Feb – May) **Rainforest Alliance and Verra** *LandScale Data Visualization Consultant*
Collaborated with a student team to provide guidance and example graphics for the data visualization output of a landscape-scale sustainable development assessment tool, using R ggplot, Tableau, and Adobe Illustrator
- 2020 (Aug) – 2021 (Jan) **Yale Urban Resources Initiative** *Assistant Field Coordinator*
Assisted tree planting, community engagement, and tree maintenance for an urban tree planting program
- 2020 (summer) and 2014 (summer) **University of Montana and Boise State University** *Avian Field Technician*
Independently conducted avian point count surveys and vegetation surveys throughout a large area of remote, rugged wilderness and National Forest across western Montana and Idaho to inform public land management.
- 2020 (Feb – Apr) **World Agroforestry Center** *International Climate Initiative Grant Writer*
Assisted in drafting and editing a 28-page application for €10 million to support sustainable natural rubber supply chain development by 7 international research NGOs and research organizations.
- 2019 (Apr) – 2020 (Feb) **Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens** *Ecotourism Development Volunteer*
Assisted a collaborative effort to initiate and secure funding for community-based birding ecotourism development in ethnic minority Hani-Akha villages in SW China; Led 11 villagers on fully funded two-day field trip to learn about ecotourism in a neighboring county
- 2015 (Jan) – 2018 (May) **Colorado State University Field Ornithologists**
Co-President, co-founder, citizen science coordinator, international trip leader
Collaborated with peers, expert ornithologists, local institutions, agencies, and non-profit organizations to organize 30 birding trips (1 to 5 days), 2 workshops, and 16 guest lectures, involving 300+ students/faculty. Organized volunteers for long-term citizen science projects for the state wildlife agency and a local NGO. Fundraised over \$4000 through community donations to ensure programming was affordable for all students. Led logistics and fundraising for an international 7-day trip to Trinidad & Tobago (9 participants)
- 2007 – 2018 (May) **Bird Conservancy of the Rockies** *Citizen Scientist*
Assisted in bird extraction, measurements, banding, and data recording at two bird banding stations for songbird migration research and community education (2007 - 2014); Surveyed for migrating raptors to inform studies on raptor populations and migration patterns (2011 - 2014); Organized volunteers to survey for Eastern Screech Owls to monitor riparian ecosystem health. (2017 - 2018); Organized volunteers to engage children in birding at 2016 and 2017 Christmas Bird Counts for Kids
- 2014 (Sep) – 2018 (May) **Colorado Parks and Wildlife** *Raptor Monitor*
Recruited, trained, and organized volunteers to survey raptors for disturbance impact management program
- 2018 (October) **Guangxi Biodiversity Research and Conservation Association** *Raptor Conservation Volunteer*
Monitored migratory raptors and assisted in investigation of raptor poaching in Beihai, Guangxi, China.
- 2018 (Oct – Dec) **Beijing Flying Primaries** *Community Education Volunteer*
Co-led four weekend birding trips for families and children to learn about urban birds in Beijing, China

- 2018 (Dec) **Walden Farm** *Ornithological consultant*
Created a bird guide for environmental education programs at an organic farm in Mianyang, Sichuan, China
- 2016 (Aug) – 2018 (May) **Denver Field Ornithologists** *Certified Trip Leader*
Organized and led three birding trips for Denver-area birders; Presented guest lecture April 2018
- 2018 (May – Jul) **Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center** *Gray Catbird Research Technician*
Worked in a team to re-sight and target-net GPS-tagged birds, find and monitor nests, color-band and audio record singing males, sort and process recording data, obtain blood samples from adults and nestlings, enter data, maintain stationary recording devices, and engage with a curious public in Washington, DC.
- 2015 (Nov) and 2016 (summer) **World Agroforestry Center** *Mixed Crop Rubber Agroforestry Intern*
Supported project design workshops and contract negotiation with ethnic minority farmers to facilitate a biological restoration project in rubber plantations in SW China; Designed bird monitoring protocol.
- 2015 (May – Jun) **Central Plains Experimental Range** *Nest Survival Research Assistant*
Assisted in nest finding and nest monitoring for a University of Colorado-Denver PhD thesis on effects of rotational grazing management techniques on nest predation in short-grass prairie in Nunn, CO

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2022 (Jan – May) **Yale School of the Environment** *Teaching Assistant for Engaging Landholders and Communities in Conservation and Restoration of Tropical Forest Landscapes*
Managed online course content; assisted in syllabus design; moderated class discussions; graded student essays, advised student group consultancies for NGO clients; helped organize trip to Panama; designed and presented one 50min lecture on participatory approaches in tropical forest landscape restoration
- 2021 (Aug - Dec) **Yale School of the Environment** *Teaching Assistant for Qualitative Research Methods*
Assisted in syllabus design, weekly grading of assignments, answering student inquiries through office hours; designed and presented two 80 min lectures and one 80 min interactive skill-building workshop for students
- 2021 (Jan – May) **Yale Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology** *Teaching Assistant for Ornithology*
Assisted in grading exams and term papers, proctored exams, and attended all lectures and field trips.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

- (*In prep.*) **Commerçon, F. A.**, Barnes, M. Network effects on wild meat consumption in a tropical village.
- 2023 **Commerçon, F. A.**, Goldberg, M. H., Lacroix, K., Carman, J. P., Rosenthal, S. A., Leiserowitz, A. Evaluating the terms Americans use to refer to “carbon emissions”. *Environmental Communication*
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17524032.2022.2156907>.
- 2021 **Commerçon, F. A.**, Zhang, M., & Solomon, J. N.. Social Norms Shape Wild Bird Hunting: A Case Study from Southwest China. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2021.e01882>

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

- 2023 **Commerçon, F. A.** International Wader Study Group 2022 Conference Report. *Wader Study* 129 (3)
- 2021 **Commerçon, F.**, Goldberg, M., Rosenthal, S., & Leiserowitz. *Radio stories increase conservatives' beliefs that Republicans are worried about climate change*. Yale University. New Haven, CT: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/>
- 2020 **Commerçon, F.** (柯风然) The Spring of Community-based Birding Ecotourism in Menglun County,

Xishuangbanna? [西双版纳勐仑社区观鸟旅游的春天?] Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens WeChat account. <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/3Ri981Z65nX50ITRxI17ww> February 26th. [in Chinese]

- 2019 **Commerçon F. (柯风然)** I Always Maintain Hope—Notes from a Raptor Monitor [我一直保持希望——一名猛禽监测员的笔记]. *Human and Nature*. February 2019. pp 20-23 [in Chinese]
2017. **Commerçon F.** Effects of Flooding on the Avian Community of Chatfield State Park. *Colorado Birds* 51 (1) pp 20-30 <https://cobirds.org/>
- 2016 **Commerçon F.** Local Knowledge for Restoration in a Rubber-Dominated Landscape in SW China. *World Agroforestry Center Blog*. <http://blog.worldagroforestry.org>. January 26th.
- 2016 **Commerçon F.** American Crow. in ed. L. E. Wickersham. The Second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas. Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Denver, CO.
2015. **Commerçon F.** Working With Locals to Restore Biodiversity to a Rubber Dominated Landscape *Independent Study Project (ISP) Collection*. Paper 2206. https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/isp_collection/2206/

ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 (Nov) Commerçon, F. A. **Evaluating the Potential of Network Interventions for the Diffusion of Sensitive Wildlife Conservation Behaviors** [评估社交网络干预对传递敏感野生动物保护行为的潜能]. Chinese Conference on Conservation Biology, Guangzhou, Guangdong. [Poster presented in Chinese]
- 2023 (Mar) Commerçon, F. A. **Shorebird perspectivism: Integrating non-human agency into conservation planning**. Society for Applied Anthropology conference. Cincinnati, OH. (Presented remotely).
- 2023 (Mar) Commerçon, F. A. **Analysis of Wetland Prioritization for EAAF Migratory Waterbird Conservation**. The Asian Flyways Collaborative for Waterbirds (AFCoW). Online.
- 2022 (Nov) Commerçon, F. A. **Migratory Shorebirds: Unsettling Local-Global Asymmetries in the Power of Knowledge**. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA
- 2022 (Oct) Commerçon, F. A. **Trust, Reciprocity, and Network Structure: A Hypothesis about the Social Components of Flyway-scale Shorebird Population Estimation**. Australasian Shorebird Conference (Australasian Wader Studies Group and Queensland Wader Studies Group). Online
- 2022 (Sep) Commerçon, F. A. **Collaborative Networks for Shorebird Population Estimates in the East Asian Australasian Flyway**. International Wader Study Group Conference. Szeged, Hungary
- 2022 (Aug) Commerçon, F. A. (柯风然) **Migratory Shorebird Conservation: A Case for Global Collaboration**. [迁徙鸻鹬类保护：亟待全球合作的局势] Confronting Climate Change and Conserving Biodiversity for a Sustainable Future. Public seminar hosted by the US Consulate in Guangzhou. Online. [In English with simultaneous Chinese translation]
- 2022 (Jul) Commerçon, F. A. **Collaborative Networks for Chinese Migratory Shorebird Conservation**. North American Congress for Conservation Biology (Society for Conservation Biology). Reno, NV
- 2022 (May) Commerçon, F. A. **Collaborative Networks for Chinese Migratory Shorebird Conservation**. Yale Tropical Resources Institute 2022 Symposium. New Haven, CT
- 2022 (Apr) Commerçon, F. A. **Collaborative Networks for Chinese Migratory Shorebird Conservation**. Confluence Doctoral Seminar at Yale School of the Environment. New Haven, CT

- 2022 (Apr) Commerçon, F. A. **Collaborative Networks for Chinese Migratory Shorebird Conservation**. Yale School of the Environment Research Day. New Haven, CT
- 2021 (Apr) Commerçon, F., Barnes, M. **Potential of Social Network Interventions for Influencing Illegal Wildlife Use**. Yale School of the Environment Research Day. Online.
- 2020 (Jul) Commerçon F., Barnes, M. **Potential of Network Interventions for Promoting Wildlife Conservation in Rural Southwest China**. North American Congress for Conservation Biology. Online.
- 2019 (May) Commerçon F. **Investigation of Hunting in Xishuangbanna**. Poster presented in Chinese for elementary, middle, and high school students from across Yunnan Province, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens Annual Science Fair, Menglun, Yunnan Province, China.
- 2018 (May) Commerçon F. **Commencement Speech for Class of 2018**. Commencement address presented at Warner College of Natural Resources graduation ceremony, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.
- 2018 (Apr) Commerçon F. **Bird Conservation in China**. presented as guest speaker for Denver Field Ornithologists at Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver, CO.
- 2018 (Apr) Commerçon F. **The Bird Hunters: Understanding Why People Hunt Birds in SW China**. Oral presentation at Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creativity, Colorado State Univ. Fort Collins, CO.
- 2017 (July) Commerçon F. **Wildlife Conservation in Menglun Township: How to Solve Overhunting?** Lecture at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens, Menglun, China. [in Chinese]
- 2017 (Apr) Commerçon F. **Wildlife Exploitation in Tropical China**. 1st-prize winning oral presentation at Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creativity, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.
- 2016 (Oct) Commerçon, F. A., Harrison, R., Dossa, G. G. O. **Bird Monitoring Methodology for Rubber Intercropping**. Sustainable Rubber Conference. Menglun, China. [poster]
- 2016 (May) Commerçon F. **Effects of Flooding on Avian Communities**. Oral research presentation at Colorado Field Ornithologists Annual Convention in Lamar, CO.
- 2016 (Apr) Commerçon F. **Participatory Processes and the Contribution of Local Knowledge for Ecological Restoration**” 1st-prize winning oral presentation at Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creativity, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.
- 2016 (Feb) Commerçon F., Ghalambor, C. **Effects of Flooding on Avian Communities**. Front Range Student Ecology Symposium, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. [poster]

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Wader Study Group

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for: Conservation Science and Practice; Biodiversitas; Plos ONE; People and Nature; Environmental Communication

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mandarin Chinese: Proficient speaking, reading, writing, and listening

- HSK Level 6 (June 2024): Passed. Listening 89%, Reading 72%, Writing 72%

- ACTFL Writing Test (February 2022): *Advanced Mid*
- ACTFL Oral Test (Jan 2022): *Advanced High*
- HSK Level 5 (Feb 2019): Passed. Listening 99%, Reading 95%, Writing 82%
- Advanced Placement (AP) Chinese Exam (May 2014): Score of “4” (out of 5)

French: Intermediate listening, basic reading, writing, and speaking

Xishuangbanna Tai Lue: Basic conversational skills

Lao: Beginner speaking, reading, listening and writing.

BLOG:

<https://francisCommerçon.wordpress.com/>