

# ANA M. PALACIO-CASTRO

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D** in Marine Biology and Ecology (2019) University of Miami, RSMAS (USA). Dissertation: *Abiotic Controls on Endosymbiotic Algal Communities and Their Implications for Coral Bleaching Susceptibility and Recovery*. Award of academic merit.

**B.S.** in Biology (2010) Universidad de Antioquia (Colombia). **Thesis:** *Comparison of methods for monitoring sessile benthic communities in “La Azufrada”, coral reef, Gorgona Island National Natural Park*. 75 pp.

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## RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

2022-current	Postdoctoral Researcher – CIMAS	Miami, FL
2019-2021	Postdoctoral Fellow, National Research Council	Miami, FL
2013-2018	University of Miami - RSMAS Graduate Research assistant	Miami, FL
2011-2012	Universidad de Antioquia, Research assistant	Medellín, Colombia
2010-2011	Universidad del Valle, Research assistant	Cali, Colombia

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Articles

- Palacio-Castro AM**, Smith TB, Snyder GA, Brandtneris V, van Hooidonk R, Maté JL, Manzello D, Glynn PW, Fong P, Baker AC (2023). Increased dominance of heat-tolerant symbionts create resilient coral reefs in near-term ocean warming. *PNAS*
- Johnston MA, Studivan MS, Enochs IC, Correa AMS, Besemer N, Eckert RJ, Edwards K, Hannum R, Hu X, Nuttall M, O’Connell K, **Palacio-Castro AM**, Schmahl GP, Sturm AB, Ushijima B, Voss JD (2023) Coral disease outbreak at the remote Flower Garden Banks, Gulf of Mexico. *Frontiers in Marine Science* doi:10.3389/fmars.2023.1111749
- Palacio-Castro AM**, Rosales SM, Dennison CE, SM, Baker AC (2022). Microbiome signatures in *Acropora cervicornis* are associated with genotypic resistance to elevated nutrients and heat stress. *Coral Reefs* doi: 0.1007/s00338-022-02289-w
- Palacio-Castro, AM**, Dennison CE, Rosales SM, Baker AC (2021) Variation in susceptibility among three Caribbean coral species and their algal symbionts indicates the threatened staghorn coral, *Acropora cervicornis*, is particularly susceptible to elevated nutrients and heat stress. *Coral Reefs* 40:1601–1613. doi: 10.1007/s00338-021-02159-x
- Fuess LE, **Palacio-Castro AM**, Butler CC, Baker AC, Mydlarz LD (2020) Increased algal symbiont density reduces host immunity in a threatened Caribbean coral species, *Orbicella faveolata*. *Frontiers*

in *Ecology and Evolution* 8:369. doi: 10.3389/fevo.2020.572942

Romero-Torres M, Acosta A, **Palacio-Castro AM**, Treml EA, Zapata F, Paz-García D, Porter JM (2020) Coral reef resilience to thermal stress in the eastern tropical Pacific. *Glob Change Biol* 26: 3880-3890. doi: 10.1111/gcb.15126

Towle EK, **Palacio-Castro AM**, Baker AC, Langdon C (2017) Source location and food availability determine the growth response of *Orbicella faveolata* to climate change stressors. *Regional Studies in Marine Science* 10

### **Book Chapters**

**Palacio-Castro AM**, Zapata FA (2023). Comparación de métodos para el estudio y monitoreo de arrecifes coralinos. In JA Sánchez, EM Alvarado, LF Barrios & E Ochoa (Ed.). Manual de Procedimientos y Metodologías para Buceo Científico (pp XX-XX). Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales (ACCEFYN), FEDECAS-MinDeporte, Conservación Internacional, Bogotá, Colombia. 10.XXX 10.XXX/.

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### **SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS**

- 2022 **Palacio-Castro AM**, Kroesche D, Enochs I, Kelble C, Rosales S. “Disease resistance in *A. cervicornis* is lost under elevated nutrients”. *Reef Futures 2022*, Key Largo, USA.
- 2022 **Palacio-Castro AM**, Enochs IC, Besemer N, Jankulak M, Boyd A, Kolodziej G, Webb AE, Hirsh HK, Towle EK, Smith I, Kelble C, Manzello D. “Carbonate system along the Florida Reef Tract: Interannual trends, seasonality, and regional variation”. *5th Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO2 World*, Lima, Perú.
- 2022 Meléndez M, **AM Palacio-Castro**, Ford MC, Kitch G, Cheripka A, Gardiner J, Dobson KL, Enochs IC, Towle EK, Valauri-Orton A. “Caribbean Ocean Acidification Community of Practice”. *5th Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO2 World*, Lima, Perú.
- 2022 **Palacio-Castro AM**, Enochs IC, Besemer N, Jankulak M, Boyd A, Kolodziej G, Webb AE, Hirsh HK, Towle EK, Smith I, Kelble C, Manzello D. “Carbonate system along the Florida Reef Tract: Interannual trends, seasonality, and regional variation”. *15th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS)*, Bremen, Germany.
- 2021 **Palacio-Castro AM**, Dennison, CE, Rosales, SM, Baker AC. “Combined effects of elevated nutrients and temperature on the threatened Caribbean staghorn coral, *Acropora cervicornis*”. *14th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS)*, Bremen, Germany (Online).
- 2018 **Palacio-Castro, AM**, Snyder GA, Dennison, C, Baker AC. “Multiple bleaching events in *Siderastrea siderea* increase the abundance and persistence of thermotolerant algal symbionts (*Symbiodinium trenchii*), with positive effects on subsequent bleaching response”. *Reef Futures 2018: A Coral Restoration and Intervention-Science Symposium*, Key Largo, USA.
- 2018 Cabral G, Karp R, **Palacio-Castro AM**, Strueben M, Lirman D, Baker AC. “Testing in situ stress hardening techniques to increase the climate resilience of a coral restoration program in South Florida”. *Reef Futures 2018: A Coral Restoration and Intervention-Science Symposium*, Key Largo, USA.
- 2018 **Palacio-Castro AM**, Snyder GA, Dennison C, Baker AC. “Symbiodiniaceae community dynamics in the starlet coral (*Siderastrea siderea*) during two experimental bleaching and recovery events”. *Colombia 2018: International Conference on Marine Science*, Medellín, Colombia.

- 2016 **Palacio-Castro AM**, Snyder GA, Baker AC. “Effect of balanced and imbalanced nutrient enrichment on the bleaching response of two Caribbean corals during heat stress”. *13th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS)*, Honolulu, USA.
- 2016 Smith TB, Baker AC, Brandtneris VW, Glynn PW, Manzello DP, Maté JL, McGillis WR, **Palacio AM**, Fong P. “Bleaching and depth refuges in the Eastern Pacific during the strong 2015-2016 El Niño”. *13th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS)*, Honolulu, USA.
- 2013 **Palacio-Castro AM**, Zapata FA. “Comparison of three different methods for monitoring sessile benthic communities on coral reefs”. *7<sup>th</sup> Mexican and 1<sup>st</sup> Pan-American coral Reef Congress*, Mérida, Mexico.
- 2010 **Palacio-Castro AM**, Palacios MM. “Characterization of the coral morphotypes of *Pocillopora* genus present in Malpelo Wildlife Sanctuary”. *XIX National Seminar on Science and Technology of the Sea (SENALMAR)*, Cali, Colombia.
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## TECHNICAL REPORTS

- 2010 Zapata FA, **Palacio-Castro AM**, Jaramillo-G J, Palacios MM, Londoño E, Izquierdo V, Muñoz CG, Lemos I, Zambrano V, Lozano D. *Comparison of different methods used for assessing the status of coral reefs in the Tropical Eastern Pacific Seascape and preliminary analysis of the resilience of coral reefs within Gorgona Island National Natural Park (Colombia)*. Report to Conservation International-Colombia.
- 2009 Navas-Camacho R, Jaramillo-González J, Vega-Sequeda JC, Lozano-Cortés D, Zapata FA, **Palacio-Castro AM**, Palacios MM, Muñoz CG. *Coral Reef Monitoring in The National Coral Reef Monitoring Stations - Colombia (SIMAC)*. Gorgona Island Scientific Expedition.
- 2008 **Palacio-Castro AM**, Rodríguez-Ramírez A, Muñoz CG, Zapata FA. *Baseline Marine Biodiversity Assessment in Gorgona Island – PNN, under the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape. Chapter III: Corals*.
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## GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- (2022-2023) **Florida Department of Environmental Protection:** (\$145,350)  
Assessing the effects of environmental co-factors on SCTLD transmission and progression rates (PI)
  - (2019-2020) **US National Research Council:** (\$115,000)  
Postdoctoral fellowship
  - (2017) **David Rowland Fellowship** (\$3,500)
  - (2012-2017) **COLCIENCIAS:** (\$210,000)  
Colombian Science and Technology Department full scholarship to study PhD program abroad
  - (2009) **ECAES** 5th highest score in the ECAES National Biology Tests (similar to Biology-subject GRE)
  - (2006-2007) **SIGUEME:** Full tuition fellowship for an exchange year at University of Valle, Cali, Colombia
  - (2003-2010) **ECOPETROL - Bachilleres por Colombia:** Colombian Oil Company full scholarship to get an undergraduate degree
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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2018 **Guest Lecturer:** Universidad CES. Lecture: *Corales en el antropoceno: Efectos del calentamiento climático en los corales pétreos.*
- 2016 **Guest Lecturer:** University of Miami - MBE 535/ 635: Practical Computing for Biologists. Lecture: *Version control and reproducible science.*
- 2016 **Teaching assistant:** University of Miami – Study abroad program. MSC422: Marine Ecology of The Galapagos.
- 2015 **Teaching assistant:** University of Miami, MSC232: Introduction to Marine biology Laboratory
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## OTHER COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2017 (Jun) Methods in Ecological Genomics Workshop at Mote: Seccion 2bRAD. Duration: 48 hours. Dictated by Dr. Misha Matz (**UT Austin**) at Mote's International Center for Coral Reef Research and Restoration.
- 2015 (Feb) Training Workshop "Empowering Capable Climate Communicators 2015". Duration: 12 hours. Hosted by: Dr. Harold R. Wanless and Caroline Lewis.
- 2013 (Jan) Light and Photosynthesis on Coral Reefs, **Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México**, Puerto Morelos, Mexico.
- 2011 (Sept) Training Workshop "Resilience of Coral Reefs and Climate Change. Gorgona Island, Colombia. Duration: 12 hours. Dictated by: Pilar Herrón, Valeria Pizarro and Fernando Zapata.
- 2008 (Dec) IV Ibero-American Network Seminar on Remote Sensing applied to the Coastal Geologic Hazards Prevention: "Technologies for Coastal Erosion Study on the Colombian coast." **EAFIT University**, Medellín. Duration: 12 hours.
- 2007 (Sep) Ecological Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Systems. Dictated by: William E. Grant. **Universidad del Valle**, Cali, Colombia. Duration: 32 hours.
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## RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS

- 2022 Flower Garden Banks (USA), 4 days.
  - 2018 Gulf of Panama and Chiriquí (Panama), 14 days.
  - 2017 The Galapagos Islands (Ecuador), 15 days.
  - 2016 Gulf of Panama (Panama), 10 days.
  - 2015 Gulf of Panama and Chiriquí (Panama), 17 days.
  - 2015 The Galapagos Islands (Ecuador), 15 days.
  - 2014 Gulf of Panama and Chiriquí (Panama), 16 days.
  - 2014 Gorgona Island (Colombia), 12 days.
  - 2010 Malpelo Island (Colombia), 12 days.
  - 2009 Gorgona Island (Colombia), 12 days.
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## MENTORING

Committee member (Degree, year of graduation):

Master committee member:

- Zach Zagon, University of Miami (MPS, expected 2023)
- Danielle Kroesche, University of Miami (MPS, 2021)

Thesis and dissertation advising (Degree, year of graduation):

Undergrad thesis co-director

- Elizabeth Quiceno, Universidad de Antioquia (BS, 2020)

Research mentorship (Year of internship):

Master students

- 2023 Zach Zagon (MPS)
- 2019-2021 Danielle Kroesche (MPS)
- 2015 Marine-Océane Guillermand (1 semester exchange program from France)
- 2015 Juliene Beblo (MPS)

Undergraduate students

- 2017 - 2018 Sofia Diaz de Villegas
- 2017: Celia Leto
- 2016 - 2017: Prati Rosen
- 2016 - 2017: Rebecca Gilpin
- 2015 – 2018: Caroline Dennison
- 2016: Karim Primov
- 2015: Elana Rusnak
- 2014 - 2016: Grace Snyder
- 2014: Patrick Nichols

High school students

- Hannah Waxman (2014-2017)

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**JOURNAL PEER REVIEW**

PeerJ, Ecology, Biodiversity and Conservation, Climatic Change, Aquatic sciences.

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**OUTREACH AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATION**

Presentations:

- 2017 3<sup>rd</sup> Coral Reef Ecology Workshop (CREWS). Instructor of *Coral Biology, Bonaire's coral reefs* and *Ocean Conservation*. Bonaire, September 24-29.
- 2016 *Coral reefs in Panama*. Presentation for the elementary school in Pixvae- Gulf of Chiriquí, Panama. April 20
- 2016 *El Niño effects on Galápagos marine ecosystems*. Presentation for the Park Rangers in the Galápagos National Park. February 12

- 2016 *El Niño effects on Galapagos marine ecosystems*. Workshop for the community (Familias Campesinas) in cooperation with IOI-Galapagos. February 11
- 2015 Instructor in the 1<sup>st</sup> Coral Reef Ecology Workshop (CREWS) series. Instructor of *Coral Biology* and *Symbiosis in Coral Reefs*. Cozumel, Mexico, November 7-14.

Radio interviews:

- 2017 “Blanqueamiento coralino: Una amenaza inminente para el planeta” in Noticias ONU, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017. <https://news.un.org/es/audio/2017/01/1419031>

Print media:

- 2015 “Research heats-up / Se calienta la investigación” in TRÓPICOS, September 2015.  
[https://issuu.com/strinewspanama/docs/tropicos\\_september\\_2015/8](https://issuu.com/strinewspanama/docs/tropicos_september_2015/8)

Videos:

- 2014 “Coral rescue at Port of Miami” in YouTube, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. <https://youtu.be/v1ZE9ixk5wk>

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## ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Diving and boating (Agency, Year)

- 350+ scientific dives
- Enriched Air – Nitrox (TDI, 2022, 1293906)
- AWARE coral reef conservation Specialty (PADI, 2015, 15110U4056)
- Diving first aid for professional divers (DAN, since 2014)
- Scientific diver (American Academy of Underwater Sciences, since 2013)
- Small motor boats (MOCC - US Geological Survey, 2013)
- Advanced open water diver (PADI, since 2009).

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## LANGUAGES

- Spanish: Native
- English: Proficient