

# MESHACH A. PIERRE

## CURRICULUM VITAE

2022-FEB

Interdisciplinary conservation scientist, photographer, writer, and advocate

**Research interests listed below**

See website for more details

<https://meshachpierre.com>

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### University of Florida

Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law,  
3219 Turlington Hall,  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7330,  
USA

**Phone:** +1 352 328 2116 [USA]

+592 641 4308 [Guyana; WhatsApp]

**Email:** [mpierre2@ufl.edu](mailto:mpierre2@ufl.edu)

[meshachpierre@gmail.com](mailto:meshachpierre@gmail.com)

**Twitter:** [@meshach\\_pierre](https://twitter.com/meshach_pierre)

60 Atlantic Ville  
Georgetown,  
Guyana,  
South America

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## EDUCATION

### DEGREES

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|-----------------------|--|
| 2023<br>(anticipated) | <b>M.A. in Criminology, Law, and Society</b> , University of Florida (UF)<br>Department of Sociology and Criminology<br>Thesis: <i>"The conservation criminology of human-jaguar conflict in the Rupununi region of Guyana: Risk, Tolerance, Guardianship, and Stewardship"</i><br>Certificate: <i>Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD)</i> |
| 2018                  | <b>P.G.Dip. in International Wildlife Conservation Practice</b> , University of Oxford (Oxon)<br>Department of Continuing Education<br>Institution: Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU)<br>Final project: <i>"Conflict with black caiman in the Rupununi region of Guyana"</i>   |
| 2014                  | <b>B.Sc. in Biology (General)</b> , University of Guyana (UoG)<br>Faculty of Natural Science<br>Minor: Chemistry<br>Thesis: <i>"Morphological variation of birds across the Iwokrama and Surama forests, Guyana."</i>  |

### Short Courses (with certificates)

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|----------|---|
| 2021-DEC | <b>Understanding Research Methods</b> ; University of London via Coursera [verify at: <a href="https://coursera.org/verify/66ZP53XGMY63">https://coursera.org/verify/66ZP53XGMY63</a> ]                                     |
| 2020-MAR | <b>Programming for Everybody (Getting Started with Python)</b> ; California Institute of the Art via Coursera [verify at: <a href="https://coursera.org/verify/388E2ESEQPX3">https://coursera.org/verify/388E2ESEQPX3</a> ] |

2019-JAN	<b>Qualitative Research Methods;</b> University of Guyana (UoG)'s Center for Biological Diversity (CSBD), & University of Florida (UF)'s Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD)
2017-FEB	<b>Ideas from the History of Graphic Design;</b> California Institute of the Art via Coursera [verify at: <a href="https://coursera.org/verify/H4C2E23RCPHG">https://coursera.org/verify/H4C2E23RCPHG</a> ]
2016-JUN	<b>Fundamentals of Graphic Design;</b> California Institute of the Art via Coursera [verify at: <a href="https://coursera.org/verify/H6TKDDRNBJHS">https://coursera.org/verify/H6TKDDRNBJHS</a> ]
2016-JUN	<b>Cameras, Exposure, and Photography;</b> Michigan State University via Coursera [verify at: <a href="https://coursera.org/verify/FSXMZ3F6F2G8">https://coursera.org/verify/FSXMZ3F6F2G8</a> ]
2016-JUN	<b>Introduction to Imagemaking;</b> California Institute of the Art via Coursera [verify at: <a href="https://coursera.org/verify/2EARV3T34AYQ">https://coursera.org/verify/2EARV3T34AYQ</a> ]
2016-JUN	<b>Introduction to Typography;</b> California Institute of the Art via Coursera [verify at: <a href="https://coursera.org/verify/V3Z2C4WB8XD3">https://coursera.org/verify/V3Z2C4WB8XD3</a> ]
2014-JAN	<b>Camera Traps: Tools for Conservation;</b> World Wildlife Fund-Guianas (WWF-Guianas), Panthera, & Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC)

## **RESEARCH**

### **RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS**

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Conservation Criminology	Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management
Ecology and Conservation of Birds and Mammals	Human-Wildlife Conflict and Co-existence
Environmental Sociology	Sustainable Development

### **GRANTS IN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH AND TRAINING**

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FEB-2017	<b>Wildlife Division Grant (Government of Guyana).</b> <i>"Quantifying conflict and assessing benefits of black caiman (Melanosuchus niger) in the North Rupununi, Guyana."</i> (\$5000 USD) Collaborators: Dr. Matthew Hallett, Caiman House
MAR-2014	<b>Winston Cobb Memorial Fellowship (Panthera).</b> <i>"Jaguar and prey response to logging and mining with an evaluation of human-jaguar conflict."</i> (\$10,000 USD)

### **ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

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MAY-2018	<b>Pierre M.</b> & Paemelaere E.A.D. 2018. <i>Scientific foundations and prioritization for wildlife management in the Rupununi region of Guyana.</i> <b>Conservation Colloquium</b> , WildCRU, Oxon, Oxford, UK. [Invited]
APR-2018	<b>Pierre M.</b> 2018. <i>Guyana: An Overview of Environmental Research and Conservation.</i> <b>Global Canopy</b> , Oxford, UK. [Invited]
FEB-2018	<b>Pierre M.</b> 2018. <i>Quantifying Conflict and Assessing Benefits of Black Caiman (Melanosuchus niger).</i> <b>Tropilunch</b> , Tropical Conservation and Development Program, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA.

- APR-2018 **Pierre M.** 2018. *Guyana: An Overview of Environmental Research and Conservation*. **Global Canopy**, Oxford, UK. [Invited]
- MAR-2017 Paemelaere E.A.D., Fernandes D., Ignacio L, Johnny A. 2017. *Medium & Large Mammals of the Southern Rupununi*. Presentation of the Results of the WWF Biodiversity Assessment Team South Rupununi Expedition, **World Wildlife Fund-Guianas**, Georgetown, Guyana. [Presented on behalf of Paemelaere E.A.D.]
- MAR-2017 **Pierre M.** 2017. *Habitat Types of the South Rupununi*. Presentation of the Results of the WWF Biodiversity Assessment Team South Rupununi Expedition, **World Wildlife Fund-Guianas**, Georgetown, Guyana. [Invited]
- AUG-2016 **Pierre M.**, Paemelaere E., & Payán Garrido E. 2016. *Jaguar and their prey in a multi-extractive landscape in Guyana, South America*. Biodiversity Inventory and Decision Making Session, **IV International Congress on Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield**, Georgetown, Guyana.
- MAY-2014 **Pierre M.** 2014. *The Scientific Method*. The Knowledge Underground, **The Consultancy Group (TCG)**, Georgetown, Guyana. [Invited]

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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- MAR-2018 **Pierre M.** & Paemelaere E.A.D. 2018. *Scientific foundations and prioritization for wildlife management in the Rupununi region of Guyana*. **Student Conference on Conservation Science**, Cambridge, UK
- MAR-2017 **Pierre M.**, Paemelaere E., & Payán Garrido E. 2017. *Jaguar and their prey in a multi-extractive landscape in Guyana, South America*. **Student Conference on Conservation Science**, Cambridge, UK

## PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

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### IN PREPARATION

- Pierre M.A.**, McHugh S.M., Paemelaere E.A.D. (In Prep) *Large mammals in a multi-extractive landscape in Guyana, South America*. Target Journal: *Oryx*

### IN REVIEW

- Pierre M.A.**, Jacobsen K.S., Hallett M.T., Harris A.E.M., Melville A., Barnabas H., Sillero-Zubiri C. (Accepted: Major Revisions). *Drivers of human-black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*) conflict in Indigenous communities in the North Rupununi wetlands, SW Guyana*. In Review: *Conservation Science and Practice*.

- Harris A.E., Maharaj G., Hallett M.T., **Pierre M.A.**, Chesney C., Melville A. (2023). *The influence of diet overlap and nest-site aggression on conflict between black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*) and fishermen of the North Rupununi, Guyana*. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* **28(4)** [In Press]

- Fisher J.C., Mistry J., **Pierre M.A.**, Yang H., Harris A., Hunte N., Fernandes D., Bicknell J.E., Davies Z.G. 2021. [\*Using participatory video to share people's experiences of neotropical urban green and blue spaces with decision-makers\*](#). *The Geographical Journal* **00**:1-15.

**Pierre M.A.**, Ignacio L., Paeamelaere E.A.D. 2020. [Medium- and large-bodied terrestrial mammals of the Upper Berbice region of Guyana](#). Check List 16(5): 1229-1237.

Johnson P., Adams V. M., [and 29 others, including **Pierre M.**] 2019. [Consequences Matter: Compassion in Conservation Means Caring for Individuals, Populations and Species](#). Animals 9(12): 1115.

Hayes W., Fisher J., **Pierre M.A.**, Bicknell J.E., Davies Z.G. 2019. [Bird communities across varying landcover types in a Neotropical City](#). Biotropica 00:1-14.

Milensky C. M., Robbins M. B., [and 5 others, including **Pierre M.**] 2016. [Notes on Breeding Birds from the Guyana Highlands with New Records from a Recent Inventory of Mount Ayanganna](#). Cotinga 38: 64–78.

#### DATA AND CODE<sup>1</sup>

[Data Publication] **Pierre M.A.**, Ignacio L., Paeamelaere E.A.D. (In Prep). [Dataset: Medium- and large-bodied terrestrial mammals of the Upper Berbice region of Guyana](#). Target Repository: Dryad

[Analytical Code] **Pierre M.A.**, Jacobsen K.S., Hallett M.T., Harris A.E.M., Melville A., Barnabas H., Sillero-Zubiri C. (In Prep). [Code: Drivers of human-black caiman \(\*Melanosuchus niger\*\) conflict in Indigenous communities in the North Rupununi wetlands, SW Guyana](#). Target Repository: Zenodo

[Data Publication] **Pierre M.A.**, Jacobsen K.S., Hallett M.T., Harris A.E.M., Melville A., Barnabas H., Sillero-Zubiri C. [Dataset: Drivers of human-black caiman \(\*Melanosuchus niger\*\) conflict in Indigenous communities in the North Rupununi wetlands, SW Guyana](#). Target Repository: Dryad

[Analytical Code] **Pierre M.A.**, Ignacio L., Paeamelaere E.A.D. (In Prep). [Code: Medium- and large-bodied terrestrial mammals of the Upper Berbice region of Guyana](#). Target Repository: Zenodo<sup>2</sup>

#### PUBLICATIONS IN NON-PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

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**Pierre M.**, Ignacio L., Torres D., Torres E., and Paemelaere E.A.D. 2018. Large and medium mammals of the upper Berbice region, Guyana. In Alonso, L.E., J. Persaud, and A. Williams (Eds.). [Biodiversity Assessment Survey of the Upper Berbice Region, Guyana](#), pp. 100-113. WWF, Georgetown, Guyana.

**Pierre M.**, Paemelaere E.A.D.P. 2017. *Wildlife Management Assessment Region 9: Upper Takatu–Upper Essequibo, Guyana*. Conservation International–Guyana. Georgetown, Guyana.

**Pierre M.**, Paemelaere E.A.D.P. 2015. *Jaguars and their prey in a multi-extractive landscape in Guyana, South America*. Panthera Guyana, Georgetown, Guyana.

Snyder A., and **Pierre M.**, Gomes E., Noonan B. 2016. Amphibians and Reptiles of Kusad Mountain and the Parabara Region in the South Rupununi, Guyana. In Alonso, L.E., J. Persaud, and A. Williams

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<sup>1</sup> Data and code will be published alongside publications in online repositories along with exhaustive metadata in publicly available repositories.

<sup>2</sup> Data and code already available as Supplementary Material on publication. See online publication for available download.

(Eds.). [Biodiversity Assessment Survey of the South Rupununi Savannah, Guyana. BAT Survey Report No. 1](#). WWF-Guianas. Georgetown, Guyana.

**Pierre M.A.**, McHugh S.M., Paemelaere E.A.D., Payan-G (In Prep) *Large mammals in a multi-extractive landscape in Guyana, South America*. Target Journal: Oryx

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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**Pierre M.A.**. 2022. *Believing in Better*. [Voices of Academia](#). Online. [Scheduled: 2022-FEB-18]

Millar N., Hallett M., Lim B., **Pierre M.**, & Ignacio L. 2021. *Basic Guide to the Mammals of the Rupununi*. South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS). Wichibai, Rupununi, Guyana.

**Pierre M.**, Earle E., Ignacio L., & de Frietas K. 2019. *Basic Guide to the Common Birds of the Rupununi: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed*. South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS). Wichibai, Rupununi, Guyana.

**Pierre, M.**, and B.J. O'Shea. 2019. *Bird racing: Culture and conservation*. North Carolina Naturalist **27(1)**: 2-3.

**Pierre M.**, O'Shea B. 2018. [The trade in seed-finches from the Guianas: Can a diaspora fuel an international trade?](#). Trading Ideas. Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford. Oxford, UK.

**Pierre M.** 2018. [Iwokrama, The Green Heart of Guyana: Where Images and Stories are Waiting to be Told](#). Explore Guyana. Guyana Tourism Authority. Georgetown Guyana.

**Pierre M.** 2018. [Guide to the Birds of Iwokrama](#). Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development. Georgetown, Guyana.

**Pierre M.**, Earle E., Ignacio L., de Frietas K. 2017. *Basic Guide to the Common Birds of the Rupununi*. South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS). Dadanawa, Guyana. [Additionally: 6 educational posters on birds of conservation concern in the Rupununi]

## TEACHING

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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OCT-2021      **Guest lecture (11-Oct-2021)**, GEO 3372: Conservation of Resources, Department of Geography, UF

Title: "Diversity and disability in conservation"

OCT-2021      **Guest lecture (1-Oct-2021)**, CCJ 4934: Introduction to Conservation Criminology, Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Law, UF

Title: "Conservation from the field"

SEP-2021      **Guest lecture (22-Sep-2021)**, Caribbean School of Climate 2021, 350.org & Voices GY

Title: "Human-wildlife conflict, climate change, and community adaptation"

FEB-2019 -      **R Club**, University of Guyana

NOV-2019      *Introductory R using the tidyverse package for UG faculty and students*

JUN-2014 - **Bird Scientist**, Operation Wallacea Guyana, Operation Wallacea (Opwall)  
 AUG-2019<sup>3</sup> *Training research assistants in methods and ecological research background*

OCT-2018 - **Volunteer Mentor**, Wildlife Conservation Course, WildCRU, University of  
 MAR-2018 Oxford  
*Statistics, data analysis with R, spatial analysis, and mapping with QGIS*

## **PROFESSIONAL**

### **CURRENT PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT**

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JAN-2021 to **Scientific and Research Development Consultant**, South Rupununi Conservation  
 PRESENT Society (SRCS)  
*Capacity development, scientific teaching, cross-institutional collaboration, research design, grant writing, data management, data analysis, scientific writing*

### **PAST PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

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AUG-2021 to **Graduate Assistant**, Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD),  
 DEC-2021 Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida  
*Program support for the University of Florida TCD program*

JAN-2021 - **Research Assistant**, Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Law, University of  
 AUG-2021 Florida (UF)  
*Data management, data analysis, scientific writing*

SEP-2019 - **CL2 Biologist**, Environmental Resources Management (ERM)  
 AUG-2020 *Marine bird observation and monitoring, data collection*

JUN-2014 - **Bird Scientist**, Operation Wallacea Guyana, Operation Wallacea (Opwall)  
 AUG-2019<sup>4</sup> *Mist netting, bird banding, data collection, teaching, remote field work*

SEP-2018 - **Robinson Post-Panther Scholar**, Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU),  
 NOV-2018 University of Oxford  
*Data analysis, publication development*

OCT-2017 **Consultant**, Environmental Resources Management (ERM)  
*Marine bird observation and monitoring, data collection*

JUL-2017 **Consultant**, Conservation International-Guyana (CI-G)  
*"An Assessment of Wildlife Management within Region Nine."  
 Data collection, analysis, stakeholder engagement, reporting*

JUN-2017 **Research Assistant**, University of Kent (UoKent)  
*"The urban habitat mosaic and the birds it supports: a Neotropical case study in  
 Georgetown, Guyana."  
 Bird observation, data collection*

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<sup>3</sup> Seasonal field job from May/June-August 2014-2017, and 2019

<sup>4</sup> Seasonal field job from May/June-August 2014-2017, and 2019

FEB-2016	<b>Field Research Coordinator Intern</b> , Panthera <i>Planning field logistics, data management, reporting</i>
MAR-2015 - APR-2016	<b>Field Technician</b> , Peperpot Bird Banding Project, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences <i>Mist netting, bird banding, data collection</i>
SEP-2014 - MAY-2015	<b>Winston Cobb Fellow</b> , Panthera Project: <i>"Jaguar and prey response to logging and mining with an evaluation of human-jaguar conflict."</i> <i>Research design, camera trapping, data collection, remote field work, reporting</i>
OCT-2015	<b>Large Mammal Scientist</b> , World Wildlife Fund Guianas (WWF-Guianas), Biodiversity Assessment Team: Berbice Expedition <i>Camera trapping, data management, data analysis, research design, reporting</i>
MAR-2014	<b>Research Assistant</b> , Smithsonian Institute, Bird Division Expedition to Mt. Ayanganna <i>Data collection, mist netting, museum specimen preparation, remote field work</i>
DEC-2013 - JUN-2014	<b>Internship</b> , Protected Areas Commission (PAC), Government of Guyana (GoG) <i>Data management, reporting</i>
DEC-2013	<b>Research Assistant</b> , Panthera <i>Data entry, data management</i>
OCT-2013	<b>Research Assistant</b> , World Wildlife Fund Guianas (WWF-Guianas) Biodiversity Assessment Team: South Rupununi Expedition <i>Amphibian and reptile capture, data collection, reporting</i>

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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NOV-2021	<b>Outstanding Post-Graduate International Student Award 2021</b> , University of Florida International Center (UFIC), University of Florida (\$1500 USD)
APR-2020	<b>Research Assistantship</b> , Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Law, University of Florida (\$20,000 USD/Year)
APR-2019	<b>Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD) Graduate Assistantship</b> , TCD, University of Florida (\$20,000 USD/Year)
SEP-2018	<b>Robinson Post-Panther Fellowship</b> , WildCRU, University of Oxford (\$3000 USD)
APR-2014	<b>Winston Cobb Memorial Fellowship</b> , Panthera (\$10,000 USD)
FEB-2018	<b>Recanati-Kaplan Foundation Scholarship</b> , WildCRU, University of Oxford (\$23,000 USD)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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2021 – PRESENT	<b>Member</b> , South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS)
2020 – PRESENT	<b>Graduate Student Member</b> , American Ornithological Society
2017 – PRESENT	<b>Student Member</b> , British Ecological Society (BES)

## **SKILLS & REFERENCES**

### **SKILLS AND SOFTWARE**

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**Remote Field Research:** Field and survival skills, including: camp building, management, logistics, and planning

**Ecological Techniques:** Camera trapping, bird banding, point counts, and transect surveys

**Sociological Techniques:** Survey design, semi-structured interviews, key informant interviews, participatory video

**Statistical Techniques:** Reproducible multivariate statistics (Eg: linear regression, occupancy modelling)

**Data Collection and Management:** Reproducible data cleaning and manipulation, metadata writing

**Photography:** Photography featured in magazines, news articles and two local exhibitions

**Filming and Video Editing:** Produced short documentaries and educational videos

#### **Software packages:**

Capture (Intermediate)	Git (& GitHub): Intermediate	Vortex (Intermediate)
Distance (Intermediate)	MS Office (Proficient; Packages: <i>Word, Excel, OneNote, Access, Powerpoint</i> )	Adobe Creative Suite (Intermediate; Packages: <i>Photoshop, Lightroom, InDesign, Illustrator, Premiere Pro</i> )
EstimateS (Intermediate)		
Garmin BaseCamp (Proficient)	OpenRefine (Intermediate)	
QGIS (Intermediate)	Presence (Proficient)	

#### **Programming language fluency:**

R (Proficient; Package egs: *tidyverse, ordinal, performance, MASS, sjMisc*, and many others)

Stata (Intermediate)

HTML (Intermediate)

Python (Basic)

### **LANGUAGES**

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**English:** Fluent (Native; Reading, Writing, and Speaking)

**Spanish:** Intermediate (Reading, Writing, and Speaking)

**French:** Basic (Reading, Writing, and Speaking)

**Makushi**<sup>5</sup>: Basic (Speaking)

**Wapichan**<sup>6</sup>: Basic (Speaking)

### **REFERENCES**

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<sup>5</sup> Indigenous Guyanese language

<sup>6</sup> Indigenous Guyanese language



- Dr. Jessica Kahler – **Assistant Professor**, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University of Florida, [jkahler@ufl.edu](mailto:jkahler@ufl.edu)
- Dr. Matthew Hallett – **Assistant Research Professor**, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, [mhallett2320@ufl.edu](mailto:mhallett2320@ufl.edu)
- Dr. Egil Drøge – **Course Coordinator and Lead Tutor**, Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) Postgraduate Diploma Program, University of Oxford, [egil.droge@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:egil.droge@zoo.ox.ac.uk)

## FEATURES IN THE MEDIA

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- Jonteau C. 2021. [\*Young Conservation Biologist Becomes Mental Health Advocate\*](#). **Unstoppable Yes You**. Online.
- Stabroek News. 2017. [\*Q&A: Meshach Andres Pierre\*](#). Writer's Room, **Stabroek News**. 2020-Jan-26. Print and Online.
- Various Contributors. 2017. [\*25 Caribbean achievers under 25\*](#). **Caribbean Beat**. May/June 2017. Print and Online.
- Lall M. 2017. [\*Chance encounter led Meshach Pierre to conservation biology\*](#). **Stabroek News**. 26 February 2017. Print and Online.