

# MESHACH A. PIERRE

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## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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Conservation criminology

Ecology and conservation of birds and mammals

Environmental sociology

Human dimensions of wildlife management

Scientific communication and outreach

Sustainable development

## EDUCATION

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- 2021-Present M.A. in Criminology, Law, and Society, University of Florida  
Department of Sociology and Criminology  
Thesis: "The conservation criminology of human-jaguar conflict in the Rupununi region of Guyana: Risk, Tolerance, Guardianship, and Stewardship"
- 2018 P.G.Dip. in International Wildlife Conservation Practice, University of Oxford  
Department of Continuing Education  
Institution: Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU)  
Final project: "Conflict with black caiman in the Rupununi region of Guyana"
- 2014 B.Sc. in Biology (General), University of Guyana  
Faculty of Natural Science  
Minor: Chemistry

### Short Courses

- 2019 Qualitative Research Methods, University of Guyana's Center for Biological Diversity  
University of Florida's Tropical Conservation and Development Program

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2021-Present Graduate Assistant, Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD), Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida
- 2021 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Law, University of Florida  
Data management, data analysis, scientific writing
- 2019-2020 CL2 Biologist, Environmental Resources Management (ERM)  
Marine bird observation and monitoring, data collection
- 2014-2018 Bird Scientist, Operation Wallacea Guyana, Operation Wallacea (Opwall)  
Mist netting, bird banding, data collection, teaching, remote field work
- 2018 Robinson Post-Panther Scholar, Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), University of Oxford  
Data analysis, publication development
- 2017-2019 Consultant, Environmental Resources Management (ERM)  
Marine bird observation and monitoring, data collection
- 2017 Consultant, Conservation International-Guyana (CI-G)  
"An Assessment of Wildlife Management within Region Nine."  
Data collection, analysis, stakeholder engagement, reporting

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| 2017      | Research Assistant, University of Kent<br>“The urban habitat mosaic and the birds it supports: a Neotropical case study in Georgetown, Guyana.”<br>Bird observation, data collection                              |
| 2016      | Field Research Coordinator Intern, Panthera<br>Planning field logistics, data management, reporting   |
| 2015-2016 | Field Technician, Peperpot Bird Banding Project,<br>North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences<br>Mist netting, bird banding, data collection  |
| 2014-2015 | Winston Cobb Fellow, Panthera<br>“Jaguar and prey response to logging and mining with an evaluation of human-jaguar conflict.”<br>Research design, camera trapping, data collection, remote field work, reporting |
| 2015      | Large Mammal Scientist, World Wildlife Fund Guianas (WWF Guianas),<br>Biodiversity Assessment Team: Berbice Expedition<br>Camera trapping, data management, data analysis, research design, reporting             |
| 2014      | Research Assistant, Smithsonian Institute,<br>Bird Division Expedition to Mt. Ayanganna<br>Data collection, mist netting, museum specimen preparation, remote field work  |
| 2014      | Internship, Protected Areas Commission (PAC) Guyana,<br>Data management, reporting  |
| 2013      | Research Assistant, World Wildlife Fund Guianas (WWF Guianas)<br>Biodiversity Assessment Team: South Rupununi Expedition<br>Amphibian and reptile capture, data collection, reporting                             |

## **AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS**

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| 2021 | Outstanding Post-Graduate International Student Award 2021, University of Florida International Center, University of Florida |
| 2018 | Recanati-Kaplan Foundation Scholarship, WildCRU, University of Oxford   |

## **FELLOWSHIPS/ASSISTANTSHIPS**

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| 2020      | Research Assistantship, Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Law, University of Florida  |
| 2019      | Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD) Assistantship, TCD, University of Florida |
| 2018      | Robinson Post-Panther Fellowship, WildCRU, University of Oxford                               |
| 2014-2015 | Winston Cobb Memorial Fellowship, Panthera  |

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

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| Wildlife Division Grant (Government of Guyana). “Quantifying conflict and assessing benefits of black caiman ( <i>Melanosuchus niger</i> ) in the North Rupununi, Guyana.” (\$5000 USD) |
| Winston Cobb Memorial Fellowship (Panthera). “Jaguar and prey response to logging and mining with an evaluation of human–jaguar conflict.” (\$10,000 USD)                               |

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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| 2021 | Guest lecture (11-Oct-2021), GEO 3372: Conservation of Resources, Department of Geography, UF<br>Title: “Diversity and disability in conservation” |
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| 2021 | Guest lecture (1-Oct-2021), CCJ 4934: Introduction to Conservation Criminology, Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Law, UF<br>Title: "Conservation from the field" |
| 2021 | Guest lecture (22-Sep-2021), Caribbean School of Climate 2021, 350.org & Voices GY<br>Title: "Human-wildlife conflict, climate change, and community adaptation"          |
| 2019 | R Club, University of Guyana  |
| 2018 | Volunteer Mentor, Wildlife Conservation Course, WildCRU, University of Oxford   |

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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Conservation Colloquium, Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), Oxford, UK (2018)  
 Global Canopy, Oxford, UK (2018)  
 TCD Tropilunch, University of Florida (2018)  
 Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Jacksonville, Florida (2018)  
 IV International Congress on Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield, Georgetown, Guyana (2016)

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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Student Conference on Conservation Science, Cambridge, UK (2018)  
 Student Conference on Conservation Science, Cambridge, UK (2017)

## REFERENCES

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

## PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

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- 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. (Accepted: Major Revisions). *The influence of black caiman impacts on human attitudes in North Rupununi, Guyana*. In Review: Human Dimensions of Wildlife.
- 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.P. (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.

## PUBLICATIONS IN GREY 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.

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

## PUBLICATIONS IN POPULAR LITERATURE

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**Pierre M.A.** 2020. [On Anxitey: My Journey Within](#). Stabroek News: 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

**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). Dadanawa, Guyana

**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

## 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

**Software:** Capture, Distance, EstimateS, Garmin BaseCamp, QGIS, MS Office, OpenRefine, Presence, Python (basic), R (proficient), Stata (intermediate)

**Photography:** Photography featured in magazine, news articles, and exhibitions ([see Portfolio on website](#))

**Filming and Video Editing:** Produced short documentaries and educational videos ([see Creative Work on website](#))