

Victoria Gillman

Aspiring conservation biologist working on a PhD at the University of Aberdeen

Email: v.gillman.21@abdn.ac.uk ·

Website: victoriagillman.github.io · Bluesky: [@brack1sh](https://bsky.app/profile/@brack1sh) · [Also find me on LinkedIn!](#)

Summary

- I am passionate about conserving the environment through benthic aquatic and marine biology. I focus on an interdisciplinary approach, most recently genomics and modelling in my PhD (overlay analysis and vulnerability landscapes). I actively promote working with people from different backgrounds and fields of expertise and advocate accessibility in non-academic and academic work.

EDUCATION

- **Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Science (PhD)** (2021-2025)
University of Aberdeen. Funded by Scottish University Partnership of Environmental Research
Integrating genomics and modelling to predict climate change response and identify drivers of decline in the endangered freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). Supervisor: Dr K. Layton. [Read more](#)
- **Intergrated Masters of Marine Biology with a year study abroad (MSci)** (2014 - 2018)
First Class Honours. University of Southampton
Year Abroad: University Centre in Svalbard (08/2016-12/2016) and University of Gothenburg (01/2017-06/2017)
Honours Thesis: Gametogenic Ecology of Antarctic Brittle Star: *Ophionotus victoriae*. Supervisor: Dr L. Grange.
[Read more](#)

SKILLS

- **Core theoretical knowledge of aquatic systems**
Characterising freshwater pearl mussel's ecology and environment in Scotland for three and half year PhD. First class MSci degree including individual modules on benthic ecology and estuarine systems.
- **Interpreting and analysing peer reviewed literature.**
Most recently a literature review for my PhD but also includes multiple reviews for my MSci such as Antarctic brittle stars, metagenomics and benthic microalgae.
- **Specialist computer programming and software**
Advanced ecological data-management, statistical analysis, modelling and graphing in R; self-taught bioinformatics in Unix command line, html coding and LaTeX; self-taught spatial analysis.
- **Practical field experience and experimental design**
Fieldwork on UK coast, arctic bird cliffs and on boats (STCW 95 qualified). Experimental practical experience includes molecular biology in Svalbard, working with live invertebrates in Tjarno, Sweden and six months of histology of oocytes from brittle stars from the Rothera Antarctic Time Series.
- **Communication**
Excellent communication both written and verbal: Refined interpersonal teamwork skills during work as a Lifeguard for public safety and delivering a successful teaching/activity programme for Brownies with Girlguiding UK. I blogged about study abroad ([link](#)), wrote my own website ([link](#)) and presented my thesis poster at UK Polar Network Early Careers Conference.
- **Independence and teamwork**
Self and peer evaluation: Self-management – e.g. voluntary work for Keep Britain Tidy, maintaining accounts for my Brownie pack (Girlguiding UK), managing PhD project including data collection, training, conference submissions, accounts and writing up. Plus I planned my MSci thesis using a flexible problem-solving approach.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- **Talks**

- Gillman, V., Pritchard, V., Piertney, S., Lancaster, L., Layton, K. 2024. Adaptive landscape of the endangered freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). Malacological Society of London, London.
- Gillman, V., Pritchard, V., Piertney, S., Lancaster, L., Layton, K. 2024. Adaptive landscape of the endangered freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). Evolution Meeting, Montreal.

- **Poster Presentations**

- Gillman, V., Layton, K. 2023. Using Historical Museum Shells to Unravel Phylogeographic Relationships and Climate Change Response of the Endangered Freshwater Pearl Mussel. Bivalves:Where are we going? Cambridge.
- Gillman, V., Pritchard, V., Piertney, S., Lancaster, L., Layton, K. 2022. Integrating genomics and modelling to predict climate change response in the endangered freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). Annual Science Meeting, British Ecological Society, Edinburgh.
- Gillman, V., Pritchard, V., Piertney, S., Lancaster, L., Layton, K. 2022. Integrating genomics and modelling to predict climate change response in the endangered freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). Malacological Society of London, London.
- Gillman, V., Pritchard, V., Piertney, S., Lancaster, L., Layton, K. 2022. Integrating genomics and modelling to predict climate change response in the endangered freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). Annual Science Meeting, Marine Alliance for Science and Technology, Glasgow.
- Gillman, V., Grange, L. (2021) Gametogenic ecology of Antarctic Brittle Star *Ophionotus victoriae*. Polar Early Career Conference. UK Polar Network. Online.

FUNDING

- Charles Sutherland Scholarship. £675 Apr 2024
- Charles Sutherland Scholarship. £900 Apr 2023
- Malacological Society of London. Early Career Research Grant. £1334 May 2023
- Scottish Universities Partnership for Environmental Research (doctoral training partnership). £100,550 including stipend, tuition fees and £9,050 research budget. Oct 2021

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- Scottish Universities Partnership for Environmental Research (doctoral training partnership) Oct 2021
- Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland Oct 2021
- British Ecological Society Nov 2021
- Malacological Society of London Feb 2023

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTARY ROLES

- Chair of Graduate School Student Committee, Scottish University Partnership for Environmental Research, Doctoral Training Partnership 02/2022- 12/2024
- Member of Student Staff Liaison Committee, School Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen 10/2021- To date
- University-Wide Doctoral Representative, University of Aberdeen 04/2022- To date
- Internship integrating species distribution models and genomics of eelgrass, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Nova Scotia 10/2023 - 12/2023

- Demonstrating, Postgraduate Ambassador and Community Engagement (e.g MOCKCOP 22), University of Aberdeen 10/2022 - 12/2023
- Multiple customer service roles including pet services, retail and currently lifeguarding, Sport Aberdeen (current employer) 02/2015- To date
- Safer Communities Administrative Assistant, Tending District Council 02/2021-09/2021
- Multiple voluntary scientific community outreach roles, including BioBlitz, Pint of Science, Girlguiding and Keep Britain Tidy 09/2017-09/2021

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- RLSS National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ) 05/2019
- PADI Rescue Diver- Logged 70 dives. 05/2019
- STCW 95 Basic Safety Training 04/2015
- First Aid (NPLQ) 05/2019
- Full clean UK driving licence 09/2015