

VERONICA PAGOWSKI
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EDUCATION

Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University SEP 2019 – APR 2025 (expected)
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Biology

- Current doctoral student advised by Drs. Fiorenza Micheli and Stephen Palumbi
- *Research focus:* ecology, evolution, and population genetics of marine invertebrates

University of British Columbia SEP 2014 - MAY 2019
Bachelor of Science (BSc.) in Oceanography and Biology, minor in Neuroscience

OBJECTIVE

Doctoral candidate with expertise in ecology, evolutionary biology, computational biology, and molecular biology, seeking to apply scientific principles to advance environmental conservation, enhance public understanding, and inform policy decisions

WORK EXPERIENCE

Doctoral student, Hopkins Marine Station at Stanford University SEP 2019 – Present

- Conducted a comprehensive literature review, synthesizing over 450 studies
- Analyzed ecological abundance data from sites along the California coastline
- Applied bioinformatics pipelines and analytical tools to investigate population genetics of *Patiria miniata*
- Mentored multiple students in designing, executing, and presenting independent research
- Performed molecular biology techniques, including in-situ hybridization, PCR, cloning, DNA extractions, and immunohistochemistry
- Organized and secured funding for field research conducted across various sites in California
- Co-developed and implemented biology outreach curricula

Visiting scientist, Helmholtz Nawroth Mechanobiology laboratory SEP – DEC 2023

- Grant-funded visiting researcher in Munich, Germany
- Developed computational approaches to process large visual datasets

Research assistant, Crowe and Hallam laboratory SEP 2018 - MAY 2019

- Ran seawater nutrient assays and collected dissolved inorganic carbon measurements
- Aided in field research preparation and sampling in Saanich Inlet, BC
- Used sterility protocols for sample filtration, autoclaving, and acid/base washes

NSERC student researcher, Suttle laboratory MAY - AUG 2018

- Used bioinformatics pipelines to isolate viral sequences from transcriptomic data
- Analyzed viral load and presence in salmon samples
- Completed an undergraduate thesis in the Suttle laboratory

Laboratory technician, St. John's School MAY 2018 - FEB 2019

- Prepared materials for student experiments
- Ensured laboratory materials were stocked and organized

Student researcher, Tundra ecology laboratory OCT - APRIL 2018

- Aided in data collection, measured plant specimens, and organized large datasets

Tutor and note-taker, UBC Access and Diversity OCT - APRIL 2018

- Tutored students with learning disabilities in biology and geosciences

Intern, Arizona Game and Fish Department MAY- AUG 2017

- Conducted field and survey work at various sites in Arizona
- Learned about US government practices related to managing wildlife
- Wrote technical survey reports, species abstracts, and data summaries

Educator, University Neighborhoods Association

FEB - MARCH 2017

- Taught an adult course in Microsoft Excel at the Recreation Center
- Planned and prepared lessons and PowerPoint slides for each class

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching assistant, BIO 103: Human and Planetary Health

JULY - JAN 2021

- Graded student class reflections and organized office hours
- Coordinated with interdisciplinary faculty and facilitated guest speakers for class presentations

Teaching assistant, BIO 47: Research in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

MARCH - JUNE 2021

- Held weekly office hours and helped students understand coding and statistics in R
- Graded homework including problem sets and writing assignments
- Excellence in Teaching Award recipient for work in this course

Teaching assistant, BIO 199W: How to Effectively Write About Scientific Research

JAN - APRIL 2020

- Gave feedback on student writing for undergraduate thesis projects
- Held weekly office hours and answered student questions about writing and visualizing data

MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE & OUTREACH

Mentor, Stanford HI-SURF program

JUNE - AUG 2024

- Collaboratively mentored an undergraduate student in completing a research project
- Met regularly with students to plan hands-on experiments and statistical analysis
- Mentored a student in designing and delivering a poster presentation

Mentor, Salinas High School internship program

JAN - MAY 2024, 2023, 2022

- Worked with a high school student mentee over six weeks
- Met once a week with a mentee to work on and develop a research project
- Participated in the program as a mentor for three consecutive years

Regional Outreach and Communication in STEM grant program

DEC - APRIL 2024

- Collaboratively designed, funded, developed, and taught interactive classes at local schools
- Coordinated hands-on activities including gel electrophoresis and DNA extraction

Mentor, EEB mentor match

SEP - DEC 2019

- Met once a week with a prospective graduate student
- Provided advice and feedback on application materials

Volunteer instructor, Stanford Splash

NOV 2019

- Collaboratively led and organized an interactive class on marine invertebrates
- Coordinated in-class dissections and discussions with students

Volunteer instructor, Let's Talk Science

SEP 2018 - MAY 2019

- Led interactive classes in high schools and worked with groups of students to extract DNA, run gel electrophoresis, and understand important concepts in molecular biology including PCR, genotyping, and DNA replication

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Newsletter editor, MARINE

SEP 2023 - MAY 2024

- Sent out a biweekly newsletter highlighting local marine science events

Volunteer interpreter, Beaty Biodiversity Museum

SEP 2016 - MAY 2017

- Engaged in conversations about specimens at the museum with visitors

Intern, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

SEP - DEC 2016

- Performed DNA extraction, PCR, electrophoresis, cycle-sequencing, and DNA cleanups
- Operated Thermocyclers, pipettes, centrifuges, and gel electrophoresis chambers
- Assessed morphological characters of over 400 specimens

Writer, Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society

SEP 2016 - JAN 2018

- Wrote summary articles on various species native to British Columbia

Volunteer, Vancouver Aquarium

SEP 2015 – MAY 2017

- Taught student in elementary and high school about intertidal organisms
- Facilitated guest interactions with marine invertebrates in a wet lab

Mentee, Research Experience Program at UBC

JAN 2015 - MAY 2017

- Presented a poster on Strategies for Effective Conservation (March 2015)
- Presented a collaborative poster on the role of glial cells in Alzheimer's disease (March 2016)
- Co-chair/organizer of the Research Experience program at UBC (2016-2017)

PUBLICATIONS

- **Pagowski VA** and Fiorenza Micheli. Mind the Gap: A Review of Disjunctions in Coastal Marine Species. Published in *Integrative and Comparative Biology* (2024).
- **Pagowski VA**. A description of the bat star nervous system throughout larval ontogeny. Published in *Evolution and Development* (2023).
- Exposito-Alonso M, Booker TR, Czech L, Fukami T, Gillespie L, Hateley S, Kyriazis CC, Lang PLM, Leventhal L, Nogues-Bravo D, **Pagowski VA**, Ruffley M, Spence JP, Toro Arana SE, Weiß CL, Zeiss E. Genetic Diversity Loss in the Anthropocene. Published in *Science* (2022).
- **Pagowski VA***, Mordecai GJ*, Miller KM, Schulze AD, Kaukinen KH, Ming TJ, Li S, Teffer AK, Tabata A, Suttle CA. Distribution and Phylogeny of Erythrocytic Necrosis Virus (ENV) in Salmon Suggests Marine Origin. Published in *Viruses* (2019). *Shared first authorship

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Dr. Earl H. Myers & Ethel M. Myers Oceanographic & Marine Biology Trust (\$5000) | 2023
- Irene Brown Fund in Aid of Research (\$5000) | 2023
- Friends of Hopkins Research Support Grant (\$6500) | 2023
- Charles Baxter Graduate Fellowship (supporting graduate research tuition and salary) | 2022, 2023
- American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) COMPASS Outreach Grant (\$1000) | 2023
- Marine Biological Laboratories Alumni Outreach Grant (\$2500) | 2023
- Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Grants in Aid of Research Award (\$1000) | 2023
- MBF Bioscience NeuroArt November 2022 Juror's Choice Award | 2023
- Stanford Excellence in Teaching Award | 2019

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Rescue Diver and AAUS Scientific Diver
- Coding experience in R, Python, and MATLAB
- Bioinformatics and computational experience processing large datasets
- Website design and management with WordPress
- Fluent in Polish, proficient in French
- Molecular techniques and laboratory experience
- Strong leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills