Cristina Rios-Blanco

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Biologist with ample experience in gathering, analyzing, and interpreting biological and ecological data. My goal is to bring the academic expertise into a pragmatic world to offer realistic and cost-efficient solutions to environmental problems. I specialize in linking big data analysis and Geographic Information Systems to informed decision making in any ecological questions related to biodiversity, ecosystem evaluation, and species conservation and management.
Native Spanish speaker and English fluency.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer| Texas Tech University – College of Engineering
09/2020 – PRESENT

- Curriculum development for the undergraduate course *Bio-inspired Design*
- Instruction course *Bio-inspired Design*. Four sections, meetings three times a week. Average classroom size: 50 students

Teaching Assistant| Texas Tech University
09/2019 – 08/2020

- Instruction of lab sections of graduate courses *Biometry*, and *Experimental Design.* Each lab is 3h session once a week. Average classroom size: 25 students
- Main topics taught:
    - Analysis of variance
    - General linear model
    - Multivariate statistic methods
- Curriculum development for the undergraduate course *Field Ecology.* Lecture 40% of the content (~ 30h) during Summer. Average classroom size: 18 students
- Main topics taught:
    - Analysis of biodiversity
    - Habitat characterization
    - Metacommunity and network analysis

Lab Coordinator | Texas Tech University
09/2016 – 08/2019

- Managed logistic requirements (scheduling, travel expenses, budgets, control of liabilities, and insurance) for field trips.
- Responsible for managing US $125,000/year for field equipment and travel expenses.
- Curriculum development for the course for non-majors *Introduction to Natural Resources Management.*
- Main topics taught:
    - Techniques for vegetation assessment
    - Wildlife monitoring (fisheries, macroinvertebrates, mammals, reptiles)

- Use of technology for wildlife assessment (radio collar telemetry, camera trap monitoring)
- Basic georeferencing and triangulation skills

- 6 sessions per semester. Average teaching time: 5 hours per session. Average classroom size: 100 students. Total students per semester: 300.

Research Assistant| Texas Tech University
09/2014 – 08/2016

- Managed statistical analysis and GIS analysis in reports for diverse projects awarded to professor Dr. Richard. D. Stevens and funded by federal and state agencies in Texas and Louisiana.

Environmental Project Specialist | Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (Colciencias)
03/2013 –07/2014

- Project manager of science, technology and innovation. Responsible for project development, administrative requirements, and budget management of project proposals in: Basic Sciences, Biotechnology, Environment, Agriculture, Hydrobiology and Sustainability, and Natural Resources Management.
- Managed the project development and budget approval by the Regionalization Office of the National Royalties Fund. Allocated around US $28,000,000K (Market Representative Exchange Rate) to more than 200 projects.
- Project categories funded according to 2014 estimates:
  - Science, Technology, and Innovation (50%)
  - Improvement of living conditions of special communities (10%)
  - Environment recovery and stabilization, reforestation, and ecosystem restoration (10%)
  - Allocation of resources in physical infrastructure to improve education (10%)
  - Extension, expansion, and utilization of non-conventional energy (10%)
  - Improve infrastructure along Colombian borders (10%)
  - Improvement of infrastructure in areas where exploration and exploitation of non-renewable resources take place (5%)

Environmental Training Specialist| Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas
05/2011 – 10/2011

- Developed curriculum for the professional certification course: Environmental Risk Management - Environmental Education for the Adaptation to Climate Change.
- Responsible for the training of regional stakeholders in diversity assessment, habitat transformation and conservation in areas impacted by gold exploitation.

Environmental Professional| Fundacion Manantial La Laja
12/2009 – 11/2011

- Designed, and managed environmental education projects in wildlife conservation for high school students.
- Responsible for the creation of the program, communication liaison and budget planning .

Mammalogy Consultant| SIG Consultores-Oxy de Colombia
11/2010 – 12/2010

- Mammal diversity assessment to monitor environmental impact and required compensation for oil field development.
- Trapped rodents, marsupials and bats to create an inventory of species. Each species was classified according to IUCN, CITES and the Colombian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development regulations for prioritizing species conservation.
- Identified top 10 mammals threatened in the area and search for habitat limiting factors availabitity. Calculated aproximate area of availability of such resources and contrasted to minimum home range requirements for each species.

PUBLICATIONS

Halsey, M., Stuhler, J., Krishnamoorthy, M., Bohlender-Stukenholtz, E. Brothers, S., Kildow, A., Piedra, S., Garcia, C., Camp, D., **Rios-Blanco, C.**, Stevens, R.2018. New Distributional Records of Mammals in Texas: Orders Chiroptera, Carnivora, and Rodentia. Occasional Papers Museum of Texas Tech University, 354, 1-5

Garcia, C. J., Francis, J. Q., **Rios-Blanco, C.**, Stuhler, J. D., Langlois, G. D., Bohlender, E., Madden, M. A., Dunn, C. D., Bradley, R. D., & Stevens, R. D. 2016. New Distributional Records of Mammals in Texas. Occasional Papers Museum of Texas Tech University, 343, 1-6

Ríos-Blanco, M. C., & Pérez-Torres, J. 2015. Dieta de las especies dominantes del ensamblaje de murciélagos frugívoros en un bosque seco tropical (Colombia). Mastozoología neotropical, 22(1), 103-111.

Pérez-Torres, J., Martínez-Medina, D., Peñuela-Salgado, M., **Ríos-Blanco, M. C.**, Estrada-Villegas, S., & Martínez-Luque, L. 2015. Macaregua: the cave with the highest bat richness in Colombia. Check List, 11(2), 1616.3.

Ríos-Blanco, C., Pérez-Torres, J. & Stevens, R. D. *In prep*. Bat metacommunity structure in an anthropogenic landscape (coffee-growing ecoregion, Colombia)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

98th Annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists
Rios-Blanco, C & Stevens, R. 2018 Changes in South American bat biodiversity patterns along environmental gradients: a multidimensional problem

14th European Bat Research Symposium

Rios-Blanco, C & Stevens, R.D. 2017. Are all mountains the same? Changes in South American bat diversity patterns along environmental gradients

35th Annual Meeting of the Texas Society of Mammalogists

Rios-Blanco, C & Stevens, R.D. 2017. Role of Neotropical bat species in South American metacommunities

17th International Bat Research Conference

Rios-Blanco, C. & Stevens, R.D. 2016. Bat metacommunity structure in the Neotropics: a network approach to characterize elevational gradients

96th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists

Rios-Blanco, C. & Stevens, R.D. 2016. Spatial network approaches to characterize metacommunity structure of Neotropical bats in Colombia

33rd Annual Meeting of the Texas Society of Mammalogists

Rios-Blanco, C. Pérez-Torres, J. & Stevens, R. D. 2015. Bat Meta-community Structure in an Anthropogenic Landscape (Coffee-Growing Ecoregion, Colombia).

10th Latin-American Mammalogy Congress

Ríos-Blanco, C. & Pérez-Torres, J. 2010. [Diet and Effective Seed Dispersal by Frugivorous Bats in a Tropical Dry Forest in a Silvopastoril System].

SKILLS

- Data collection, analysis, and management
- Geographic Information Systems, and Geostatistical analysis
- Quantitative research and statistical software use
- Environmental assessment and endangered species evaluation
- Native Spanish
- Project development and management
- Ecological analysis
- Public Speaking and strong presentation skills
- Report writing and analysis
- Experimental design, research, and publication
- Fluent English

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Wildlife, Aquatic, and Wildlife Science and Management | Texas Tech University
09/2014 – Current

M.Sc. Biological Sciences | Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
01/2011 – 03/2013

B.S. Biology | Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
01/2005 – 09/2010