

Elizabeth A. Karan

PH.D. CANDIDATE
DEPT. OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES; LOS ANGELES, CA
PH.D. IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY, 2017–PRESENT
HARVARD COLLEGE; CAMBRIDGE, MA
A.B. ORGANISMIC AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY, 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PH.D. CANDIDATE, ALFARO LAB; LOS ANGELES, CA 2021–PRESENT
PH.D. STUDENT, ALFARO LAB; LOS ANGELES, CA 2017–2020

Research areas include: fish macroevolution, phylogenetic comparative methods, reef fish color pattern evolution, hyper-spectral imaging, computer vision, and machine learning. Ph.D. Advisor: Prof. Michael Alfaro.

GRADUATE INTERN, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH / NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE; REMOTE POSITION SUMMER 2022

Contributed to the development of computational tools for studying ecological and evolutionary dynamics of disease, working with compartmental models and public health data. Supervisor: John Spouge, M.D., Ph.D.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER, LAUDER LAB; CAMBRIDGE, MA 2015–2016

Worked towards completion of undergraduate research thesis, “The scales of cnidarian associated fishes and their functional implications”. Thesis Advisor: Prof. George V. Lauder.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, RADCLIFFE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP; CAMBRIDGE, MA 2015

Worked on a project investigating the utility of fossilized nacre as a paleothermometer. Principal Investigator: Prof. Pupa Gilbert.

VOLUNTEER, MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY; CAMBRIDGE, MA 2014–2016

Duties included identifying and sorting larval specimens, measuring specimens, and updating the online database. Worked under the supervision of the collection manager, Karsten E. Hartel.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, OPERATION WALLACEA; WAKATOBI N.P., INDONESIA 2014

Assisted on projects including: anemonefish cohabitation, sponge photosynthesis, mangrove fiddler crab ecology, reef diversity surveillance, and impacts of burrowing sponges

PUBLICATIONS

DK Wainwright, **EA Karan**, DC Collar. Evolutionary patterns of scale morphology in damselfishes (Pomacentridae). *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*. 02 December 2021.

ME Alfaro, **EA Karan**, ST Schwartz, AJ Shultz. The Evolution of Color Pattern in Butterflyfishes (Chaetodontidae). *Integrative and Comparative Biology*. 11 July 2019.

PUPA Gilbert, KD Bergmann, CE Myers, MA Marcus, RT DeVol, C-Y Sun, AZ Blonsky, J Zhao, **EA Karan**, E Tamre, N Tamura, AJ Giuffre, S Lemer, G Giribet, JM Eiler, AH Knoll. Nacre tablet thickness records formation temperature in modern and fossil shells. *Earth and Planetary Sciences Letters*. 15 February 2017.

PRESENTATIONS

EA Karan, ST Schwartz, M Perillo, ME Alfaro. It's not just a phase: evolutionary and functional consequences of sexually dimorphic color pattern diversity in labrid fishes. *Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology*. Virtual meeting. January 2021.

EA Karan, ST Schwartz. Quantitative Approaches to Studying Color Pattern Evolution. *Claremont-McKenna College* (guest lecture). Claremont, CA. May 2019.

EA Karan, ME Alfaro. Evolution of False Eyespots in Butterflyfishes: Testing Eye Camouflage and Mimicry as Anti-predator Adaptations. *Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology*. Tampa, FL. January 2019.

EA Karan, DK Wainwright, DC Collar. A comparative study of damselfish scale morphology. *Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology*. Portland, OR. January 2016.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH SUMMER INTERNSHIP 2022

ESA STUDENT SECTION REAL/BROWN STUDENT AWARD 2020

EEB DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH AWARD 2019

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP 2019

UCLA IRVING AND JEAN STONE FELLOWSHIP 2017

HARVARD DEAN'S SUMMER RESEARCH AWARD 2015

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY GRANT FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH 2015

HARVARD COLLEGE RESEARCH PRIZE 2015

DAVID ROCKEFELLER INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE GRANT 2014

SKILLS

COMPUTER LANGUAGES

C, Python, R, PHP, HTML, JavaScript

SOFTWARE

TensorFlow, Adobe Suite, BayesTraits, RevBayes, BEAST, Astral, POY, phyutility, SequenceMatrix, Geneious, MountainsMap, Igor, ImageJ, Linux server administration

IMAGING

Image adjacency and boundary strength analysis, SEM image processing in Photoshop, SEM analysis in wave metrics software, underwater video transects, underwater behavior videography, 3D topography reconstruction of fish scales using GelSight

LAB TECHNIQUES

Dissection, sediment composition gradation, water salinity measurements, water pH measurements, PCR, fish husbandry

FIELD TECHNIQUES

Species identification, species collection, underwater reef transects, fish stereo video surveys, invertebrate surveys, benthic surveys, reef rugosity measurements, recording behavioral observations

CERTIFICATIONS

Open Water Diver – PADI

TEACHING AND COURSE SUPPORT

TEACHING ASSISTANT, EEB 143: VIRUS ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION WINTER 2023

Lead discussion sections

TEACHING ASSISTANT, EEB 121: MOLECULAR EVOLUTION FALL 2022

Lead discussion sections

INSTRUCTOR, GE CLUSTER 70CW: EVOLUTION OF INTELLIGENCE SPRING 2019

Constructed all course material, lead a small seminar of 22 students

TEACHING ASSISTANT, CLUSTER 70B: EVOLUTION OF COMOS AND LIFE B WINTER 2019
Lead discussion and lab sections

TEACHING ASSISTANT, CLUSTER 70A: EVOLUTION OF COMOS AND LIFE A FALL 2018
Lead discussion and lab sections

TEACHING ASSISTANT, EEB 116: CONSERVATION BIOLOGY SPRING 2018
Lead discussion sections, created quiz material and learning activities

LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH

EEB GRADUATE EDUCATION TASK FORCE 2020-2021

Developed a set of recommendations to improve Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in EEB Graduate Education; paid position

JUDGE, LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR 2019, 2020 (VIRTUAL)
Evaluated middle and high school projects in Animal Physiology (2019) and Ecology (2020)

VOLUNTEER, EXPLORING YOUR UNIVERSE 2019
Organized and administered interactive science learning activities for children

VOLUNTEER, AWISE STEM DAY AT UCLA 2019
Organized and administered interactive science learning activity for young girls

COORDINATOR, EEB COMMITTEE: SEMINAR AND ECO EVO PUB 2018 – 2019
Scheduled and organized biweekly graduate student presentations

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH – NATIVE SPEAKER

GERMAN – INTERMEDIATE PROFICIENCY (SPEAKING, READING, WRITING)

SPANISH – BASIC (SPEAKING, READING, WRITING)

INDONESIAN – BASIC (SPEAKING)