



William Durham

Bing Professor in Human Biology, Emeritus

Anthropology

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

William (Bill) Durham is Bing Professor in Human Biology (Emeritus), Bass University Fellow in Undergraduate Education, and a Senior Fellow (Emeritus) in the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford. He has been jointly appointed in Human Biology and Anthropology at Stanford since 1977, when he came from the Society of Fellows at the University of Michigan. Bill was an undergraduate Biology major at Stanford, Class of 1971, and received the Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award at graduation for his contribution to undergraduate education via the NSF-funded Student Air Pollution Research Project, the first student initiative nationally to receive NSF funding.

Bill's career has focused on two main themes: (1) putting principles of evolution to work in efforts to sustain the biological and cultural diversity of our world; and (2) identifying social dimensions of environmental problems in Latin America and working with local leaders to help solve them. He has carried out fieldwork in Peru, Brazil, and Ecuador (especially Galápagos) in South America, and in El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, and Costa Rica in Central America. In 1983, he was one of the first scholars to receive the MacArthur Prize Fellowship and has also received five five awards for research and teaching at Stanford, including one by vote of the students. Bill's recent book, *Exuberant Life: An Evolutionary Approach to Conservation in Galápagos* (Oxford University Press, 2021) was named a Finalist for the 2022 PROSE Award from the Association of American Publishers.

Bill's other publications include the books *Scarcity and Survival in Central America* (Stanford Press 1979; and in Spanish, by UCA Editores 1988), *Coevolution: Genes, Culture, and Human Diversity* (Stanford Press, 1991), *The Social Causes of Environmental Destruction in Latin America* (U. of Michigan Press, 1995, with M. Painter), *Inbreeding, Incest and the Incest Taboo* (Stanford Press 2004, with A. Wolf), and *Ecotourism and Conservation in the Americas* (CABI, 2008, with A. Stronza). In addition, he served as Editor in Chief for 16 volumes of the *Annual Review of Anthropology* between 1992 and 2008.

Bill was Founding Co-Director of the Center for Responsible Travel (CREST), a research organization that views tourism as a means to promote local livelihoods and environmental conservation. He was invited to design the Max Planck Institute for Environmental Anthropology and his proposal was accepted and implemented in Leipzig, Germany starting in 1997. Along with Stanford Professors Rodolfo Dirzo and Larry Crowder, Bill has been Co-director of the Osa-Golfito Initiative (INOGO) in the Woods Institute, working with Costa Ricans to develop a sustainability strategy for the southern region of the country.

He has led more than 50 Stanford Alumni Association trips to Galápagos, Costa Rica, the Amazon, East Africa, and elsewhere.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Emeritus Faculty, Acad Council, Anthropology
- Senior Fellow, Emeritus, by Courtesy, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Co-Director, Osa and Golfito Initiative, Woods Institute, (2012-2018)
- Co-Director, Center for Responsible Travel, (2003-2014)
- Chair, Department of Anthropological Sciences, (2003-2006)
- Advisory Board Member, Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology, UCB, (2001-2003)
- Chair, Department of Anthropological Sciences, (1997-2000)
- Trustee, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, (1996-2002)
- Associate Chair, Department of Anthropology, (1992-1995)
- Director, Program in Human Biology, (1992-1995)
- Editor, Annual Review of Anthropology, (1991-2008)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- PROSE Award Silver Medallion for the book *Exuberant Life* (Oxford Press, 2021), Association of American Publishers (2022)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Board Member, Friends of the Charles Darwin Foundation, US 501 (c)(3) (2025 - present)
- Governing Member, Charles Darwin Foundation (2024 - present)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Center for Latin American Studies

LINKS

- Professor William Durham - Anthropology: <https://anthropology.stanford.edu/people/william-h-durham>

Research & Scholarship

PROJECTS

- The Osa-Golfito Initiative (INOGO) - Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University (January 1, 2011)
- The Galapagos Challenge - Anthropology, Stanford

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Parks and Peoples in Patagonia: Dilemmas of Protected Area Conservation: ANTHRO 25SC, HUMBIO 15SC (Sum)
- Parks, People, and the Politics of Conservation: MLA 390 (Win)

2024-25

- Evolution and Conservation in Galapagos: ANTHRO 10SC, HUMBIO 17SC (Sum)

2023-24

- Parks and Peoples: Challenges of Protected Area Conservation in East Africa: ANTHRO 12SC, HUMBIO 19SC (Sum)

2022-23

- Evolution: The Unity and Diversity of Life: ANTHRO 13SC (Sum)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Monica Nanez, Rush Trainer

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Exuberant Life: An Evolutionary Approach to Conservation in Galapagos**
Durham, W. H.
Oxford University Press.2021
- **Coevolution: Genes, Culture, and Human Diversity**
Durham, W. H.
Stanford University Press.1991
- **Urban wild meat markets in Cameroon: Actors and motives (vol 160, 106060, 2022) WORLD DEVELOPMENT**
Randolph, S. G., Ingram, D. J., Curran, L. M., Jones, J., Durham, W. H.
2023; 162
- **Community-as-pedagogy: Environmental leadership for youth in rural Costa Rica ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESEARCH**
Selby, S. T., Cruz, A. R., Ardoin, N. M., Durham, W. H.
2020
- **Place-based education for environmental behavior: a "funds of knowledge" and social capital approach ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESEARCH**
Cruz, A. R., Selby, S. T., Durham, W. H.
2018; 24 (5): 627–47
- **Using web and mobile technology to motivate pro-environmental action after a nature-based tourism experience JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**
Wheaton, M., Ardoin, N. M., Hunt, C., Schuh, J. S., Kresse, M., Menke, C., Durham, W.
2016; 24 (4): 594-615
- **Social Capital in Development: Bonds, Bridges, and Links in Osa and Golfito, Costa Rica HUMAN ORGANIZATION**
Hunt, C. A., Durham, W. H., Menke, C. M.
2015; 74 (3): 217–29
- **Nature-based tourism's impact on environmental knowledge, attitudes, and behavior: a review and analysis of the literature and potential future research JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**
Ardoin, N. M., Wheaton, M., Bowers, A. W., Hunt, C. A., Durham, W. H.
2015; 23 (6): 838-858
- **Can ecotourism deliver real economic, social, and environmental benefits? A study of the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**
Hunt, C. A., Durham, W. H., Driscoll, L., Honey, M.
2015; 23 (3): 339-357
- **Positive and Negative Effects of a Threatened Parrotfish on Reef Ecosystems CONSERVATION BIOLOGY**
McCauley, D. J., Young, H. S., Guevara, R., Williams, G. J., Power, E. A., Dunbar, R. B., Bird, D. W., Durham, W. H., Micheli, F.
2014; 28 (5): 1312-?
- **Pushing back against paper-park pushers – Reply to Craigie et al. Biological Conservation**
McCauley, D., Power, E., Bird, D., Dunbar, R., Durham, W., Micheli, F., Young, H.
2014; 173

- **Cruising for a bruising: challenges in sustainable capture of ecosystem service values from cruise ship tourism in Belize** *HANDBOOK ON THE ECONOMICS OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND BIODIVERSITY*
Seidl, A., Pratt, L., Honey, M., Durham, W. H., Slean, G., Bien, A.
edited by Nunes, P. A., Kumar, P., Dedeurwaerdere, T.
2014: 40–60
- **Conservation at the edges of the world** *BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION*
McCauley, D. J., Power, E. A., Bird, D. W., McInturff, A., Dunbar, R. B., Durham, W. H., Micheli, F., Young, H. S.
2013; 165: 139-145
- **Farm-scale adaptation and vulnerability to environmental stresses: Insights from winegrowing in Northern California** *GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE-HUMAN AND POLICY DIMENSIONS*
Nicholas, K. A., Durham, W. H.
2012; 22 (2): 483-494
- **The effect of land use change and ecotourism on biodiversity: a case study of Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica, from 1985 to 2008** *LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY*
Broadbent, E. N., Zambrano, A. M., Dirzo, R., Durham, W. H., Driscoll, L., Gallagher, P., Salters, R., Schultz, J., Colmenares, A., Randolph, S. G.
2012; 27 (5): 731-744
- **Shrouded in a fetishistic mist: commoditisation of sustainability in tourism** *International Journal of Tourism Anthropology*
Durham, W. H., Hunt, C. A.
2012
- **Ecotourism Impacts in the Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF TOURISM RESEARCH*
Almeyda, A. M., Broadbent, E. N., Wyman, M. S., Durham, W. H.
2010; 12 (6): 803-819
- **Anthropology and Environmental Policy: What Counts?** *AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST*
Charnley, S., Durham, W. H.
2010; 112 (3): 397-415
- **Ecotourism and Conservation in the Americas (Book Review)** *TOURISM MANAGEMENT*
Book Review Authored by: Clarke, A.
2010; 31 (3): 447-447
- **Fishing for Solutions: Ecotourism and Conservation in Galapagos National Park** *Ecotourism and conservation in the Americas*
Stronza, A., Durham, W. H.
2008; 7: 66-90
- **Ecotourism and Conservation in the Americas** *ECOTOURISM AND CONSERVATION IN THE AMERICAS*
edited by Stronza, A., Durham, W. H.
2008: 1-276
- **Fishing for Solutions: Ecotourism and Conservation in Galapagos National Park** *ECOTOURISM AND CONSERVATION IN THE AMERICAS*
Durham, W. H.
edited by Stronza, A., Durham, W. H.
2008: 66–90
- **ECOTOURISM AND CONSERVATION IN THE AMERICAS Preface** *ECOTOURISM AND CONSERVATION IN THE AMERICAS*
Stronza, A., Durham, W. H.
edited by Stronza, A., Durham, W. H.
2008: XII-XIV
- **The Elephant in the Room: Evolution in Anthropology** *General Anthropology*
Durham, W.
2007
- **Inbreeding, Incest and the Incest Taboo**
Wolf, A., Durham, W. H.

Stanford University Press.2006

- **Political ecology and environmental destruction in Latin America** *The social causes of environmental destruction in Latin America*
Durham, W. H.
University of Michigan Press.1995: 249–264
- **APPLICATIONS OF EVOLUTIONARY CULTURE THEORY** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF ANTHROPOLOGY*
DURHAM, W. H.
1992; 21: 331-355
- **INTERGROUP AGGRESSION IN CHIMPANZEES AND HUMANS** *CURRENT ANTHROPOLOGY*
Manson, J. H., Wrangham, R. W.
1991; 32 (4): 369-390
- **ADVANCES IN EVOLUTIONARY CULTURE THEORY** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF ANTHROPOLOGY*
DURHAM, W. H.
1990; 19: 187-210
- **Escaséz y Sobreviviencia en Centroamérica** *Scarcity and Survival in Central America*
Durham, W. H.
UCA Editores.1987
- **Testing the Malaria Hypothesis in West Africa** *Distribution and Evolution of Hemoglobin and Globin Loci*
Durham, W. H.
1983: 45-72
- **INTERACTIONS OF GENETIC AND CULTURAL-EVOLUTION - MODELS AND EXAMPLES** *HUMAN ECOLOGY*
DURHAM, W. H.
1982; 10 (3): 289-323
- **ADAPTIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL BEHAVIOR - REPLY** *HUMAN ECOLOGY*
DURHAM, W. H.
1977; 5 (1): 59-66
- **ADAPTIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL BEHAVIOR** *HUMAN ECOLOGY*
DURHAM, W. H.
1976; 4 (2): 89-121

PRESENTATIONS

- Symposiums, Lectures, and Addresses