

Stanford



Nia Symone Walker

Ph.D. Student in Biology, admitted Autumn 2017

Bio

BIO

I am a 5th year PhD Candidate at Stanford University under the mentorship of Dr. Stephen Palumbi, based at Hopkins Marine Station in Monterey, CA. I am generally interested in understanding how organisms function under normal and perturbed environmental conditions and in intense and variable environments. I currently study coral thermal resilience, looking at mechanistic links between heat resistance and recoverability. I primarily use genetics, genomics, and physiological assays to study resilience.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- B.A., Harvard College , Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, secondary (minor) in English (2016)

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

I am generally interested in better understanding how cnidarians (e.g. corals, sea anemones, and jellyfish) are able to function under normal and high stress conditions. Currently, I am primarily using genomics, genetics, and physiology techniques and applications to study climate change resilience in coral reefs. My current research focus is on not just identifying, but also challenging, what makes "strong" corals by studying both coral thermal resistance and recovery.

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Widespread variation in heat tolerance and symbiont load are associated with growth tradeoffs in the coral *Acropora hyacinthus* in Palau.** *eLife*
Cornwell, B., Armstrong, K., Walker, N. S., Lippert, M., Nestor, V., Golbuu, Y., Palumbi, S. R.
2021; 10
- **Differential Gene Expression during Substrate Probing in Larvae of the Caribbean Coral *Porites astreoides*.** *Molecular ecology*
Walker, N. S., Fernandez, R., Sneed, J. M., Paul, V. J., Giribet, G., Combsch, D.
2019