

# Veronica F. Frans



Stanford Science Fellow

National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Hopkins Marine Station · Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability · Stanford University

<https://profiles.stanford.edu/veronica-frans>

[VeroFrans@gmail.com](mailto:VeroFrans@gmail.com)

## AIM

To use my international experience, cultural awareness, and quantitative background to develop conservation management tools and advance ecological theory for global sustainability.

## KEYWORDS

Applied & Theoretical Ecology · Coupled Human & Natural Systems · Geography · Conservation · Sustainability · Community Engagement · Data Science · Science Communication · Environmental Ethics

## QUALIFICATIONS

- **Quantitative ecologist**, extensively trained in spatial and statistical modeling (species distributions, system dynamics, generalized linear mixed models, Bayesian hierarchical models, population models, time series, meta-analysis), opinion-based methods, data wrangling, text mining and text analysis.
- **Science communicator**, speaking and writing publicly on biodiversity conservation.
- **Worldwide experience in handling and identifying** fish, birds, and marine mammals.
- **Worked in various conditions**; international, marine, harsh climates; remote, isolated communities.
- **Excellent interpersonal skills**, gained through relations with key stakeholders and decision-makers, international research collaborations, and interviews to elicit knowledge.

## DEGREES

- **Dual Ph.D.: Fisheries & Wildlife · Ecology, Evolution, & Behavior**  
Michigan State University (MSU), Aug. 2024, East Lansing, MI
- **Dual Master of Science: International Nature Conservation**  
Georg-August-Universität-Göttingen, Jan. 2015, Göttingen, Germany  
Lincoln University, Jan. 2015, Christchurch, New Zealand
- **Bachelor of Science: Environmental Science (Spanish minor) / Bachelor of Arts: French**  
Messiah University, May 2007, Mechanicsburg, PA

## CERTIFICATES

**Environmental & Social System Modeling**, Graduate Certification, MSU College of Social Sciences, 2020  
**Spatial Ecology**, Graduate Certification, MSU College of Natural Resources, Dec. 2019  
**Environmental Analyst**, Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies, Aug. 2008

## COMPUTER SKILLS

**Geographic Information Systems** (ArcGIS Pro, Python, R, QGIS); **Data Management** (R, Excel, ATLAS); **Statistics** (R, Python, C++, STATISTICA); **Ecological/Social System Modeling** (R, Maxent, STELLA, Python, Mathematica, JAGS, WinBUGS, NetLogo); **Agent-Based Modeling** (Python, NetLogo); **Data Visualization** (R, ArcGIS Pro, Python, Mathematica, BioRender, Adobe InDesign, Inkscape); **Cloud and Hyper Computing** (Microsoft Azure, MSU High Performance Computing Center)

## STUDY ABROAD

**NILS Japanese Language School**, Fukuoka, Japan, Jan. - Mar. 2011; Feb. - Mar. 2012  
**Bishop Heber Au Sable Institute**, Tiruchirappalli, India, Dec. - Jan. 2006; GPA 4.0/4.0  
**Universidad San Francisco de Quito**, Quito, Ecuador, Aug. - Dec. 2005; GPA 3.80/4.0  
**Université Marc Bloch**, Strasbourg, France, Jan. - May 2005; GPA 3.94/4.0

## LANGUAGES

Proficient in **English** (native), **Spanish** (DELE-B2), and **French** (DELFB-B2) · Advanced **Brazilian Portuguese** · Intermediate in **Japanese** (JLPT-N4) and **German**

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Stanford | Doerr**  
School of Sustainability

### **STANFORD SCIENCE FELLOW & NSF POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW**

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY, HOPKINS MARINE STATION**

**Pacific Grove, California**

**Sep. 2024 - present**

- Postdoctoral training with the purpose of developing new directions in foundational scientific research and advancing and bridging disciplines in the physical, mathematical, and life sciences.



**Au Sable Institute**  
of Environmental Studies

### **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

**AU SABLE INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

**Mancelona, Michigan**

**Jun. - Jul. 2021; Jun - Jul. 2022**

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) instructor for *Land & Water Resources*.
- Introduced students to GIS, global positioning systems, and spatial data analysis and visualization, using custom-designed lab assignments in ESRI ArcGIS Pro.



**Department of  
Conservation**  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

### **CONSERVATION CONSULTANT**

**NEW ZEALAND DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

**Wellington, New Zealand (remote)**

**Feb. 2019 - Jun. 2019**

- Initiated and completed a project creating an integrated species distribution modeling database (iSDMdb) for decision-making and management of the New Zealand sea lion (*Phocarctos hookeri*).
- Interactive map: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/predicted-nz-sea-lions-sites>



**Saltwater Inc.**

### **NOAA FISHERIES OBSERVER (NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE)**

**SALTWATER, INC.**

**Anchorage, AK Apr. 2009 - Nov. 2013; Apr. - Jun. 2015; Aug. 2016 - Dec. 2017**

- Certified for sampling in the U.S. North Pacific Groundfish Fisheries Program.
- Sampled for species composition on commercial longline, trawl, pot, and factory vessels throughout the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea (**> 800 sea days**).
- Constructed sound sampling designs to sort, weigh and collect specimens for species of interest and estimate total catch, sending data via ATLAS for analysis.



**ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC**

### **MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

**SOUTH ATLANTIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Stanley, Falkland Islands**

**Aug. 2015 - Jun. 2016**

- Collated, mapped, and compared historical and contemporary occurrence data on baleen whales in the Falkland Islands' waters.
- Interviewed locals and marine users for anecdotal evidence on whale presence.
- Modeled baleen whale distribution for MSP and government decision-making.
- Mapped locations became **the world's first Key Biodiversity Area for sei whales**.
- Assisted in GPS-tagging and tracking of black-browed albatross, whale stranding data collection (necropsies), and writing and editing scientific manuscripts.



**Hong Kong  
Dolphin Conservation Society**  
香港海豚保育學會

### **RESEARCH INTERN**

**HONG KONG DOLPHIN CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

**Hong Kong, SAR China**

**Nov. 2012 - Feb. 2013**

- Conducted line-transect vessel surveys for distribution/abundance of the Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*) and Finless Porpoise

(*Neophocaena phocaenoides*), as well as acoustic surveys and land-based theodolite tracking.

- Recorded effort data and took photos for individual photo-identification.
- Submitted a weekly report of activities and maintained the internship blog website.



**PROGRAM ASSOCIATE**

**SUN MOUNTAIN INTERNATIONAL (SMTN)**

**Quito, Ecuador**

**Aug. 2005 - Jan. 2006; Oct. 2006; Jun. 2007**

- Prepared proposals, environmental impact assessment workshops, and reports for non-profit organizations (e.g., CARE, USAID/LAC, Save the Children, World Vision).



**MANAGER'S ASSISTANT**

**VERTE VALLÉE: LA GRIVELIÈRE**

**Vieux-Habitants, Guadeloupe**

**Jan. 2007**

- Assisted in ecotourism management and restaurant service on a coffee plantation.



**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

**MESSIAH UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**Mechanicsburg, PA**

**Jan. - May; Sep. - Dec. 2004**

- Studied the effects of *Bt* corn pollen on lacewing (*Chrysoperla plorabunda*) reproduction rates.
- Studied Panama golden frog (*Atelopus zeteki*) morphology and photo identification.



**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

**UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE INSTITUTE OF MARINE STUDIES**

**Calabash Caye and Belize City, Belize**

**Jun. - Aug. 2004**

- Collected, separated, and dried leaf litter of 3 mangrove species on 4 islands in Ambergris Caye, Belize for CARICOMP calculations.

**PROFESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS**

2. **50 Voices – A Science Collective for Endangered Species** ([esavoices.org](http://esavoices.org))  
LM Guzman, M Williamson, C Hickman, JJ Apodaca, S Goldenberg **Oct. 2024 - present**
1. **Merging Statistical Theory and Analyses at the Interface of Microbial and 'Macrobial' Ecology**  
National Science Foundation. M Leibold, P Peres-Neto, E Thébault **Aug. 2022 - present**

**GRANTS**

4. **National Science Foundation (NSF) Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology (PRFB) Jun. 2024**  
National Science Foundation Directorate for Biological Sciences (NSF-BIO)
3. **New Zealand Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai* Feb. 2019**  
Suitable habitats for sea lions: mapping and restoration
2. **National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP) Apr. 2018**  
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
1. **Falkland Islands Government Environmental Studies Budget Oct. 2015**  
Predicting baleen whale distributions for management using species distribution modelling

**FELLOWSHIPS**

10. **Dissertation Completion Fellowship Mar. 2024**  
The Graduate School, Michigan State University
9. **Academic Achievement Graduate Assistantship Aug. 2022**  
The Graduate School, Michigan State University

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| 8. | <b>Kellogg Biological Station Graduate Student Research Fellowship</b><br>Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University            | Apr. 2022 |
| 7. | <b>Harvey Fellowship</b><br>The 28twelve Foundation  | Mar. 2022 |
| 6. | <b>Ecology, Evolution, &amp; Behavior Summer Fellowship</b><br>Ecology, Evolution, & Behavior Program, Michigan State University           | Mar. 2022 |
| 5. | <b>Vera M. Wallach Graduate Fellowship</b><br>Dept. Fisheries & Wildlife, Michigan State University  | Mar. 2022 |
| 4. | <b>Cloud Computing Fellowship</b><br>Institute for Cyber-Enabled Research, Michigan State University                                       | Aug. 2021 |
| 3. | <b>Kellogg Biological Station Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Fellowship</b><br>Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University | Apr. 2020 |
| 2. | <b>Au Sable Graduate Research Fellowship</b><br>Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies  | Apr. 2020 |
| 1. | <b>Michigan State University (MSU) Enrichment Fellowship</b><br>The Graduate School, Michigan State University                             | May 2018  |

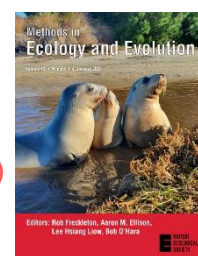
### PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

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|----|---|-----------|
| 9. | <b>Best Speaker Award</b><br>International Workshop on Geography and Sustainability   | Oct. 2025 |
| 8. | <b>ASA Early Career Scientist Award</b><br>American Scientific Affiliation  | Jul. 2025 |
| 7. | <b>Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology Award</b><br>International Association for Landscape Ecology – North America                              | Apr. 2025 |
| 6. | <b>Jianguo (Jack) Liu Graduate Award in Sustainability</b><br>The Graduate School, Michigan State University  | Jun. 2024 |
| 5. | <b>Outstanding Publication on New Zealand Ecology</b><br>New Zealand Ecological Society   | Oct. 2023 |
| 4. | <b>Wildlife Publication Award - Student Paper Shortlist</b><br>2022 Annual Publication Awards, The Wildlife Society                                 | May 2022  |
| 3. | <b>Outstanding Publication in Environmental Science and Policy</b><br>Environmental Science and Policy Program, Michigan State University           | Apr. 2022 |
| 2. | <b>Modelling Complex Ecological Dynamics (MCED) Award (1<sup>st</sup> Prize)</b><br>GfÖ, The Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland | Dec. 2017 |
| 1. | <b>NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Award</b><br>International Association for Landscape Ecology   | Feb. 2016 |

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

—Lead Author—

12. **Frans VF** (2024). It takes a village to raise a science communicator. [Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement](#) 28(3):140-156.
11. **Frans VF**, Liu J (2024). Gaps and opportunities in modelling human influence on species distributions in the Anthropocene. [Nature Ecology and Evolution](#) 8:1368-1377. [32 citations; 9 news stories - [Altmetrics: top 1%](#)]
  - **Award: 2025 Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology**
10. **Frans VF**, Augé AA, Fyfe J, Zhang Y, McNally N, Edelhoff H, Balkenhol N, Engler JO (2022). Integrated SDM database: enhancing the relevance and utility of species distribution models in conservation management. [Methods in Ecology and Evolution](#) 13:243-261. [36 citations; 76 news stories, [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#), [Tagesspiegel](#), [CNN](#) - [Altmetrics: top 1%](#)]
  - **Awards:**
    - 2023 Outstanding Publication on New Zealand Ecology**
    - 2022 Outstanding Publication in Environmental Science and Policy**
    - 2022 The Wildlife Society Wildlife Publication Award (Student Paper Shortlist)**
    - 2022 Wiley Top Downloaded Article in Methods in Ecology and Evolution**



[journal cover feature](#)

- **Also in:** Key Themes in Ecology – A Cross-Journal Virtual Special Issue in Support of the British Ecological Society 2022 Annual Meeting. Ecology and Evolution.
9. **Frans VF**, Augé AA, Edelhoff H, Erasmi S, Balkenhol N, Engler JO (2018). Quantifying apart what belongs together: a multi-state species distribution modelling framework for species using distinct habitats. [Methods in Ecology and Evolution](#) 9:98-108. [42 citations; 19 news stories - [Altmetrics: top 1%](#)]
  8. **Frans VF**, Augé AA (2016). Use of local ecological knowledge to investigate endangered baleen whale recovery in the Falkland Islands. [Biological Conservation](#) 202:217-137. [38 citations; 21 news stories, [Popular Science](#) - [Altmetrics: top 1%](#)]



—Coauthor—

7. Cai M, Li Y, Colbry D, **Frans VF**, Zhang Y (2024). Seesus: a social, environmental, and economic sustainability classifier for Python. [Journal of Open Source Software](#) 9(96), 6244. [1 citation]
6. D’Andrea R, Khattar G, Koffel T, **Frans VF**, Bittleston L, Cuellar-Gempeler C (2024). Reciprocal inhibition and competitive hierarchy cause negative biodiversity-ecosystem function relationships. [Ecology Letters](#) 27:e14356. [9 citations]
5. Li Y, **Frans VF**, Song Y, Cai M, Zhang Y, Liu J (2023). SDGdetector: an R-based text mining tool for quantifying efforts toward Sustainable Development Goals. [Journal of Open Source Software](#) 8(84):5124. [7 citations]
4. Kapsar K, **Frans VF**, Brigham L, Liu J (2022). The metacoupled Arctic: Human-nature interactions across local to global scales as drivers of sustainability. [Ambio](#) 51:2061-2078. [10 citations]
3. Wang Z, Li X, Li Y, **Frans VF**, Yan J, Zhang L (2020). A network perspective for mapping freshwater service flows at the watershed scale. [Ecosystem Services](#) 45:101129. [48 citations]
2. Wang J, Chen X, Liu Z, **Frans VF**, Xu Z, Qiu X, Xu F, Li Y (2019). Assessing the water and carbon footprint of hydropower stations at a national scale. [Science of the Total Environment](#) 676:595-612. [50 citations]
1. Augé AA, Otley H, Rendell N, **Frans VF** (2018). Spatial distribution of cetacean strandings in the Falkland Islands to define monitoring opportunities. [Journal of Cetacean Research and Management](#) 19:1-7. [9 citations]

### GOVERNMENT REPORTS

3. **Frans VF** (2019). Suitable habitats for New Zealand sea lions: mapping and restoration. *Prepared for:* [New Zealand Department of Conservation](#), Wellington, New Zealand.
2. **Frans VF**, Augé AA (2016). Marine Spatial Planning for the Falkland Islands: Predicting baleen whale distributions for management using species distribution modelling. *Prepared for:* [Falkland Islands Government Environmental Committee](#), Stanley, Falkland Islands.
1. Augé AA, **Frans VF** (2016). Filling an important ecological gap for efficient planning: Investigating whale recovery and mapping whale distribution around the Falkland Islands using best available knowledge. *Prepared for:* [Falkland Islands Government Environmental Committee](#), Stanley, Falkland Islands.

### JOURNALISM

7. **Frans VF** (2025). Finding peace in the midst of Climate Anxiety. [BioLogos](#). Sep. 23, 2025.
6. **Frans VF**, Liu J (2022). Protecting 30% of Earth’s surface for nature means thinking about connections near and far. [The Conversation](#). Dec. 2, 2022.
5. **Frans VF** (2022). When endangered species recover, humans may need to make room for them – and it’s not always easy. [The Conversation](#). Jan. 6, 2022. [2 citations]
4. **Frans VF** (2016). Recuperación de las ballenas en las Falklands, y una explosión de avistamientos. [Merco Press](#). May 11, 2016.
3. **Frans VF** (2016). Whale recovery in Falklands and an explosion of sightings. [Merco Press](#). May 4, 2016
2. **Frans VF** (2016). Whales returning indicates survey. [Penguin News](#) 27(42):7-7. Apr. 29, 2016.
1. **Frans VF** (2015). Mapping historical whale sightings. [Penguin News](#) 27(6):8-8. Oct. 23, 2015.

## THESIS & DISSERTATION

2. **Frans VF** (2024). Advancing ecological niche theory for global sustainability: a coupled human and natural systems perspective. **Ph.D. Dissertation**, Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA.
1. **Frans VF** (2015). Recolonization of the New Zealand sea lion (*Phocarctos hookeri*): using predictive niche models to identify suitable breeding habitats for management. **MSc. Thesis**, Georg-August-Universität-Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany.

## SOFTWARE

2. Cai M, Li Y, Colbry D, **Frans VF**, Zhang Y (2024). seesus: a social, environmental, and economic sustainability classifier. [PyPI](#). [6,397 downloads as of Nov. 9, 2025]
1. Li Y, **Frans VF**, Song Y, Cai M, Zhang Y, Liu J (2023). SDGdetector: Detect SDGs and targets in text. [CRAN R-project](#). [7,007 downloads as of Nov. 9, 2025]

## DATASETS

3. **Frans VF** (2021). Predicted suitable sites for NZ sea lions. [New Zealand Department of Conservation](#).
2. **Frans VF**, Augé AA (2016). Whale Sighting Distribution (1990-2015) in inshore waters of the Falkland Islands. [South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute](#).
1. **Frans VF**, Augé AA (2016). Whale Sightings (1940-2015) in inshore waters of the Falkland Islands. [South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute](#).

## TV/NEWS COVERAGE

16. [Mediapart](#). Biodiversité : les espèces se déplacent, les scientifiques sont perplexes. Nov. 10, 2024.
15. [The Chimes](#). New Zealand sea lion conservation: A Q&A with ecologist Veronica Frans. Feb. 19, 2024.
14. [Root & Vine Magazine](#). Agape love for creation: an ecologist's call. Nov. 14, 2023.
13. [Otago Daily Times](#). New tool to predict, plan for sea lion colony sites. Oct. 3, 2022.
12. [The Conversation](#). Making room for wildlife: 4 essential reads. Jun. 6, 2022.
11. [CNN](#). 'Babysitting' the next generation of New Zealand's endangered sea lions. *Travel*. May 3, 2022.
10. [Tagesspiegel](#). Seelöwen-Kinderstube auf dem Golfplatz. *Wissen*. Dec. 9, 2021.
9. [Little News Ears](#). Sea Lions and People Must Make Friends. *World Kidlines with Paxton*. Dec. 5, 2021.
8. [Washington Post](#). 'Cheeky' sea lions are returning to New Zealand's shores — and locals are learning to share the coast. *World*. Nov. 13, 2021.
7. [Smithsonian Magazine](#). After Being Hunted to Near-Extinction, New Zealand Sea Lions Are Reclaiming the Mainland. *Smart News*. Nov. 11, 2021.
6. [Natur](#). Platz für die seltensten Seelöwen gesucht. *Umwelt+Natur*. Nov. 10, 2021.
5. [New York Times](#). New Zealand's Sea Lions Are Back, and Crashing Golf Courses and Soccer Matches. *Science, Trilobites*. Nov. 9, 2021.
4. [BioLogos](#). Veronica Frans: seeking answers around the world. Feb. 03, 2021.
3. [Newsletter of the American Scientific Affiliation and Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation](#). Profile of Transformation: Veronica Frans. Summer 2020, 62(2):6.
2. [The Bridge](#). Traveling scientist pursues PhD. Summer 2018, 10(1):27.
1. [Falkland Islands TV \(FITV\)](#). *Falklands in Focus*, Stanley, Falkland Islands. May 16, 2016. Television. Topic: washed up sei whale at Cape Dolphin. 2016.

## PROFILES

### TEXTBOOKS

1. [Environmental Science: Caring for the Creator's World](#). McReynolds M, McReynolds K. *Creation Caregiver: Veronica Frans*. Classical Academic Press, 2025.

## INTERVIEWS

### YOUTUBE/PODCASTS

2. [Uncommon Pursuit](#). Frans VF, Weitnauer C. *Why Should Christians Care for Creation?* Jun. 14, 2022.
1. [Language of God Podcast](#). Hoogerwerf C, Stump J, Bouma-Prediger S, Lindroth R, Frans VF, Wirzba N, Miller M, Roles S. *Creation Groans | World of Wounds*, Jun. 16, 2022.

## PANELS

5. **ASA 2025 Meeting.** Schwartz D, Ding B, Dube B, Fung E, Frans VF, Ravichandran M. *Faith and work for science: flourishing in challenging times*. Lakewood, Colorado, Jul. 19, 2025.
4. **ASA/CSCA 2023 Meeting.** Strickland D, Frans VF. *Early Career Panel with 2018 Nobel Laureate Donna Strickland*. Toronto, Canada, Jul. 29, 2023.
3. **Christian Women in Science.** Curry J, Best V, Billman L, Chappell D, Frans VF, Miller RD, Toronchuk J. *Women in the American Scientific Affiliation: Past, Present, and Future*. ASA 2022 Meeting. San Diego, California, Jul. 31, 2022.
2. **BioLogos Faith & Science 2022.** Hayhoe K, Frans VF. *Climate Change: Student Session*. Grand Rapids, Michigan, Apr. 11, 2022.
1. **BioLogos 2021 Creation Care Summit.** Frans VF, Bouma-Prediger S, Stump J. *Are humans above nature?* Grand Rapids, Michigan, Oct. 9, 2021.

## INVITED TALKS

### INVITED SEMINARS

10. **University of Massachusetts Amherst (upcoming).** Humans' place in nature and niches: updating ecological theories and methods to build a sustainable world. Amherst, Massachusetts.
9. **Shanghai Jiao Tong University (2025).** Humans' place in nature and niches: updating ecological theories and methods to build a sustainable world. Shanghai, China.
8. **Beijing Normal University (2025).** Humans' place in nature and niches: updating ecological theories and methods to build a sustainable world. Beijing, China.
7. **University of California Berkeley (2024).** Humans' place in nature and niches: updating ecological methods, applications, and theory for coexistence and sustainability. Berkeley, California.
6. **Calvin University (2024).** Sea lions crossing: planning for human-wildlife coexistence in the strangest of places. Biology and Geography Seminar Series. Grand Rapids, Michigan.
5. **Calvin University (2024).** The state of species distribution modeling in a human-dominated world. Math and Statistics Seminar Series. Grand Rapids, Michigan.
4. **Michigan State University STEM Ambassadors Program (2023).** Science communication in a faith-based world. East Lansing, Michigan.
3. **Messiah University (2022).** Making space for sea lions: planning for coexistence in the strangest of places. Biological Sciences Seminar Series. Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.
2. **Anglia Ruskin University (2020).** What local ecological knowledge can tell us about whales in the Falkland Islands. Biology Seminar Series. Cambridge, England (virtual).
1. **University of Alaska Fairbanks (2016).** A whale of a tale: using local ecological knowledge to investigate baleen whale recovery and distribution around the Falkland Islands., Fairbanks, Alaska.

### INVITED CONFERENCES

3. **BioLogos 2023 Creation Care Summit (2023).** Unexpected neighbors: biodiversity and us. Grand Rapids, Michigan.
2. **BioLogos 2021 Creation Care Summit (2021).** Unexpected neighbors: biodiversity and us. Grand Rapids, Michigan.
1. **American Scientific Affiliation (2020).** Student Keynote. State of the ASA.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

12. **International Workshop on Geography and Sustainability (2025).** Frans VF, Liu J. Metacoupled species distribution models: building a new frontier for a fast-growing world. Xi'an, China.
  - **Award: 2025 Best Speaker Award.**
11. **Stanford University (2025).** Frans VF. Species distribution modeling for real-world applications and human-wildlife coexistence. Cultural Resources and Sustainability Conference. Pacific Grove, California.
10. **Stanford Science Fellows Symposium (2025).** Frans VF, Carter NH, Micheli F. Predicting human-wildlife interactions in a changing world. Stanford University. Stanford, California.

9. **International Association for Landscape Ecology - North America** (2025). Frans VF, Liu J. Metacoupled species distribution models: proposing a new frontier. Raleigh, North Carolina.
8. **Ecological Society of America** (2024). Frans VF, Peres-Neto P, Thébault E, Leibold MA. Inferring process from patterns in metacommunities: why is it so problematic? Long Beach, California.
7. **International Association for Landscape Ecology - North America** (2024). Frans VF, Liu J. Modeling human influence on species distributions: gaps in theory, methods, and applications for the Anthropocene. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
6. **Kellogg Biological Station LTER** (2020). Frans VF. New era, new niche, new theory: revising ecological niche theory to account for human influence in the Anthropocene. *Kellogg Biological Station LTER Graduate Fellow Lightning Talks*. Hickory Corners, Michigan.
5. **New Zealand Department of Conservation** (2019). Frans VF. New Zealand sea lion habitat mapping: final report. *Conservation Services Programme (CSP) and New Zealand sea lion Threat Management Plan (TMP) - Technical Working Group (October 2019)*. Wellington, New Zealand.
4. **New Zealand Department of Conservation** (2019). Frans VF. Finding suitable habitats for the recolonizing New Zealand sea lion. *CSP and New Zealand sea lion TMP - Technical Working Group (March 2019)*. Wellington, New Zealand.
3. **R-Ladies East Lansing** (2018). Frans VF. Kickstarting a literature review with R. *R and Data Science Lightning Talks*. East Lansing, Michigan.
2. **International Association for Landscape Ecology** (2016). Frans VF, Augé AA, Engler JO, Edelhoff H. A whale of a tale: using local knowledge to predict baleen whale distribution around the Falkland Islands. Asheville, North Carolina.
1. **International Association for Landscape Ecology World Congress** (2015). Frans VF, Augé AA, Engler JO, Edelhoff H, Chilvers BL, Erasmi S, Balkenhol N. Recolonization of the New Zealand sea lion (*Phocarctos hookeri*): using Maxent to identify suitable breeding habitats for management. Portland, Oregon.

## HOSTED WORKSHOPS

### DATA AND CODING IN R

5. [R-Ladies East Lansing](#), Data viz 2.0. East Lansing, MI. Feb. 23, 2020.
4. [R-Ladies East Lansing](#), Data wrangling and visualization. East Lansing, MI. Oct. 21, 2019.
3. **Social Science Data Analytics Initiative**, Data visualization in R. East Lansing, MI. Jun. 24, 2019.
2. **R-Ladies East Lansing**, Introduction to data visualization: GGPlot2. East Lansing, MI. Oct. 8, 2018.
1. **R-Ladies East Lansing**, Introduction to tidy data with R. East Lansing, MI. Nov. 5, 2018.

### CAREER MENTORSHIP

3. **Emerging Scholars Network**, Flourishing as a person. ASA 2022 Meeting, San Diego. CA. Jul. 2022.
2. **American Scientific Affiliation & Emerging Scholars Network**, Growing in your vocation as a science professional, Online Student & Early Career Mini-Conference. Virtual. Jul. 2020.
1. **Christian Women in Science**, Falling for God through your vocation. CWIS Live. Virtual. Oct. 2020.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

### PRESENTATIONS

4. **Association of Christian Schools International Science Fair** (2022). Science & Faith Panel: Picture a Scientist with BioLogos. Azusa Pacific University.
3. **Chamber of Commerce** (2016). Return of the whales in the Falkland Islands' waters. Stanley, Falkland Islands.
2. **Geospatial Data Visualization Workshop for High School Students** (2015). From a big city to a big world: opportunities in science. City University of New York.
1. **Friends of Fukuoka** (2012). アラスカの漁業 [Alaskan Fishing]. Fukuoka, Japan.

### BLOGS

5. [Methods Blog](#). Frans VF. Let's get real: translating species distribution models into conservation practice. Nov. 10, 2021.

4. [Conservation Blog](#). Frans VF. The unique behaviour of New Zealand sea lions. New Zealand Department of Conservation. Nov. 9, 2021.
3. [Methods Blog](#). Engler JO, Frans VF, Augé AA. Multi-state species distribution models: what to do when species need multiple habitats. Sep. 4, 2017.
2. [SAERI Blog](#). Frans VF. Marine Spatial Planning: Mapping historical whale sightings to manage the future! May 3, 2016.
1. [SAERI Blog](#). Frans VF. Marine Spatial Planning: Mapping historical whale sightings to help manage the future. Nov. 20, 2015.

## POPULAR SCIENCE

### MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKING

2. [BioLogos](#). Frans VF. Deb Haarsma's Presidential Celebration. Nov. 20, 2025.
1. [American Scientific Affiliation](#). Frans VF. Be bold. ASA Annual Meeting. Nov. 20, 2022.

### CREATIVE WRITING

2. [Emerging Scholars Network](#). Frans VF. Be bold: a lesson from the gentle gentoos. Nov. 20, 2022.
1. [Climate Vigil Songs Worship Guide](#). Frans VF. Music album companion: Water to Wine p. 24. Aug 2022.

## PEER REVIEW SERVICES

*Austral Ecology (1); Biodiversity and Conservation (2); Biological Conservation (2); Ecography (1); Ecological Applications (2); Environmental Management (1); Journal of Applied Ecology (2); Journal of Avian Biology (12); Methods in Ecology and Evolution (1)*

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

*American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); American Scientific Affiliation (ASA); British Ecological Society; Ecological Society of America (ESA); International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE); International Biogeography Society (IBS); Society for Conservation Biology; The Wildlife Society*

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ATTENDED CONFERENCES

International Workshop on Geography and Sustainability 2025; ASA Meeting 2019-2023, 2025; ESA 2024; IALE North America 2016, 2024, 2025; BioLogos Creation Care Summit 2021, 2023; MSU Graduate Academic Conference 2019-2022; BioLogos Faith & Science 2022; IALE World 2015

### ATTENDED WORKSHOPS

- **Institut Natura e Teoria en Pirenèus** **2025**  
2025 INTP Autumn School: Syntheses in theoretical community ecology
- **Stanford University** **2025**  
The science of being memorable and influencing decisions
- **Michigan State University** **2018; 2021**  
Broader impacts of research; Community-engaged scholarship
- **The International Biogeography Society** **2021**  
Bayesian additive regression tree (BART) species distribution models
- **USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center** **2020**  
Spatial capture-recapture modeling (oSCR)
- **Institute of Environmental Change and Society** **2020**  
Introduction to Generalized Additive Models (GAM) with R and mgcv
- **International Association for Landscape Ecology** **2015; 2016**  
Model Data Preparation; Introduction to HexSim; Species Distribution Modeling (SDM)

### GRADUATE-LEVEL COURSES IN MODELING AND STATISTICS

- **Michigan State University** **2018 - 2022**

Bayesian inference Monte Carlo · Geosimulation (agent-based modeling in Python) · Introduction to meta-analysis in ecology · Modeling natural resource systems · Modern statistical models in ecology · Population & community ecology · Resource competition theory seminar · Spatial data analysis · Spatial ecology · Statistical methods in ecology and evolution I & II · Statistical methods in temporal ecology · Theoretical population and community ecology

- **Georg-August-University Göttingen** **2012 - 2015**  
Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning · Ecological modeling · Ecological models - from populations to networks
- **Lincoln University** **2012 - 2015**  
Advanced geographic information systems · Research methods in ecology

## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

### ***PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES***

- **Vice President**, Christian Women in Science **2021 - present**
- **Executive Director Search Committee**, American Scientific Affiliation **2022**

### ***COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT***

- **Voice**, BioLogos Speakers Bureau, Grand Rapids, Michigan **2022 - present**
- **Science Advisor**, The Cross Impact, Lagos, Nigeria **2019 - 2020**

### ***CAMPUS ACTIVITIES***

- **Fisheries & Wildlife Representative**, Council of Graduate Students, MSU **2019 - 2022**
- **Associate**, Social Science Data Analytics Initiative, Michigan State University **2019 - 2021**
- **Workshop Co-organizer**, R-Ladies East Lansing, Michigan State University **2018 - 2020**
- **Director**, Statistics in the Community, Michigan State University **2019 - 2020**