

# LAURA BHATTI CATANO

## Curriculum Vitae

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WORK ADDRESS: Florida International University (FIU)  
Department of Biological Sciences  
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North Miami, Florida 33181

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## PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Behavioral, physiological and neuro-ecology, marine community ecology, predator-prey interactions, coral reef biology, marine conservation, biology of social and mating systems

## EDUCATION

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- 2014 Ph.D. Biology, Florida International University, Miami, FL  
Dissertation Title: "Non-consumptive effects of predators in coral reef communities and the indirect consequences of Marine Protected Areas"  
Advisor: Deron Burkepile Ph.D.
- 2000 B.S. Biology, (*cum laude*), Psychology minor, Canisius College, Buffalo, NY  
Thesis Title: "Differences in age and sex distribution of migration in the Red-Eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) based on 29 years of Television Tower Mortality"  
Advisor: Sara R. Morris Ph.D.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### *Teaching*

- 2014 *Certified Teaching Assistant*, Center for the Advancement of Teaching  
Certified through professional development program to instill a strong focus on student learning into aspects of teaching; attended workshops on course design, classroom assessment techniques, active learning methods and developing assignments that generate learning
- 2013 – 2014 *Guest Lecturer*, FIU  
Instructor for "Marine Biology and Oceanography" lectures during professor absences
- 2009 – 2010 *Teaching Assistant*, FIU  
Instructor for "General Biology I & II" laboratories
- 2008 – 2009 *Adjunct Instructor*, Cuyahoga Community College  
Instructor for "Biological Chemistry" lecture and laboratory

### *Supervision and Mentorship*

- 2010 – *Marine Biology Advisor*, FIU  
Advised undergraduate students, reviewed graduation certifications, developed and implemented educational seminars
- 2009 – *Research Supervisor*, FIU  
Mentored 16 volunteer undergraduate research assistants, over half of which were underrepresented minorities

## **Research**

- 2002 – 2004 *Research Assistant*, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania  
Assisted with field and laboratory research investigating habitat preference of small mammals in disturbed agricultural areas, zebra mussel invasion of Lake Erie and thermoregulation and basking behavior of freshwater turtles
- 1997 – 2000 *Research Assistant*, Canisius College  
Assisted with research on migratory behavior of passerines using 30 years television tower mortality data

## **Outreach**

- 2013 *Skype in the Classroom Educator*, Aquarius Reef Base  
Led elementary and high school students from 16 schools across the US on virtual field trips in the world's only underwater research station
- 2010 *Instructor*, Partnership in Academic Communities  
Developed and led laboratory and field activities for high achieving high school seniors interested in pursuing careers in the STEM disciplines
- 2008 – 2009 *Animal and Education Department Manager*, Sarasota Jungle Gardens  
Developed animal care protocol; ran summer camp for elementary school children; spearheaded volunteer and outreach education programs
- 2006 – 2008 *Education Instructor*, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo  
Instructor for elementary and high school student in formal educational programs in zoo atmosphere; developed and led professional development courses for middle and high school teachers' continuing education
- 2005 – 2008 *Director*, Croc Encounters Wildlife Center  
Director and co-founder of grassroots non-profit wildlife sanctuary; operations management; fundraising; employee/volunteer development and supervision; designed the park's outreach and onsite education programs

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Peer-reviewed**

- 2014 **Catano LB**, Shantz A and Burkepile DE. Predation risk, competition, and territorial damselfishes as drivers of herbivore foraging on Caribbean coral reefs. In press. Marine Ecology Progress Series.
- 2013 Burkepile DE, Allgeier JE, Shantz A, Pritchard CE, Lemoine NP, **Bhatti LH**, Layman C. (2013) Nutrient supply from fishes facilitates macroalgae and suppresses corals in a Caribbean coral reef ecosystem. **Scientific Reports** 3:1493, 1-9.
- 2003 Morris, SR, Clark A., **Bhatti L.**, & Glasgow J. (2003) Television tower mortality of migrant birds in Western New York and Youngstown, Ohio. **Northeastern Naturalist** 10:1, 67-76.

### **Media Coverage**

- 2013 BBC Discovery Programming on World Service, Interview with Helen Scales – “Life Sub Aquatic”
- 2013 NBC's Today Show Interview – “Re-opening Aquarius Reef Base”
- 2013 CBS This Morning – “Inside the world's only underwater research lab”

## PRESENTATIONS

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- 2014 **Catano, L.**, D. Burkepile. Reefscapes of fear: evaluating the effect of predation risk on reef herbivore foraging behavior within a seascape context. 43<sup>rd</sup> Benthic Ecology Meeting, Jacksonville, Florida.
- 2013 **Bhatti, L.**, D. Burkepile, The trophic ecology of coral reef fishes in protected and unprotected areas of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. 98th Ecological Society of America Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2013 **Bhatti, L.**, D. Burkepile, Variation in the trophic ecology of reef herbivores in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. 42nd Benthic Ecology Meeting, Savannah, Georgia.
- 2012 **Bhatti, L.**, D. Burkepile, Indirect consequences of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as revealed through Stable Isotope Analysis of coral reef fishes. 97th Ecological Society of America Meeting, Portland, Oregon.
- 2012 Burkepile, D., J. Allgeier, A. Shantz, C. Pritchard, N. Lemoine, **L. Bhatti**, C. Layman, Nutrient supply from fishes impacts phase shifts in a Caribbean coral reef ecosystem. 97th Ecological Society of America Meeting, Portland, Oregon.
- 2012 Burkepile, D., J. Allgeier, A. Shantz, C. Pritchard, N. Lemoine, **L. Bhatti**, C. Layman, Mesocarnivorous fishes facilitate macroalgae and suppress corals in a Caribbean reef ecosystem. 12th International Coral Reef Symposium, Cairns, Queensland, Australia.
- 2012 **Bhatti, L.**, Marine Protected Areas and their effect on the health of coral reefs. Invited Presentation at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Boca Raton, Florida.
- 2012 **Bhatti, L.**, D. Burkepile, Indirect consequences of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as revealed through Stable Isotope Analysis of coral reef fishes. 41st Benthic Ecology Meeting, Norfolk, Virginia.

## GRANTS & AWARDS

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- 2013 FIU University Graduate School Travel Award (\$600)
- 2013 FIU College of Arts and Sciences Travel Award (\$300)
- 2013 Florida Sea Grant Scholar Award (\$2,000)
- 2012 Gumbo Limbo Nature Center Scholarship Finalist
- 2012 FIU University Graduate School Travel Award (\$600)
- 2012 FIU College of Arts and Sciences Travel Award (\$300)
- 2011 American Academy of Underwater Sciences Scholarship Honorable Mention
- 2011 PADI Foundation Research Award (\$4,500)
- 2007 The Eckerd Family Foundation Award (\$5,000)
- 1997 – 2000 Howard Hughes Research Grant Recipient
- 1997 – 2000 Canisius College Dean's Scholarship

## **WORKSHOPS ATTENDED**

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- 2014 Flipping & Wrapping: Easy Tech for Better Prep and Rethinking Class Time – José Antonio Bowen
- 2014 The Fundamentals of Working with Diverse Students – Bryan Dewsbury
- 2014 Learner-Centered Lesson Design – Leslie Richardson
- 2014 Information, Likelihood, Formal Evidence and Multi-model inference – David Anderson
- 2013 Teaching with Writing – Leslie Richardson
- 2013 Classroom Assessment – Leslie Richardson
- 2013 Discussion in the Classroom – Leslie Richardson
- 2013 Data Visualization Using R – Karthik Ram & Naupaka Zimmerman

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

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- 2013 – **Aquanaut certified**, Aquarius Underwater Research Base
- 2010 – **Boat Operator**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; experience operating up to 25ft outboard boats; more than 200 logged boat hours working in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- 2010 – **Scientific Diver**, American Academy of Underwater Sciences; over 300 logged scientific dives
- 2010 – **CPR/First Aid/AED Certified**, American Red Cross
- 2010 – **Oxygen administration**, Dive Alert Network

**Computation skills:** Excellent skills in the Microsoft Office Package (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint), Adobe Photoshop, Coral Point Count (CPCE), Image J imaging processing

**Statistical knowledge:** Experience managing and editing large databases/datasets; experienced with R statistical software

**Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing:** Experience with GPS functioning; GIS software (ArcGIS); Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) datasets