



Dr. Ana Luz Porzecanski

Associate Director, Capacity Development, Center for Biodiversity & Conservation
Project Director, The Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners.

Dr. Ana Luz Porzecanski has over a decade of experience leading conservation capacity development projects, designing teaching materials in biodiversity conservation for university professors and professionals, and designing professional development opportunities for diverse audiences in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the United States. In addition to training educators on evidence-based approaches to teaching and learning, Dr. Porzecanski carries out research on the development of key skills, such as critical thinking, in undergraduate students. She is an adjunct faculty member at Columbia University and New York University, where she teaches courses in conservation biology and evolution.

Dr. Porzecanski obtained her undergraduate degree in biological sciences from the Universidad de la República, Uruguay, and her Ph.D. from Columbia University, where she studied the systematics and historical biogeography of South American aridland birds, as well as international environmental policy issues.

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EDUCATION

- 2003 Ph.D., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Columbia University, N.Y.
Advisor: Dr. Joel Cracraft. Dissertation: *Historical Biogeography of the South American Aridlands: a Molecular Phylogenetic Study of Endemic Avian Taxa.*
- 2000 Certificate in Environmental Policy, Columbia University, N.Y.
- 1998 M.A., Columbia University, N.Y.
- 1996 Licenciatura en Ciencias Biológicas (B.Sc.), Universidad de la República, Facultad de Ciencias, Uruguay.

EXPERIENCE

2003 – present	American Museum of Natural History, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation
2010 – present	<i>Associate Director for Capacity Development</i>
2010 – present	<i>Director, Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners (NCEP)</i>
2007 – 2010	<i>Assistant Director for Capacity Development & NCEP Coordinator for the Americas</i>
2003 – 2007	<i>Biodiversity Scientist & NCEP Coordinator for Latin America</i>

Leader of capacity development initiatives across the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, focusing on supporting current and future conservation professionals and educators. This includes directing the Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners ([NCEP](#)), a global capacity-building initiative that produces peer-reviewed, open educational resources in multiple languages, and advances conservation education and practice through research and professional development. Responsibilities include:

- Heading the implementation of NCEP projects in multiple countries, the design and facilitation of workshops and courses, and program strategic planning, evaluation, grant-writing and reporting.
- Co-leading NSF-funded research on the development and assessment of undergraduate student skills.
- Organizing the international [Student Conference in Conservation Science-NY](#).
- Supporting the CBC's Enhancing Diversity in Conservation Science Initiative, which works to advance the representation of historically underrepresented groups in the field of biodiversity conservation.

2009 - present	Adjunct Assistant Professor of Science, The Paul McGhee Division, School of Continuing and Professional Studies, New York University.
2008 - present	Adjunct Associate Research Scientist, Center for Environmental Research and Conservation, Columbia University.
1996 - 2003	Doctoral Fellow, Department of Ornithology and Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, AMNH, and Center for Environmental Research and Conservation and Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, Columbia University.

Teaching & Training Experience

2005 – present **Adjunct Professor at Columbia University and New York University.** Courses taught:

- Conservation Biology (Columbia University, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology).
- Environmental and Evolutionary Biology II (Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences).
- Evolution (Columbia University, Executive Education Certificate Program in Conservation, Center for Environmental Research and Conservation. 5-week intensive core course).
- Global Ecology (NYU, McGhee Division, School of Continuing and Professional Studies).
- Darwin to DNA (NYU, McGhee Division, School of Continuing and Professional Studies).
- Student mentoring: Ph.D. Advisor to student Leo R. Douglas, Columbia University. Dissertation: *The social and ecological underpinnings of human-wildlife conflict on the island of Dominica*. 2011.

2003 – present **Lead Trainer for the Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners, AMNH.**

Together with diverse collaborators, designed, organized and led more than 25 professional development workshops for conservation practitioners, university faculty, and graduate students in Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Mongolia, Peru, Madagascar, and the United States. Training topics include:

- Conservation biology.
- Active and scientific teaching in conservation education.
- Course and curriculum design in conservation education.
- Student assessment in science education.

Research Interests and Expertise

- Design, implementation and evaluation of conservation capacity building and educator professional development in diverse contexts, with an emphasis on Latin America and minority populations in the US.
- Development of courses and open educational resources in biodiversity conservation, ecology, and environmental sciences.
- Approaches to teaching, learning, and student assessment in formal and non-formal contexts.
- Evolution and biogeography of birds.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- E.J. Sterling, A. Gomez, **A. L. Porzecanski**. 2010. A systemic view of biodiversity and its conservation: Processes, interrelationships, and human culture. *Bioessays* 32: 1090-1098.
- L. M. Dávalos and **A. L. Porzecanski**. 2009. Accounting for molecular stochasticity in systematic revisions: Species limits and phylogeny of *Paroaria*. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 53: 234–248.
- M. Mendez, A. Gómez, N. Bynum, R. Medellín, **A. L. Porzecanski**, E. Sterling. 2007. Conservation Education in Latin America: availability of formal academic programs in conservation biology. *Conservation Biology* 21 (6): 1399-1403.
- Sterling, E., N. Bynum, J. P. Gibbs, and **A. L. Porzecanski**. 2005. Construyendo Capacidades para la Conservación de la Biodiversidad en Países Tropicales: La Red de Educadores y Profesionales de la Conservación (REPC). *Ambiente y Desarrollo* 21 (2): 40-46.
- Porzecanski, A. L.** and J. Cracraft. 2005. Cladistic Analysis of Distributions and Endemism (CADE): Using raw distributions of birds to unravel the biogeography of the South American aridlands. *Journal of Biogeography* 32 (2), 261-275.
- Dávalos, L. M., Sears, R. R., Raygorodetsky, G., Simmons, B. L., Cross, H., Grant, T., Barnes, T., Putzel, L. & **Porzecanski, A. L.** 2003. Regulating access to genetic resources under the Convention on Biological Diversity: an analysis of selected case studies. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 12: 1511-1524.

LANGUAGES

Spanish, Portuguese, English, and French. Conversational in Italian.

References available upon request