

Anna Thonis, Ph.D.

Keywords: Landscape ecology, global change, species distribution modeling, conservation, population and community ecology, mark-recapture, herpetology, *Anolis*

APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Researcher , Department of Biology, New York University, NY	2024 – <i>Present</i>
Co-Chair , International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) Anoline Lizard Specialist Group (ALSG)	2024 – <i>Present</i>
Visiting Scientist , Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History, NY	2024 - <i>Present</i>

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Ecology and Evolution , Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY	2018 – 2024
M.S., Biology , Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY	2017 – 2018
B.S., Environmental Science, Sustainability Studies , Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY	2013 – 2017

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*Undergraduate student mentee

9. **Thonis, A.**, Salazar, J., Echeverry-Alcendra, Bohm, M., A., Rodriguez, J.P., Yerena, E. (2025). The Reinstatement of the IUCN SSC Anoline Lizard Specialist Group: A Renewed Commitment to Conservation. *Oryx—The International Journal of Conservation*. Accepted.
8. **Thonis, A.** and Akçakaya, H.R. (2024). Perils of using range maps in macroecological models of species richness. *Journal of Biogeography* 0:1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.15072>.
7. **Thonis, A.**, Stansfield, A., and Akçakaya, H.R. (2024). Unravelling the role of tropical cyclones in shaping present species distributions. *Global Change Biology* 30: e17232. [doi:10.1111/gcb.17232](https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.17232).
6. **Thonis, A.** and Akçakaya, H.R. (2024). Experimental evidence that competition strength scales with ecological similarity: A case study using *Anolis* lizards. *Oecologia* 204(3):451-465. [doi:10.1007/s00442-023-05507-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00442-023-05507-6).
Highlighted Student Research
5. **Thonis, A.**, *Ford, B., *Hunter, M., *Fung, K., *Ozcelik, C., *Werni, C., *Ye Pan, Z., and Prowant, L.P. (2024). Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) health and shell damage in an urban landscape. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*. [doi:10.2744/CCB-1563.1](https://doi.org/10.2744/CCB-1563.1).
4. **Thonis, A.** (2023). *Anolis cuvieri* (Puerto Rican Giant Anole). Reproductive ecology. *Herpetological Review*. 54(3):463-464.
3. **Thonis, A.**, *Carlo Mejias, D., *Rivera Figueroa, N., and *Velez Torres, E. (2023). *Diploglossus pleii* (Puerto Rico galliwasp). Courtship behavior. *Herpetological Review* 54(2):295.

2. **Thonis, A.**, Ceballos, R.M., Tuen, A.A., and Levesque, D. (2020). High upper limits and a large thermoneutral zone in a small tropical mammal. *Journal of Physiological and Biochemical Zoology* 93: 199-209. [doi:10.1086/708467](https://doi.org/10.1086/708467).

1. **Thonis, A.** and Lister, B. (2019). Predicting climate-induced distributional shifts for Puerto Rican anoles. *Copeia* 107(2): 262-269. [doi:10.1643/CH-18-046](https://doi.org/10.1643/CH-18-046).

Manuscripts submitted and in preparation

*Linsk, S., **Thonis, A.**, and Winchell, K.M. “From Concrete to Canopy: Illuminating Moth Biodiversity in New York City’s Urban Jungle.” (*in prep.*)

Thonis, A. and Akçakaya, H.R. The role of spatial scale in inferring species richness by stacking species distribution predictions. (*in prep.*)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Fellowships awarded

NSF STRIDE Fellowship (\$68,000) 2020 – 2022
[STRIDE](#): Science Training and Research to Inform DEcisions.

Graduate Student Research Fellowship 2021
 Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Stony Brook University
[GWISE interviews LACS Fellowship winner Anna Thonis](#)

Research

NYU Postdoctoral Affairs Support Grants (\$2,392) 2024
 Excellence in Ecology & Evolution Awards, Stony Brook Ecology & Evolution (\$2,200) 2020 – 2023
 Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles Grants in Herpetology (\$500) 2023
 Stony Brook Ecology & Evolution Cost of Education Grant (\$400) 2022
 Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation Seed Grant (\$1,000) 2022
 Herpetological Conservation International Michael Dee Grant (\$1,200) 2022
[Michael Dee grant award winner interview](#)
 Stony Brook Ecology & Evolution R. Sokal Statistical Biology Research Awards (\$1,080) 2020, 2022
 American Museum of Natural History Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Grant (\$2,037) 2021

Awards/Travel

Postdoctoral Travel Grant, NYU Faculty of Arts and Sciences (\$700) 2024
 Finalist, Three Minute Thesis, Stony Brook University 2024
 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student, Stony Brook University (university-wide award, \$1,000) 2023
 Distinguished Travel Award, Graduate Student Organization, Stony Brook University (\$1,750) 2023
 Resource Access Project grant, Graduate Student Organization, Stony Brook Univ. (\$1,000) 2023
 Departmental Service Award, Stony Brook Ecology & Evolution 2023
 Conservation Leadership Award, Stony Brook Ecology & Evolution 2022
 Professional Development Award, SBU Grad. Student Employment Union (\$670) 2020
 Anole Annals Photo Competition, 2nd place 2020
 Stony Brook Ecology & Evolution, Recruitment Fellowship (\$2,000) 2018
 Best Graduate Poster Presentation Award, Rensselaer’s Graduate Symposium 2018
 Charlotte Magnum Student Support Award for travel to SICB conferences 2018
 Charlotte Magnum Student Support Award for travel to SICB conferences 2017
 W. A. Tarr Award, awarded for scholarship and leadership in the Earth Sciences 2017
 Phalanx, Rensselaer’s Leadership Honor Society 2017

TEACHING

Instructing

Instructor of Record , Landscape Ecology Laboratory, Stony Brook University, NY	2023
Adjunct Professor , Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Fordham University, NY	2023
Instructor of Record , Professional Development Seminar for an NSF REU through the Institute for Advanced Computational Science, Stony Brook University, NY	2022 – 2023

Teaching Assistantships

Statistics & Data Analysis, Stony Brook University (2 semesters, 45 students/class)	2023 – 2024
Landscape Ecology, Stony Brook University (3 semesters, ~24 students/class)	2018 – 2022
Fundamentals of Biology: Organisms to Ecosystems, Stony Brook University (1 semester, ~800 students overseen by three graduate TAs)	2020
Applied Ecology, Stony Brook University (1 semester, ~24 students)	2019

STUDENT MENTORSHIP AND TRAINING

Graduate Students

Kaijun (Henry) Xie – M.S. student, NYU Biology	2024 – Present
Olivia Weklar – Ph.D. student, NYU Biology	2024 – Present
Emily Blackwell – Ph.D. student, NYU Biology	2024 – Present

Undergraduate Students

Shira Linsk , NYU Biology undergraduate	2024 – Present
Independent study: <i>From Concrete to Canopy: Illuminating Moth Biodiversity in New York City's Urban Jungle</i> .	

Anole niche space project – All NYU students (7)	2025 - Present
Maram Al-Busaidi, Isabella Gaba, Ale Granda, Simon Havriliak, Ryder Kern, Michelle Lin, Chris Sun	

Puerto Rico Research Assistants – All University of Puerto Rico students (50)	2019 - Present
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Marco A. Acosta Leon*, Paola A. Amador Hernández, Jeilyn D. Arbelo Santiago, Adriana Asencio-Santiago, Valerie Barreto Bermúdez, Yeissette Burgos, Julio Campis Díaz*, Luis Carrero*, Daniela Carlo Mejías*, Thomas Clayton*, Miguel José Costas Sabatier*, Marta Crespo Umpierre, Edgardo Cruz, Jesús Cruz Torres, Valeria Diaz-Martinez, Carlos Esteban, Retsel Gonzalez, Camille Hernández Andújar, Alondra del Mar Valle Hernández*, Aiden Lozado-Virella, Bryan Pagan-Santiago, Claudia del Pilar Cruz Rivera, Eljosel Jiménez Lorenzo*, Alondra Myredis Caro Ruiz*, Sebastián Lima Rosado, Stephanie Malave-Hernandez, Ian C. Matos, Gabriela Mato Rodriguez, Juliana B. Nazario Ortiz*, Arixel X. Ortiz Martínez, Rosanie A. Pérez Salas*, Charlene Pérez Santos, Onellis Pineiro, Debora Pozzi Maldonado*, Alanis Quiñones Vega*, Zulymar Ramos de Trinidad, Alondra Sofía Rivera Amador, Joyce Rivera Bonilla, Nicole Rivera Figueroa*, Igneri Rodríguez, Ricardo Santana, Edgar Serrano-Martinez, Julia I. Suárez Durán*, Angelica Victoria Rodriguez Roman, Alejandro Rodriguez, Hector Urbina-Torres, Adriana Vásquez Custodio, Edgardo Vélez Torres*, Armando Vera Colón*, Antonio Villafañá Rosado

*student assisted for more than one field season

Mark-recapture research – All Stony Brook students (8) 2023
Christopher Alamia, Isabella Pimienta, Taylor Rooney, Somay Oklu, Soyoung Park, Chloe Lee, David Lee, Se Yoon Kim

Long Island Eastern Box Turtle project – All Stony Brook students (7) 2020 – 2022
Brittany Ford, Kristi Fung, Melissa Hunter, Jaime Mangalathu, Cosku Ozcelik, Zhen Ye Pan, Christopher Werni

High School Students

Mentor, High School Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Mentor 2021 – 2022
Program through Bellport High School in Brookhaven, NY (5): Madison Boehler, Emma Butler, Ryann Christie, Sara Eldaroudy, Margret Fuentes

Mentor, High School Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Mentor 2020 – 2021
Program through Comsewogue High School in Coram, NY (9): Kaylin Doxey, Taryn Dyckman, Claire Lin, Aqsa Majid, Jamie Noble, Isabella Puleo, Samantha Schwab, Margaret Velasco, and Victoria Vital

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Long Island Natural History Conference – New York	2025
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology – Atlanta, Georgia	2025
Long Island Natural History Conference – New York	2024
New York Species Distribution Modeling Discussion Group – New York	2023
Ecological Society of America – Portland, Oregon	2023
New York Species Distribution Modeling Discussion Group – New York	2022
Ecological Society of America – Montreal, Canada	2022
Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation – Cartagena, Colombia	2022
Stony Brook Department of Ecology and Evolution Annual Retreat – NY	2022
Stony Brook STRIDE Brown Bag Lunch – New York	2021
Northeast Natural History Conference – virtual	2021
Caribbean Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation meeting – Jamaica	2018
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Graduate Research Symposium – NY	2018
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology – California	2018
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology – Louisiana	2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

External Service

- **Co-coordinator**, [New York Species Distribution Modeling Discussion Group](#) (2023 – Present). Two meetings per semester at the American Museum of Natural History to present and discuss species distribution models and method development.
- **Administrator and Contributor**, [Anole Annals blog](#) (2024 – Present). A popular blog catering to anole biologists and enthusiasts.
- **Member**, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (2023 – Present)
- **Associate Editor**, [Reptiles and Amphibians](#) (2022 – Present)
- **Member**, Conservation Committee, Association for Ichthyology and Herpetology (2022 – Present)

Organized Symposia and Workshops

- **Workshop**: *Navigating the Grad School Interview* hosted by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (2024). Co-organizer.

- **Workshop:** *Preparing Your Graduate Application Materials* hosted by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (2024). Co-organizer.
- **Workshop:** *Identifying Graduate Programs and Preparing to Apply* hosted by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (2024). Co-organizer.
- **Workshop:** *Ethical, Inclusive, Culturally Aware Fieldwork Workshop* hosted by the University of California Davis (2024). Co-organizer.
- **Symposium:** *Towards the Improved Implementation of Species Distribution Models (SDMs): Moving from an Art to a Science* (2023). Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. Co-organizer.
- **Workshop:** *Interactive, Reproducible, and Accessible Species Distribution Modeling for Conservation with Wallace* (2024). Hosted by the student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS-NY) at the American Museum of Natural History.

Internal Service

- **Student Representative**, Stony Brook Ecology & Evolution Graduate Program Executive Committee (2023)
- **Student Representative**, Stony Brook Ecology & Evolution Faculty Meetings (2019 – 2023)
- **Student Representative**, Stony Brook Ecology & Evolution Bylaws Committee (2022)
- **Mentorship Program Coordinator**, Stony Brook Graduate Program in Ecology & Evolution (2021 – 2023)
- **Organizer**, joint lab meetings for the Akçakaya and D'Andrea Lab Groups (2019 – 2023)

Reviewer for

Biological Conservation, Community Ecology, Ecography, The British Herpetological Journal, Captive and Field Herpetology, Ecological Informatics, Journal of Heredity, Journal of Ecology & Evolution, Functional Ecology, Ichthyology and Herpetology (*formerly Copeia*)

Membership

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| • International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission | 2022 – Present |
| - Anoline Lizard Specialist Group (2024 – Present) | |
| - Climate Change Specialist Group (2022 – Present) | |
| - Young Professionals Group (2022 – Present) | |
| • Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles | 2019 – Present |
| • Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation | 2018 – Present |
| • Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation | 2019 – Present |
| • Herpetologists' League | 2020 – Present |
| • Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology | 2017 – 2019, Present |
| • Ecological Society of America | 2022 – 2024 |
| • Association for Ichthyologists and Herpetologists | 2019 – 2022 |

OUTREACH AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Invited public talks and webinars

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| Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt – New York | 2024 |
| Stony Brook University Three Minute Thesis – New York | 2024 |
| Hurricanes affect the lizards, too – Video | |
| Geek Talks, übergeek Brewing Company – New York | 2021 |
| Australian Herpetological Society – webinar | 2020 |

Nature Talks, Moustache Brewing Co. – webinar 2020
 Herpetology Seminar Series – webinar 2020

TV shows

Herpetological Expert, [Season 2 Battle of the Alphas](#) 2021
 Herpetological Expert, [Season 1 Battle of the Alphas](#) 2019

Podcasts

At Risk with Nathan Kim, [What Field Work is Like?](#) 2021
At Risk with Nathan Kim, [Lizards!](#) 2021
[Storytellers of STEMM](#) with Rachel Villani 2020

Blog posts

Anole Annals, [Anoles at SICB 2025!](#) 2024
Anole Annals, [Hurricanes shape Puerto Rican anole distributions](#) 2024
Anole Annals, [Re-establishing the IUCN SSC Anole Specialist Group](#) 2023
Anole Annals, [Distribution Models for Puerto Rican Anoles under Predicted Climate Change](#) 2019

Other outreach activities

Panelist, Stony Brook Women in Science and Engineering Research Panel 2023
 Speaker, graduate school preparation talks (3) for members of the Asociacion Estudiantes de Biología (Biology Student Association) at the Universities of Puerto Rico Mayaguez, Humacao, and Arecibo campuses 2021 – 2022

REFERENCES

Dr. H. Resit Akçakaya, Professor
 Department of Ecology and Evolution, Stony Brook University
 650 Life Sciences Building, Stony Brook, NY 11790
 Email: resit.akcakaya@stonybrook.edu

Dr. Kristin Winchell, Assistant Professor
 Department of Biology, New York University
 24 Waverly Place, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10003
 Email: kw3341@nyu.edu

Dr. Mary Blair, Director of Biodiversity Informatics Research
 Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History
 200 Central Park W, New York, NY 10024
mblair1@amnh.org