

Jenny R. Isaacs, Ph.D.

Department of Geography, Rutgers University
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[Rutgers Core Faculty Profile](#)

EDUCATION

PhD **Geography**; Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (May 2021)

Dissertation: "The 'bander's grip': A techno-political ecology of Western Atlantic shorebird conservation"

Committee: Richard Schroeder (Chair, Rutgers/Brandeis University), D. Asher Ghertner (Rutgers University), Kevin St. Martin (Rutgers University), Elizabeth DeLoughrey (UCLA)

Graduate Certificate: Human Dimensions of Environmental Change

MA **Sustainability Studies**; Ramapo College of New Jersey, Mahwah, NJ (2012)

Thesis: "Protecting New Jersey's migratory shorebirds: A stewardship model of conservation." Advisor: Eric Weiner

BA / BM **English, Music; Political Science** (Minor); University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MA (2002)

FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS

Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Excellence Fellowship, 2012-2013 & 2016-2017

Rutgers Center for Cultural Analysis Fellowship, 2015-2016

Rutgers Geography Department Graduate Teaching Excellence Award, 2014-2015

Rutgers Marine and Coastal Sciences Graduate Assistantship, 2013-2014

Best Graduate Student Paper, "Follow That Bird: Considering the Agency and Application of Animal Tracking Science and Technology in Shaping Conservation Practices." Awarded by the Association of American Geographers Animal Geography Specialty Group, 2014

Ramapo College of NJ- Sustainability Education Center Fellowship, 2011-2012

TEACHING

Undergraduate

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (2015 – present)

Current Role: FT Instructor (Core Faculty)

“Introduction to Environmental Studies”	2017, 2022, 2023, 2024
“Conservation”	2022, 2023, 2024 (Sole Instructor) 2014, 2015 (TA)
“World Cultural Regions”	2022, 2023, 2024
“Human Geography; Space, Place, Location”	2017, 2021
“Transforming the Global Environment”	2018, 2019 (Sole Instructor) 2015 (TA)
“Expository Writing 101”	2017, 2018
“Basic Composition”	2013, 2014
“Extinction”	2017, 2018 (TA)

Monmouth University, Long Branch, NJ, (2022 – present)

“People, Places, Environments” GEO/ANTHRO 101	2023, 2024
“Global Environmental Problems”	2022, 2023

Jefferson University (Philadelphia University), Philadelphia, PA, (2021 – 2022)

“Animals and Society” (2 sections)	2021, 2022
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Northeastern University, Boston, MA (2020 – present)

College Writing	2022, 2023
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Ramapo College of New Jersey, Mahwah, NJ (2011-2)

“Avian Ecology”	2011 (TA)
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Graduate

Northeastern University - Department of English, Boston, MA. (2020 – present)

Writing Instructor - Fall 2021

Nontraditional

Education Testing Services (ETS), Princeton, NJ. Assessment Specialist; Geography Test Developer for College Board AP Human Geography and Pre-AP, Praxis Teacher Licensure, and NAEP, 2018-2020

Wildlife Conservation Society/Central Park Zoo, Teaching Fellow. New York City, 2011

Thomas Edison National Historical Park (National Park Service), West Orange, NJ. Curriculum Developer; Junior Ranger Ambassador; Park Interpreter, 2009

Sharp Sustainability Education Center, Ramapo College, NJ, Curriculum Developer (Fellowship), 2011-2012.

Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), Educator. Dingman's Ferry, PA, 2010

New Jersey Clean Energy Program, Presenter and Environmental Educator, 2008-2009

Secondary School (English Language Arts/Literature, Performing Arts)

Bronx Theater High School, Bronx, NY, 2005-2008

St. Clements High School, Boston, MA, 2004-2005

MRM High School, Boston, MA, 2003-2004

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Edited Book Chapters:

Isaacs, Jenny R. and Otruba, Ariel. (June 2021). "Animality/Coloniality: COVID-19 and the Animal question," in Hovorka et al (Eds), [A Research Agenda for Animal Geographies](#). Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

Isaacs, Jenny R. (Oct 2020). "Conservation Archipelago: Protecting Long-Distance Migratory Shorebirds along the Atlantic Flyway," in [Contemporary Archipelagic Thinking: Towards New Comparative Methodologies and Disciplinary Formations](#). Eds. Michelle Stephens and Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel. "Rethinking the Island" Series; Rowman & Littlefield.

Isaacs, Jenny R. (Sept 2020). "More-than-human geographies". [International Encyclopedia of Geography](#). Wiley-AAG.

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2019). [The 'bander's grip': Reading zones of human-shorebird contact](#). *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* 2 (4): 732-760.

Isaacs, Jenny R, and Ariel Otruba. (2019). Guest Editor and Primary Author: [Introduction to the Special Theme Section "More-than-human contact zones"](#) in *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* 2 (4): 697-711.

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2019). "Unsteady Hands; Care and Grief for Conservation Subjects" in [Vulnerable Witness: The Politics of Grief in the Field](#). Eds. Patricia J. Lopez and Kathryn Gillespie. University of California Press.

Isaacs, J. (2017). "Endangered Species"; "Tracking"; and "Wildlife Forensics" in J. Urbanik and C. Johnston (Eds.), *Humans and animals: A geography of coexistence* (pp. 127-130, pp. 324-327, and pp. 353-355). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

In Preparation:

Isaacs, Jenny R. and Eduardo Gallo-Cajiao. "A Social History of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network" for *Oryx*. (article forerunner for planned book)

Isaacs, Jenny R. "Queer lines of flight; reversing species discourses with wildlife conservation technologies" for *Environmental Humanities*.

Isaacs, Jenny R. "Die, beautiful spotted lanternfly, die!"; Stomping out life for the state" for *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*

Isaacs, Jenny R. and Otruba, Ariel. "The frontline is multispecies; Ecologies of risk and violence," for *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*.

Isaacs, Jenny R. "The bander's grip: A techno-political ecology of Western Atlantic shorebird conservation." (Monograph, proposals sent to Duke and University of Minnesota Press).

Environmental Journalism

Isaacs, J. (2016, November 10). "Beyond data collection; The social and political effects of environmental sensor proliferation". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/wildtech/2016/11/beyond-data-collection-the-social-and-politiceffects-of-environmental-sensor-proliferation/>

Isaacs, J. (2014, July 31). "Seeking justice for Corazon: Jaguar killings test the conservation movement in Mexico". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2014/07/seekingjustice-for-corazon-jaguar-killings-test-the-conservation-movement-in-mexico/>

Isaacs, J. (2014, February 20). "Shoot to Conserve: Corey Knowlton's rhino hunt escalates the debate over trophy hunting and environmentalism". Mongabay. (Winner: Mongabay Best Intern Article of 2014). Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2014/02/shoot-to-serve-coreyknowltons-rhino-hunt-escalates-the-debate-over-trophy-hunting-and-environmentalism/>

Isaacs, J. (2013, June 5). "Difference within common species may predict the presence of rare animals". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2013/06/difference-withincommon-species-may-predict-the-presence-of-rare-animals/>

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2013, May 7). "Tale of Two Elephants: Celebrating the lives and mourning the deaths of Cirrocumulus and Ngampit". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2013/05/a-tale-of-two-elephants-celebrating-the-lives-andmourning-the-deaths-of-cirrocumulus-and-ngampit/>

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2013, April 30). "Conservation without supervision: Peruvian community group creates and patrols its own protected area". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2013/04/conservation-without-supervision-peruvian-communitygroup-creates-and-patrols-its-own-protected-area/>

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2013, January 31). "Asian bear farming: Breaking the cycle of exploitation". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2013/01/asian-bear-farming-breaking-thecycle-of-exploitation-warning-graphic-images/>

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2013, January 21). "Living beside a tiger reserve: Scientists study compensation for human-wildlife conflict in India". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2013/01/living-beside-a-tiger-reserve-scientists-studycompensation-for-human-wildlife-conflict-in-india/>

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2013, January 7). "Mercury hurts birds and people: What we can learn from studying our feathered friends". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2013/01/mercury-hurts-birds-and-people-what-we-can-learnfrom-studying-our-feathered-friends/>

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2012, December 10). "Vanishing corridors: Trying to keep big animals on the move across Tanzania". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2012/12/vanishing-corridors-trying-to-keep-big-animals-on-themove-across-tanzania/>

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2012, November 28). "Organic farming keeps carbon out of the atmosphere". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2012/11/organic-farming-keeps-carbonout-of-the-atmosphere/>

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2012, November 8). "Tanzania weighs new soda ash plant in prime flamingo territory". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2012/11/tanzania-weighs-newsoda-ash-plant-in-prime-flamingo-territory/>

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2012, October 9). "Appreciating elephant individuality: A new approach to preventing conflicts with humans". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2012/10/appreciating-elephant-individuality-a-new-approach-topreventing-conflicts-with-humans/>

Isaacs, Jenny R. (2012, August 28). "One extinction leads to another...and another". Mongabay. Retrieved at <https://news.mongabay.com/2012/08/one-extinction-leads-to-another-andanother/>

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

Paper Presenter, “Die, beautiful spotted lanternfly, die!”; Stomping out life for the state” in Paper Session “Emerging Geographies of Biosecurity.” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Denver, Colorado, 2023.

Panelist, “Multispecies Justice.” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Denver, Colorado, 2023.

Observer, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity COP 15, Montreal, Canada, Dec 2022.

Paper Presenter, “The Frontline is Multispecies: Examining the elevation of risk and violence where species meet.” Session: “Interlocking oppressions and COVID-19”, Organizer – Patricia Lopez, et al. Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New York City, 2022.

Panelist/Presenter, Session: “The Future of Animal Geographies.” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New York City, 2022.

Paper Presenter, “Lines of Flight: A Techno-Political Ecology of Western Atlantic Shorebird Conservation.” MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory; “Politics, Animals, and Technology” Workshop; University of Manchester, UK, Sept 8-10, 2021

Panelist / Presenter, “Animality/coloniality: COVID-19 and the animal question.” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Seattle-Virtual, April 2020

Paper Presenter, “Animality/coloniality.” Mid-Atlantic States AAG Conference, Kutztown, PA, 2019

Paper Presenter, ““An epic journey”; The importance of story for long-distance migratory species conservation.” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. April 2019

Paper Presenter, “The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network: Managing a Conservation Archipelago.” American Museum of Natural History; Student Conference on Conservation Science, New York, NY, October 24-26, 2018

Paper Presenter, “Capturing the Flyway; Techniques and Technologies of Atlantic Shorebird Conservation.” New Jersey School of Conservation, Montclair State University, Jan 2018

Chair and Co-Organizer, “Contact Zones I, II, and III: “Environments of Contact,” “Where Species Meet,” and “Navigating the Contact Zone with Mary Louise Pratt.” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, 2017

Chair and Co-Organizer, “World of Islands: Archipelagic Studies.” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, 2017

Paper Presenter, “The Shorebird “Conservation Archipelago”; Archipelagic Political Ecology” Panelist for “Developments in Political Ecology.” Nature/Society Workshop, Clark University, MA, 2017

Paper Presenter, “Birds in the Air, Blips on the Screen.” Natura Conference, Rutgers University, NJ, 2016

Co-Organizer, "Remote Control: Conservation Surveillance and Technologies of Power." Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Chicago, 2015

Paper Presenter, "Attending to Technologies of Power and Discovery within the Dissertation." Natura Article Workshop and Discussion, Rutgers University, NJ, 2015

Paper Presenter, "Political Ecology of Shorebird Conservation." EcoGSA Seminar Series, Rutgers University, NJ, 2015

Paper Presenter, "Worlds Apart: Conservation by Computer and the Monitoring of Virtual Nature." Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2015

Organizer, Paper Presenter, "Remote Control: Power/Knowledge and the 'Rendering Technical' of Wildlife Conservation." (with R. Schroeder). 21st Annual Critical Geography Conference: "How Power Happens." Temple University, 2014

Paper Presenter, "Follow that Bird: Considering the agency and affect of conservation science." Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, 2013

Paper Presenter, "Political Ecology, from Silent Spring to the Jersey Shore Post-Sandy." Saving the Natural World: Rachel Carson's Silent Spring; 50th Anniversary Symposium, Ramapo College of New Jersey, 2012

SERVICE

Associate Editor, *Society & Animals* (peer-reviewed journal), Animals & Society Institute, 2021 - present

Graduate Student Officer/Board Member, the Association of American Geographers; Animal Geography Specialty Group, Elected/Re-Elected 2017-2018 & 2018-2019

Peer Reviewer: *Geoforum* (2022), *Political Geography* (2021), *Social and Cultural Geography* (2018), *Environment and Planning E*; *Nature and Space* (2017), *Maritime Studies Journal* (2016)

President & Conference Organizer, Natura Graduate Conference in Science and Epistemology, Rutgers University, 2017 & 2018

Research Assistant, UNESCO. New York, NY. 2016 Joint Programme between UNESCO and the CBD

CREDENTIALS AND TRAINING

National Park Service, Junior Ranger Ambassador Residency / Training, National Conservation Training Center, VA, Summer 2010

Boards of Education: English/Language Arts State Certified Teacher for Grades 7-12 in New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts

REFERENCES

- Richard Schroeder, Professor of Geography in the Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University; Professor Emeritus at Rutgers University; rschroeder@brandeis.edu (PhD Advisor / Cmte Chair)
- Kevin St. Martin, Professor and Chair of Geography at Rutgers University; kevin.st.martin@rutgers.edu
- Asa Rennermalm, Associate Professor & Undergraduate Program Director in Geography, Rutgers University; asa.rennermalm@rutgers.edu
- Asher Ghertner, Associate Professor & Graduate Director of Geography, Rutgers University; a.ghertner@rutgers.edu
- Michelle Stephens, Dean of Humanities, Professor of English and Latino and Caribbean Studies, Rutgers University; mas732@english.rutgers.edu
- Laura Schneider, Professor of Geography, Rutgers University; laura.schneider@rutgers.edu
- Michael Edelstein, Professor and Director, Institute for Environmental Studies, Ramapo College of New Jersey; ecoedelstein@gmail.com
- Julie Urbanik, supervising Managing Editor at the peer-reviewed journal *Society and Animals*; julie.urbanik@gmail.com
- Eric Weiner, Professor of Environmental Science, Ramapo College of New Jersey; ewiener@ramapo.edu
- Brian Becker, Director of Basic Composition and Placement and Testing, Writing Program at Rutgers University; brian.becker@rutgers.edu
- Kate Middleton, Senior Writing Instructor (former co-teacher), Northeastern University; middleton.kate.l@gmail.com
- Elizabeth Dunn Ruiz, Graduate Educational Theatre Program, The City College of New York, (former mentor at Bronx Theatre High School); edunnruiz@ccny.cuny.edu