

**Kelcie L. Chiquillo**  
kelcie.chiquillo@upr.edu  
(787) 764-0000 EXT# 88090

## **EDUCATION**

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UCLA ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY December 2021  
*Ph.D. Dissertation:* Understanding the ecological and evolutionary dynamics of tropical seagrasses and the factors driving habitat distribution  
*NSF Bridge to Doctorate & GRFP Research Fellow*  
*Advisor:* Dr. Paul Barber

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY May 2014  
*B.S.: Marine Biology & Limnology/ Minor: Holistic Health*  
*NSF REU, MARC & LSAMP Research Fellow*

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

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2021 NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology (PRFB) **\$138,000**  
2020 UCLA Cota Robles Fellowship **\$26,000**  
2019 UCLA Cota Robles Fellowship **\$26,000**  
2015 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP): **\$102,000**  
2015 Ford Foundation Fellowship: *Honorable mention*  
2014 NSF UC Bridge to Doctorate Fellowship: **\$150,000**  
2013 Louis Stokes Alignment Participation Undergraduate Award (LSAMP) **\$2,000**  
2012 NIH Minorities Access to Research Careers (MARC) Fellowship: **\$28,000**  
2012 NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) **\$5,000**

## **GRANTS**

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2022 Understanding the epigenetics and eDNA surrounding seagrasses in Biscayne Bay. Herbert W. Hoover Foundation-PIs K. Chiquillo, J. Wong, J. Eirin-Lopez, P. Gardinali **\$23,000**

## **AWARDS**

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2023 FIU CREST Addition Funding Travel Award **\$1580**  
2022 FIU CREST Addition Funding Travel Award **\$1660**  
2019 CERF Travel Award **\$500**  
2019 UCLA Department Research Award **\$1000**  
2018 International Seagrass Biology Workshop 13' Student Travel Award **\$600**  
2018 UCLA Biology Research Symposium **\$100**  
2017 UCLA Conference Travel Award **\$1,200**  
2017 ASLO Multicultural Program Travel Award **\$2,500**  
2016 UCLA Graduate Division Research Grant **\$1,500**  
2016 UCLA Department Travel Award **\$1,250**  
2016 ASLO Multicultural Program Travel Award **\$2,500**  
2015 Ford Fellowship- Honorable Mention  
2014 UCLA La Kretz Center for Conservation Science Research Grant **\$500**

- 2014 Save Our Seas Foundation Travel Award **\$300**  
2012 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Travel Award: **\$1,000**  
2010 San Francisco State University, Department of Biology Research Award: **\$350**

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Peer- Reviewed**

- 2024 **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Wong, J.W., Eirin-Lopez J.M. Ecological forensic testing: Using multiple primers for eDNA detection of marine vertebrates. *Ecological Indicators*. In review
- 2023 Beca-Carretero, P., Winters, G., Teichberg, M., Procaccini, G., Schneekloth, F., Zambrano, R., **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Reuters, H. Climate change and the presence of invasive species will threaten the persistence of the Mediterranean seagrass community. *Science of the Total Environment*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.168675>
- 2022 **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Barber, P.H., Vasquez, M.L., Cruz-Rivera, E., Willette, D.A., Winters, G., & Fong, P. An invasive seagrass drives its own success in two invaded seas by both negatively affecting native seagrasses and benefiting from those costs. *Oikos*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/oik.09403>
- 2021 Fong, C.R, **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Gaynus, C.J., Grier, S.R., Ha, B.A., Ryznar, E.R., Smith, L.L., Sura, S.A., Anggoro, A.W., Moore, T.N., Fong, P. Flip it and reverse it: reasonable changes in designated controls can flip synergisms to antagonisms. *Science of The Total Environment*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.145243>
- 2020 Smulders, F.O.H., **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Willette, D.A., Barber, P.H., Christianen, M.J.A. Inconclusive evidence of sexual reproduction of invasive *Halophila stipulacea*: a new field guide to encourage investigation of flower and fruit production throughout its invasive range. *Botanica Marina*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1515/bot-2020-0046>
- 2020 **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Mims, B.M., Chong, A.U., Johnson, C., Habtes, S., Fong, C.R., Barber, P.H., & Fong P. Herbivory may limit proximity of the seagrass *Halophila decipiens* to fringing reefs in Mo'orea, French Polynesia. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquabot.2020.103294>
- 2020 Willette, D.A., **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Cross, C., Fong, P., Kelley, T., Toline, C.A., Zweng, R., & Muthukrishnan R. Growth and recovery after disturbance of a rapidly-expanding invasive seagrass. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.embe.2019.151265>
- 2020 Winters, G., Beer, S., Willette, D.A., Viana, I.G., **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Beca-Carretero, P., Villamayor, B., Azacarate-García, T., Shem-Tov, R., Mwabvu, B.,

Migliore, L., Rotini, A., Oscar, M.A., Belmaker, J., Inbal, G., Alexandre, A., Engelen, A.H., Procaccini, G., Rilov, G. The Tropical Seagrass *Halophila stipulacea*; reviewing what we know from its native and invasive habitats, alongside identifying knowledge gaps. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2020.00300>

- 2020 Muthukrishnan, R., **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Cross, C., Fong, P., Kelley, T., Toline, C.A., Zweng R., & Willette D.A. Little giants: A rapidly invading seagrass alters ecosystem functioning relative to native foundation species. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-020-03689-8>
- 2019 **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Barber, P.H & Willette, D.A. Fruits and flowers of the invasive seagrass *Halophila stipulacea* in the Caribbean Sea. *Botanica Marina*. 109-112. <https://doi.org/10.1515/bot-2018-0052>
- 2014 **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Ebert, D.A., Slager, C.J., & Crow, K.D. The secret of the mermaid's purse: Phylogenetic affinities within the Rajidae and the evolution of a novel reproductive strategy in skates. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 75, 245-251. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2014.01.012>

### **In prep**

- 2024 **Chiquillo, K.**, Wong, J.M, Sabat, A., Sanchez, J., Rodriguez-Casariago, J.A., Mercado-Molina, A.E., Eirin-Lopez. Attack of the clones: Understanding the invasion potential of the seagrass (*Halophila stipulacea*) in Culebra, Puerto Rico.
- 2024 **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Winters, G., Procaccini, G., Barak, S., & Willette D.A., & Barber, P.H., Reconstructing the history of invasion of *Halophila stipulacea* in the Caribbean Sea as a potential stepping-stone colonization.
- 2024 **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Vasquez, M., Winters, G., Fong, P., & Barber, P.H. The velvet underground: Assessing microbial communities between invasive and native species when grown alone or together.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

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#### **Invited Seminars**

- 2022 Understanding the origins and dynamics of invasive species and their impacts on native ecosystems. **Chiquillo, K.L.**, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, Biology Seminar
- 2019 Understanding the dynamics of the invasive seagrass and its impacts on native seagrasses **Chiquillo, K.L.** California State Fullerton, Biology Seminar

#### **Conference Presentations**

- 2023 Forensic testing in Biscayne Bay waterways: Using eDNA to monitor vertebrate biodiversity. **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Wong, J.M, Eirin-Lopez J.M., *Benthics, Miami Florida*
- 2023 Understanding how species interactions and the environment influence invasion potential. **Chiquillo, K.L.** *CREST All Hands Meeting, Miami Florida*
- 2019 League of Seagrasses: the outcome of interspecific interactions between native versus invasive seagrasses shows a positive effect on the invasive, *Halophila stipulacea*. **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Vasquez, M., Cruz-Rivera, E, Winters, G., Fong, P., Barber, P.H. *Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography- Puerto Rico.*
- 2018 Reconstructing the history of invasion of *Halophila stipulacea*, in the Caribbean Sea. **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Winters, G., Barber, P.H., Procaccini, G, Barak, S, & Willette D.A. *International Seagrass Biology Workshop (ISBW 13) – Singapore, Singapore.* \*Best Oral Presentation
- 2017 Comparing the genetic diversity of an invasive seagrass, *Halophila stipulacea*, in its native and invasive range. **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Winters, G., Barber, P.H., Procaccini, G., Barak, S., & Willette D.A. *Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography- Honolulu, Hawaii*
- 2016 Comparing the genetic diversity of an invasive seagrass, *Halophila stipulacea*, in its native and invasive range. **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Winters, G., Barber, P.H., Procaccini, G, Barak, S, & Willette D.A. *International Seagrass Biology Workshop (ISBW 12) – Nant gwehryn, Wales*
- 2016 Comparative genetic analysis of a globally invasive marine angiosperm, *Halophila stipulacea*, in the native and invasive range. **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Winters, G., Barber, P.H., & Willette D.A., *EuroMarine foresight workshop: Developing an integrated framework for studying Halophila stipulacea, the worlds first globally invasive marine angiosperm (Seagrass)- Eilat Israel*
- 2014 The secret of the mermaid’s purse: Phylogenetic affinities of the family Rajidae and the evolution of a novel reproductive strategy in skates. **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Ebert, D.A., Slager, C.J., and K.D. Crow, *North Pacific Shark Symposium- Seattle, Washington*
- 2013 The secret of the mermaid’s purse: Phylogenetic affinities of the family Rajidae and the evolution of a novel reproductive strategy in skates. **Chiquillo, K.L.**, Ebert, D.A., Slager, C.J., and K.D. Crow, *Western Naturalist Society- Ventura, California*

- 2012 Patterns of herbivory in different age size classes of Opaleye (*Girella nigricans*) in relation to algal community structure in Big Fisherman's Cove. **Chiquillo, K.L.**, *USC Wrigley Symposium, Santa Catalina Island*

### **Conference Posters**

- 2023 Understanding the invasion potential of the seagrass (*Halophila stipulacea*) in Culebra, Puerto Rico. **Chiquillo, K.**, Wong, J.M, Sabat, A., Sanchez, J., Rodriguez-Casariago, J.A., Mercado-Molina, A.E., Eirin-Lopez, J.M. *CREST All Hands Meeting- Miami, FL*
- 2022 Attack of the clones: Understanding the invasion potential of the seagrass (*Halophila stipulacea*) in Culebra, Puerto Rico. **Chiquillo, K.**, Wong, J.M, Sabat, A., Sanchez, J., Rodriguez-Casariago, J.A., Mercado-Molina, A.E., Eirin-Lopez, J.M. *Epigenetics in Marine Science (EpiMar2022)- Woodshole, MA*
- 2018 Assessing the outcome of interspecific interactions between native and invasive seagrass. **Chiquillo, K.**, and Barber, P.H., *Twenty-First Annual Biology Research Symposium- University of California, Los Angeles, California*
- 2016 Comparing the genetic diversity of *Halophila stipulacea* in its invasive and native range, **Chiquillo, K.**, Campese L, Winter G, Procaccini G, Barber P, Willette D, *Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography- New Orleans, Louisiana*
- 2012 The secret of the mermaid's purse: phylogenetic affinities and the evolution of a novel reproductive life history trait in skates of the genus *Raja*", **Chiquillo, K.**, N. Bravo, D.A. Ebert, and K.D. Crow, *American Society of Ichthyology and Herpetology- Vancouver, British Columbia*

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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- 2024 **Assistant Professor**  
Molecular Ecology Lab, Lead PI: Kelcie Chiquillo  
Department of Biology  
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, San Juan, PR, USA
- 2022 **NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Biology**  
Environmental Epigenetics Lab, Lead PI: Professor Jose Eirin-Lopez  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Florida International University, Biscayne Bay Campus, North Miami, FL, USA
- 2013 **Laboratory Volunteer**  
FishLab, Lead PI: Professor Karen Crow  
Department of Biological Sciences  
San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 2012 **SCUBA Diver Volunteer**  
Aquarium of the Bay, Lead: Michael Grassmann  
San Francisco, CA, USA

### **CERTIFICATIONS**

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- 2022 PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor (#508401)  
2019 Yin Yoga Teacher – RYT50

2019 UCLA Entering and Mentoring (EMT) Program  
 2019 PADI Dive Master  
 2018 Yoga Teacher – RYT® 200  
 2016 RNAseq – Conservation and Gene Expression Training  
 2015 Eco Stats- Technological Advances between Ecology and Statistics Training  
 2015 Environmental DNA (eDNA) Training  
 2015 2b-RADseq Genomic Sequencing  
 2014 U.S. Boat Operations  
 2010 AAUS Scientific Diving– Moss Landing

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Teaching Appointments**

2021 EEB 109- Introduction to Marine Science (Virtual)  
 2019 EEB 123B – Field Marine Ecology  
 2019 EEB 109 – Introduction to Marine Science  
 2018 EEB 111 – Vertebrate Zoology  
 2017 EEB 109 – Introduction to Marine Science  
 2017 2BRAD Genomic Sequencing Workshop  
 2017 The Diversity Project (TDP)  
 2017 EEB 101 – Marine Botany

### **Underwater Teaching Appointments**

2023 Squalo Divers, North Miami, Florida  
 2021 In2Deep- Casino Dive Park, in Catalina Island  
 2021 Diver.Sea.fy – Catalina Island

## **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

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2024 NSF Review Panelist  
 2023 Training Consultant for A WOC Space, LLC, BIMS, Norfolk, Virginia  
 2018- present Journal reviewer (3 total) *Biological Invasions, Ecology, Conservation Genetics, Aquatic Botany*  
 2023 Oral Presentation Judge, Graduate Student Biosymposium, Florida International University  
 2022 Writing mentor, Grant Fellowship Writing Group, Office of Training and Fellowships at the University Graduate School. Florida International University  
 2022 Training Consultant for A WOC Space, LLC American Fisheries Society, Spokane Washington  
 2022 Training Consultant for A WOC Space, LLC Benthic Ecology, New Hampshire  
 2021 Training Consultant for A WOC Space, New England Consortium, Virtual  
 2021 Flyer designer and Social Media volunteer- Black in Marine Science  
 2021 Training Consultant for A WOC Space, LLC- Black In Marine Science  
 2021 Training Consultant of A WOC Space, LLC- IMMC6, Virtual  
 2019 Notre Dame Academy Elementary School. Guest Lecture. “Seagrass is Grass.”

- 2018 UCLA Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Faculty Graduate Student Liaison
- 2017 Westwood Charter Elementary School Science Slam. Science Leader. “Hunger Games”.
- 2017 Explore your Universe. Volunteer
- 2017 Co-Chair, UCLA Scientific Excellence through Diversity Series (SEDS)
- 2016 SACNAS Chapter at UCLA. Graduate Student Representative.
- 2016 iStop Motion Educational Film. Chiquillo, K., and Miranda M., “Out of Thin Air: The Nitrogen cycle”. <https://youtu.be/FZwq2yzsA20>

**MENTORSHIP**

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- 2019 Monica Rivas- Undergraduate researcher, UCLA Barber Lab
- 2017 Brianna Mims- Undergraduate researcher, The Diversity Project
- 2017 Autumn Chong- Undergraduate researcher, The Diversity Project
- 2017 Carly Johnson- Undergraduate researcher, The Diversity Project
- 2016 Jennifer Aguayo- Undergraduate researcher, UCLA Barber Lab
- 2015 Candice Cross- Undergraduate researcher, Loyola Mount University & UCLA Barber Lab
- 2015 Taylor Ely- Undergraduate researcher, UCLA Barber Lab

**SKILLS**

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*Programming languages:* HTML, R, Unix shell- Bash,  
*Software Applications:* Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Adobe Fresco  
*Languages:* English (Native), Spanish (Professional proficiency)