

# Ella Guedouar

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## EDUCATION

### DEGREES

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- 2021 – Present MS in Environmental Science  
*Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL*  
- Thesis: Effect of Passive Human Presence on the Biodiversity of Mammals and Fishes in the Peruvian Amazon
- 2018 – 2021 BA in Psychology; Conc. Neuroscience & Cognition | Minor: Biology  
*Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL*  
- Summa cum Laude graduate  
- Honors Thesis: The Role of Isolation in the Recognition of Context-Specific Alarm Calls in a Captive Vervet Monkey

### ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS

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- Apr 2022 – Present African Student Association FGCU Chapter | Secretary, Media Chair  
Aug 2021 – Present Animal Behavior Research Group  
Nov 2020 – Present Psi Chi – Psychology Honor Society  
Nov 2020 – Present Omicron Delta Kappa – Leadership Honor Society

## RESEARCH

### PUBLICATIONS

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Guedouar, E. G. (2022). Effect of isolation on the recognition of context-specific alarm calls in a captive vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*). *Florida Undergraduate Research Journal*, 1(1).  
<https://doi.org/10.55880/furj1.1.03>

#### *Manuscripts in Preparation:*

- Guedouar, E., Rodriguez, A.<sup>U</sup>, Davis, L.<sup>U</sup>, & Metcalf, M. (under review). *Herpetological Review*.
- Metcalf, M., Colbert, J., Guedouar, E., Marsh, A., Rodriguez, A.<sup>U</sup>, Troast, S., & Durso, A. (in prep.). Response of Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes to Hurricane Disturbance Events.
- Guedouar, E., Metcalf, M., Rodriguez, A.<sup>U</sup>, Davis, L.<sup>U</sup>, Marsh, A., Graham, D., Flores De Velasco, A.<sup>U</sup>, Pizuri Espinar, O.<sup>U</sup>, Tello, R.<sup>U</sup>, Zulema, K.<sup>U</sup>, Bustillos, A.<sup>U</sup>, & Gunnels, C. (in prep). Impact of Passive Human Presence on Mammal and Fish Communities in the Peruvian Amazon
- Metcalf, M., Marsh, A., Guedouar, E., Rodriguez, A., Davis, L., & Gunnels, C. (in prep.). Herpetofauna of the Madre Selva Forest Preserve in the Peruvian Amazon

<sup>U</sup> = undergraduate student co-authors

### PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

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- \*Guedouar, E. & Gunnels, C. (2022). Using Drones to Study Wildlife. Whitaker Welcome Back, FGCU.  
\*Guedouar, E. & Metcalf, M. (2022) Wildlife Conservation in Peru & Southwest Florida. Estero Recreational Center.  
Guedouar, E., Gunnels, C., Brosse, W., Herman, J., & Metcalf, M. (2022). Behavior of Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus adamanteus*) on a University Campus in Southwest Florida. Poster. Animal Behavior Society, Costa Rica.

Guedouar, E. & Gunnels, C. (2021). Effect of Isolation in the Recognition of Semantic Alarm Calls in a Captive Vervet Monkey. Presentation. Animal Behavior Society, Virtual.

Guedouar, E. (2021). Effect of Isolation in the Recognition of Semantic Alarm Calls in a Captive Vervet Monkey. Honors Thesis Defense, FGCU.

Guedouar, E. & Gunnels, C. (2021). Effect of Isolation in the Recognition of Semantic Alarm Calls in an Isolated Captive Vervet Monkey. Virtual talk. Research Day, FGCU.

Guedouar, E. & Gunnels, C. (2021). Effect of Isolation in the Recognition of Semantic Alarm Calls in an Isolated Captive Vervet Monkey. Virtual talk. Southern Regional Honors Council Conference, Virtual.

\* Invited Talk

## GRANTS

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1. Office of Scholarly Innovation & Student Research Student Research Award (Funded: 2022 - \$1,000): Animal Behavior Society Conference Funding.
2. Whitaker Center for STEM Education Blair Foundation Environmental Sciences Scholarship (Funded: 2022 - \$7,250): Effect of human presence on wildlife diversity in the Peruvian Amazon.
3. Office of Scholarly Innovation & Student Research Communities in Transition Award (Funded: 2022 - \$39,000): Effect of human presence on wildlife diversity in the Peruvian Amazon.
4. Office of Scholarly Research & Student Innovation Student Research Award (Funded: 2022 - \$750): Role of urban environments as a refuge in ringneck snakes in Southwest Florida.
5. Honors Professional Development Grant (Funded: 2021 - \$2,000): Lion Conservation & Wildlife Research in Victoria Falls National Park.
6. The Fulbright Program (Not funded): The impact of urbanization levels on vervet monkey troop dynamics and movement.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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2022 – Present	<p>Passive Human Presence Effect on Mammalian Biodiversity in the Peruvian Amazon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Led and organized a research trip for 2 co-PIs, 2 undergraduate assistants, and 6 Peruvian students</li> <li>- Sampled mammals with 27 camera traps and processing over 1,000 videos</li> <li>- Surveyed over 300 freshwater stream fish in two different sites in the Amazon</li> <li>- Built a foundation for a long-term project as the Iquitos bridge is expected to initiate the movement of potentially hundreds of thousands of people into undeveloped rainforest</li> </ul>
2022	<p>Herpetofauna Biodiversity in the Peruvian Amazon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assisted in a herpetofauna surveys on 250 meter transects in two different research sites in the Amazon</li> <li>- Captured, measured, and recorded data on various species, including snakes, lizards, and anurans</li> </ul>
2021 - Present	<p>Spatial Ecology &amp; Behavior of Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes on a University Campus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Radio-tracking 6 Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes on FGCU's campus using radiotelemetry while collecting habitat and behavioral data</li> <li>- Capturing opportunistically found rattlesnakes for transmitter implant, pit-tag insertion, and collecting morphological measurements</li> <li>- Classifying birthing sites of rattlesnakes and collecting morphological data on neonate snakes</li> </ul>

- 2021 Mammalian Species Survey in Fuller Forest, Victoria Falls National Park using Camera Traps
- Utilized 8 camera traps placed in various habitat types around the national park to observe presence of species in the Forest
- 2021 Avian Species Survey in Fuller Forest, Victoria Falls National Park
- Surveyed birds at dawn and dusk to identify which species use the park at which time and estimate populations
- 2021 Innate Semantic Language in a Captive Isolated Vervet Monkey
- Created project and used playback calls to observe any innate semantic alarm call recognition

#### WILDLIFE WORK

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- March 2022 Umsizi Umkomaas Vervet Rescue Centre | Volunteer  
Umkomaas, South Africa
- Attended rescue calls for injured and abandoned vervet monkeys
  - Provided medical care and to monkeys in rehabilitation
- July – Aug 2021 Wildlife Encounter | Volunteer  
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- Researched wildlife present in the area outside Zambezi National Park via bird surveys, game counts, spoor tracking, and camera trapping
  - Maintained various captive animals used for educational purposes including feeding, enrichment and cleaning for lions, ostriches, duiker, and other native animals
- Sep 2019 – July 2021 Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary | Intern  
Punta Gorda, FL
- Prepared meat and fed exotic carnivores, including lions, tigers, hyenas, ligers, cougars, leopards, caracals
  - Created specialized diets for and fed primates, bears, hoof stock, & birds
  - Built an enclosure and repaired two others, perform aesthetic work, cage cleaning and maintenance
  - Interacted and educated 10 guests per day (pre-covid) through inquiries and tours
  - Performed clerical duties and interacted with up to 300 guests per day at reception desk, including filling out forms, taking payment, and selling merchandise

#### PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

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- 2021 – Present Animal Behavior Society
- 2021 – Present International Primate Protection League

## TEACHING

#### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- Aug 2022 – Present Graduate Instructor | General Biology II Lab  
Biology Department, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL
- Lecturing basic biology material, creating & administering quizzes and exams, and grading for two classes a week as sole instructor of record
  - Guiding students through various laboratory experiences

- Aug 2018 – April 2021 Private Tutor  
Bonita Springs, FL
- Reinforced scholastic concepts and built study skills for 3 middle school students twice a week
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- Aug 2019 – May 2021 Student Mentor  
Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL
- Led orientation sessions for over 100 incoming dual enrollment students
  - Assisted 28 students in the Accelerated Collegiate Program acclimatize to a college setting and individualized collegiate planning and goal setting

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SERVICE

### SERVICE

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- April 2022 – Present Aquila Journal Reviewer  
Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL
- Reading student paper submissions and reviewing according to guidelines for the university's student research journal
  - Organizing reviewer meetings & workshops
  - Recruiting submissions for the journal from students
- Jan – May 2021 Student Partner  
Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL
- Observe classes and recorded lectures of faculty partner to determine strengths and weaknesses in teaching methods
  - Communicating with students in the assigned class to relay to professor during weekly meetings about how to improve the course
- Jun 2020 – Present Volunteer  
Talkin' Monkeys Project Inc., Clewiston, FL
- Prepare food for and feed primates at the sanctuary
  - Clean cages and provide enrichment activities for the animals

### MEDIA APPEARANCES

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- Gillis, C. 27 September 2022. In her own words: Southwest Florida graduate student talks climate change, her future life. The News Press. <https://tinyurl.com/4hrpmaef>
- Shared my background and how climate change is increasingly an issue for my generation.
- Biro, E. 20 September 2022. FGCU monitoring rattlesnakes on campus. Wink News. <https://tinyurl.com/y3e7dhmk>
- Spoke about the research we do on campus with rattlesnakes and what to expect during birthing season.
- West, A. 29 August 2022. Masters' student on making a difference in fight against climate change. The News Press. <https://tinyurl.com/yc9jvsn2>
- In a video interview, I discussed how I am motivated to make a difference in the race against climate change.
- Clark, T. 8 September 2022. Research in the Amazon. FGCU. <https://tinyurl.com/2p933zt7>
- I shared my research experience in the Amazon, used as a promotional video for university.
- Tsiropoulos, A. 6 September 2022. Marco Island woman spots large iguana moving through backyard. ABC7. <https://tinyurl.com/2ymf6zrs>
- Identified iguana seen on local woman's security footage and provided information about the invasive lizard.

Biro, L. 8 August 2022. FGCU students using lessons learned in Peru to help SWFL's environment. Wink News. <https://tinyurl.com/w7tjkmn9>

- Discussed my research in the Amazon and related it to issues seen in Southwest Florida.

Weber, R. 26 July 2022. Graduate student finds career choice came naturally. FGCU360. <https://tinyurl.com/4fhkteua>

- Shared my background growing up and the story on how I got into research.

12 May 2022. FGCU unveils new Water School building. Fox4. <https://tinyurl.com/bdukdex7>

- Discussed what the new building meant for me as a student and the opportunities it opened up for research.
- Additional stories on the same topic:

Alvarez, M. 11 May 2022. FGCU Water School gets new building, set to open in the fall. Wink News. <https://tinyurl.com/bdh6wp9x>

Cole, J. 13 May 2022. FGCU Waters School opens its doors after three years. <https://tinyurl.com/3rffxvcy>

Garcia, G. 22 April 2022. Researching Rattlesnakes in Southwest Florida. Wink News.

<https://tinyurl.com/rpnt365z>

- Discussed the research my team is doing and why it is important to study rattlesnakes.

Rodriguez, E. 9 May 2022. FGCU Student is 'Monkeying' around in South Africa. Eagle News.

<https://tinyurl.com/364dc38f>

- Spoke about my recent trip to South Africa and my experience with the nuisance wildlife in urban areas

Lojewski, A. 27 April 2022. Family speaks to ABC-7 after 14-year-old was bit by rattlesnake. Newsbreak.

<https://tinyurl.com/43w9dkhr>

- Discussed the recent rattlesnake bite and how to safely coexist with rattlesnakes.

Shaw, D. 23 March 2022. Wooten's employee ignored verbal warnings not to pet tiger prior to attack. Wink News. <https://tinyurl.com/2s3c4jjp>

- Discussed the second tiger attack in three months and natural tiger behaviors.

Elias, D. 9 February 2022. Naples Zoo pleads for new legislation to protect animals following tiger incident.

NBC2. <https://tinyurl.com/yers9pp5>

- Discussed legislation options following a tiger attack that resulted in the death of the tiger.

Lojewski, A. 7 February 2022. Get More: What you should know about invasive green iguanas. ABC7.

<https://tinyurl.com/2vevc6ac>. NBC2 <https://tinyurl.com/y3e565xe>

- Colder temperatures caused iguanas to fall from trees, shared how to safely handle the invasive lizard.

Raimondi, M. 20 December 2021. Bobcat & Kittens spotted roaming FGCU campus. NBC2.

<https://tinyurl.com/muncd2e9>

- Discussed the recent sightings of a bobcat family and how our campus coexists with wildlife.

Lojewski, A. 8 October 2021. Wildlife officials say manatees need to be moved back to the endangered species list. ABC7. <https://tinyurl.com/4vxs4t7n>

- Discussed the harm humans cause manatees and their status as a threatened species.

Byrne, S. 4 October 2021. Nearly two dozen animal, plant species to be declared extinct. Wink News.

<https://tinyurl.com/k8sm8psv>

- Discussed a recent New York Times article and why humans are a factor in defaunation.

## SKILLS

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R Studio	Radiotelemetry
SPSS	Camera Traps
ObserverXT	YSI
Microsoft Word, Excel, & PowerPoint	Thermal Drone Flying
Neotropical Species Identification	GIS

## AWARDS

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1. Best Undergraduate Presentation in Biology, EagleX, Florida Gulf Coast University (2021)
2. Wildlife Conservation Award, Florida Gulf Coast University (2019)

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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1. Water School Research Assistantship, Florida Gulf Coast University (2021 - 2022)
  - Assistantship with flexibility to conduct my own research, \$15,000
2. Graduate Florida Academic Scholars Award (2021)
  - Graduate school funding in the state of Florida, \$1,800
1. Joe Coller Memorial Scholarship, Florida Gulf Coast University (2020)
  - Awarded for exceptional service, \$1,300
2. President's Gold Scholarship (2019 – 2020)
  - Scholarship based on academic merit, \$5,000 per year
3. Santa Fe Senior Living Scholarship, Gainesville, Florida (2019)
  - Awarded to family members of employees based on academic achievement, \$1,150
4. Florida Academic Scholars Award (2019 – 2021)
  - State funded undergraduate tuition for high achieving students, \$15,000

## REFERENCES

Dr. Charles Gunnels  
Chair, Biology Department  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
Phone: 239-590-7210  
Email: cgunnels@fgcu.edu

Dr. Andrew Durso  
Assistant Professor, Biology  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
Phone: 239-745-4642  
Email: adurso@fgcu.edu

Dr. Devon Graham  
President & Scientific Director  
Project Amazonas Inc.  
Phone: 786-232-2674  
Email: devon@projectamazonas.org