

Laura Luna Lardinois

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EDUCATION

McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, CA September 2021-*anticipated completion May 2026*

- *Candidate for PhD in Biology*
- Neotropical Environment Option (NEO) Program, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI)
- Thesis:** *Untangling the ecological and evolutionary drivers of marine host associated microbiomes*
- Supervisors: Dr. Rowan Barrett (McGill) & Dr. Matthieu Leray (STRI)
- Languages: Native English and French speaker, highly proficient in written and oral Spanish
- **CGPA:** 4.00

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT September 2017-May 2021

- *Bachelor of Arts: Biology* – summa cum laude
- *Minors: Spanish & French*
- **CGPA:** 3.98 / 4.00

EXPERIENCE

Faculty of Science; Department of Biology, McGill University, Montreal, QC January 2023-*present*
Teaching Assistant – Advanced Methods in Organismal Biology

- Preparing laboratory materials and course content

Faculty of Science; Department of Biology, McGill University, Montreal, QC. Sept. 2022 - Dec. 2022
Teaching Assistant – Conservation Biology

- Responsible for tutorials introducing upper-level undergraduate students to key topics in conservation biology, including population viability analyses (PVAs)
- Marked assignments, managed online course platform, and facilitated class communication

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), Panama City, Panama June - August 2022
Research Fellow

- Aided with sample collection in the Tropical Eastern Pacific and the Caribbean alongside my supervisor - Dr. Matthieu Leray - and the Rohr Reef Resilience Program, a multi-disciplinary team of collaborators, visiting all the sampling sites that will be part of my PhD thesis
- Processed and sequenced over 600 fish skin and gut microbiome samples (16S rRNA)
- Mentored my first undergraduate research intern, teaching her how to perform dissections, extract DNA, and prepare fish microbiome samples for sequencing
- Completed the PADI® Open Water and Advanced Open Water diving certifications

STEMM Diversity Mentorship Program, McGill University, Montreal, QC January 2022-*present*
Peer mentor

- Providing guidance and support to undergraduates belonging to underrepresented groups within STEMM
- Working with mentees one-on-one to help them navigate the challenges of academia; giving them a safe space to voice concerns, identify and achieve personal goals, and develop as students and individuals

Faculty of Science; Department of Biology, McGill University, Montreal, QC August 2021-December 2021
Teaching Assistant – Molecular Biology

- Planned and lead weekly conferences on fundamental topics in molecular biology
- Guided undergraduates through inquiry-based problem sets (FRezCa) and assessed student learning
- Collaborated with a diverse teaching team of professors, teaching assistants, and undergraduate mentors

Environmental Studies Program, Middlebury College, VT August 2020-May 2021
Senior Independent Research Student

- Investigated personal care product (PCP) use worldwide, in collaboration with Professor Kathryn Crawford
- Literature review assessing the current state of the science on PCPs and their effects on humans and the environment, with a particular emphasis on cultural and geographical variations in product use
- Identified understudied areas and provided context for an ongoing research study on PCP use in Honduras

Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research, Middlebury College, VT September 2018-May 2021
Peer Language Tutor – French & Spanish

- Guided foreign language students in improving their written and spoken skills

Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable, Montevideo, Uruguay March-July, 2020
Unidad Bases Neurales de la Conducta

Research Intern for Laura Quintana, PhD

- Reviewed pioneering work centered on breeding and non-breeding aggression, focusing on the behavior of a native weakly electric teleost fish (*Gymnotus omarorum*)
- Prepared weekly research talks, summarizing and analyzing recent publications in the field and navigating the challenges of presenting primarily anglophone scientific articles to a Spanish-speaking audience
- Created a project proposal for future research on *G. omarorum* investigating the links between melatonin, a key hormone in the synchronization of biological clocks, and seasonal shifts in aggression in this species

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle, NC Summer 2018, 2019
Protein Expression Core Facility (PECF)

Summer Research Intern for Robert Petrovich, PhD

- Performed cutting-edge protein expression and purification techniques using modified *E. coli* cell lines
- Analyzed vector sequences for possible attachment and restriction digest sites
- Presented posters at the annual National Institutes of Health (NIH) intramural intern symposium
 - **Lardinois L**, Stanley T, Petrovich M, Borgnia M, Edwards L, Petrovich R. Optimizing Apoferritin as a Scaffold for Cryo-EM Imaging of Maltose Binding Protein. Poster presented at: NIEHS Summer Intern Poster Session; 2019 July 25.
 - **Lardinois L**, Stanley T, Edwards L, Petrovich R. Thermophilic Proteasome Complex as a Scaffold for Cryo-EM Imaging of Small Proteins. Poster presented at: NIEHS Summer Intern Poster Session; 2018 August 9.

RESEARCH SKILLS

- Comfortable performing bacterial cell culture, molecular biology techniques (DNA and protein) including PCR and polyacrylamide gels, cloning genes of interest, microbial DNA extraction from environmental samples (fish, corals, seawater, soil), and clone library assembly
- Experience collecting fish samples in remote reef environments and conducting fish dissections
- Certified PADI Open Water Diver and Advanced Open Water Diver (*as of August 2022*)
- Familiar with common statistical and bioinformatic analyses of sequencing data in R

HONORS & AWARDS

Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science (QCBS) Excellence Award (\$1,500 award) 2022

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) Short-Term Fellowship 2022

- Fellowship supports three months of innovative tropical research at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, including a \$3,000 stipend, \$2,000 towards research expenses, and round-trip airfare

McGill Graduate Mobility Award (\$6,671 award) 2022

Redpath Museum Delise Alison Graduate Student Development Award (\$1,500 award)	Lardinois, L. 2022
Max Stern Recruitment Fellowship (\$10,000 award)	2021
Graduate Excellence Entrance Award (\$2,500 award)	2021
Elbert C. Cole Memorial Fund Prize in Biology (\$2,000 award)	2021
Juana Gamero de Coca Global Gender and Cultures Writing Award (\$500 award)	2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award accompanied by publication in the <i>Middlebury Journal of Global Affairs</i>, an undergraduate peer-reviewed journal and reading of a short excerpt of the piece at the Juana Gamero de Coca Day of Learning on Global Gender and Cultures 	

Phi Beta Kappa Junior Inductee	2021
College Scholar (Middlebury College Honors – CGPA above 3.6 with full course load)	2017-2021

LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

Graduate Association of the Redpath Museum, McGill University, Montreal, QC <i>Redpath Seminar Coordinator</i>	September 2022-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite speakers for the Redpath Museum’s weekly seminar series on various natural history topics Promote science communication and provide a platform for students and faculty from McGill, other Québec universities, and beyond to share their research projects Organize presentation schedules, coordinate with museum faculty and staff, advertise talks 	

Biology Graduate Student Association, McGill University, Montreal, QC <i>Organismal Seminar Committee Representative</i>	September 2022-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The weekly Organismal (CEEB) seminars bring researchers at the top of their field from across the globe Coordinate schedules, contact speakers, design posters, and advertise talks across the Biology Department Facilitate the nomination and selection process of the BGSA student-invited speaker 	

Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) <i>Member of the marine BON</i>	February 2022-present
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Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science (QCBS), Montreal, QC, Canada <i>Student member</i>	September 2021-present
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Biology Graduate Student Association, McGill University, Montreal, QC <i>Student member</i>	September 2021-present
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Graduate Association of the Redpath Museum, McGill University, Montreal, QC <i>Student member</i>	September 2021-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helped facilitate outdoor science outreach events on Quebec’s flora and fauna through the Redpath Museum Interviewed McGill faculty members for the Faculty of Science’s Mini-Science lecture series 	

Middlebury Mountain Club, Middlebury, VT <i>(Winter) Hiking and Backpacking Guide</i>	February 2018-May 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized trips to the Adirondack and Green Mountains with groups of 4-8 student participants Instructed participants in basic wilderness safety skills and Leave No Trace principles 	

Middlebury Freshman Orientation, Middlebury, VT	2018-2020
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Outdoor Trip Leader

- Co-led multi-day outdoor backpacking and rock-climbing trips
- Conducted a remote orientation for international students unable to travel to the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic; Served as a resource and advocate, connecting them to on-campus organizations