

JESSICA SIDERS KAHLER

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor August, 2018
Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law Gainesville, FL
University of Florida

Conservation Criminology Consultant, Wildlife Crime Initiative February 2015 - July 2017
World Wildlife Fund (WWF) –US Washington, D.C.

- Developed a *Community-Based Wildlife Crime Prevention (CBWCP)* approach based on criminology methods and theories consisting of a CBWCP Implementation Manual, Training of the Trainers Guide, and the Manual of Site-Based Exercises, which aims to increase community involvement in protection efforts as outlined in the Zero Poaching Toolkit (<http://www.zeropoaching.org>)
- Revised the CBWCP field manuals through pilots in Cameroon and Cambodia, internal review within WWF, and building on dissertation research in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Sumatra Indonesia, May-June, 2015.
- Collaborated with WWF staff to develop a tracking tool for national level and site-based assessment on the implementation of the “Stop the Poaching” pillar of the Wildlife Crime Initiative

Piping Plover Recovery Technician May - August 2008
The Nature Conservancy, Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge Medicine Lake, MT

- Monitored the nesting and fledging success of the endangered Piping plover within its habitat on the Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Northeast Montana Wetland Management District in the Alkali Lakes Core Area.

National Coordinator, Reef Check Vanuatu¹ August 2006 - July 2007
United States Peace Corps Republic of Vanuatu

- Coordinated financial, logistical, training and reporting activities for the National Reef Check Program under direction and in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Management and Policy Section

Coastal Resources Management Advisor June 2004 - August 2006
United States Peace Corps Republic of Vanuatu

- Advised the Unua community on Malekula Island and worked with local chief’s council and community groups to implement the Mbatambong-Penamur Traditional Protected Area

¹ Please see U.S. Peace Corps “Description of Service” for details (available upon request)

EDUCATION

- Doctorate of Philosophy, Fisheries & Wildlife** May 2018
 Michigan State University East Lansing, MI
- Successful defense: November 29, 2017
 - Committee: Drs. Christina DeJong, Meredith Gore (chair), Edmund McGarrell, and Gary Roloff
 - Graduate certificate in *Gender, Justice and Environmental Change*
- Master of Science, Fisheries & Wildlife** December 2010
 Michigan State University East Lansing, MI
- Advisor: Dr. Meredith Gore
- Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology** December 2003
 The Ohio State University Columbus, OH
- *Cum Laude* with Honors in the Liberal Arts
- Bachelor of Science, Natural Resources Management** December 2003
 The Ohio State University Columbus, OH
- *Cum Laude* with Honors & Distinction in Fisheries & Wildlife Management

RESEARCH

Graduate Research Assistant (Ph.D.) January 2011- August 2015
 Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice East Lansing, MI

Dissertation research: “The Situational Prevention of Wildlife Poaching in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Sumatra Indonesia”

- Procured funding through a National Science Foundation’s Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant from the Division of Social and Economic Sciences, Decision, Risk and Management Sciences
- Established, coordinated, and implemented research, including semi-structured interviews (N=400) and a 3-day focus group with conservation stakeholders (N=27)
- Manuscript-based dissertation chapters include (published or in preparation):
 - Conservation Crime Science (published book chapter)
 - Wildlife Guardianship: Understanding local willingness to intervene in the face of wildlife crime
 - ‘Hot species:’ Developing a species-based model to examine wildlife species targeted by poachers using local community and expert knowledge
 - A participatory conservation criminology approach to the situational prevention of Sumatran tiger poaching in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park

MSU Center for Advanced Study in International Development Grant, Madagascar (Author & Principal Investigator, Dr. Meredith Gore)

- Primary research assistant in Andasibe, Madagascar investigating perceptions of wildlife poaching risks
- Contributed to and helped revise research methods and survey instruments
- Implemented surveys and conducted one-day workshop in collaboration with PI, an additional research assistant, and Malagasy researchers
- Interviewed a local conservation practitioner and a primatologist to develop a dissertation survey instrument to examine wildlife species targeted by poachers
- Co-authored one publication related to poaching risks in Madagascar (see below)

Graduate Research Assistant (MS)

Michigan State University, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife

August 2008 - December 2010

East Lansing, MI

Thesis research: “Local Perceptions of Risk and Vulnerability Associated with Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Namibian Conservancies”

- Conducted research in two rural communal conservancies using Participatory Action Research including in-depth interviews (N=76) and focus groups (N=48).
- Facilitated data collection related to and digitized conservancy records of human-wildlife conflicts and poaching activities in two communal conservancies.
- Communicated with communal conservancy stakeholders and management, traditional authorities (e.g., chief’s councils), Namibian conservation organizations and agencies in relation to human-wildlife conflict research and preliminary research findings.
- Published 5 peer-reviewed articles and gave 3 extramural professional presentations related to research in Namibia (see below for details)

Undergraduate Honor Student

The Ohio State University

August 2000 - December 2003

Columbus, OH

- Honors Research: “*A Ternary Approach to Understanding the Effects of Forest Management: Evaluating the Effects of Prescribed Fire and Thinning on Mesic and Xeric Moisture Regimes Using Soil Aggregate Stability, Leaf Litter, and the Ovenbird (Seiurus aurocapillus)*”
- Denman Undergraduate Research Forum (OSU), Second place in Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, 2003

GRANTS

- **Kahler, J. (PI)**, Perz, S., and Loiselle, B. (submitted 2018, May). “Combatting Wildlife Trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Funding request to U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). (Requested \$2,373,844; Not Funded).
- **Kahler, J.** and Gore, M. (2013). “Improving management of wildlife poaching risks: Using perceptions of risk and situational crime prevention to protect endangered wildlife.” Funded by National Science Foundation, Division of Social and Economic Sciences, Decision, Risk and Management Sciences, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant. Award # 1257869 (Funded \$28,500).
- DeWan, A., Hutchinson, A., **Kahler, J.**, Mannle, K., Ozbenian, S., & Torres, N. (2010). “Saving the Saola in Vietnam: A ranger training and community development workshop.” Funding received through the Russel E. Train Education for Nature Program; World Wildlife Fund (Funded \$7,500)
- **Kahler, J.** & Kahler, B. (2005-2006). “Unua Area Youth Center (Malekula Island, Vanuatu).” Funding received through the Australian High Commission, U.S. Peace Corps Small Projects Assistants, the MALAMPA Provincial Government and AusAid (Funded \$17,277)

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed journal articles and book chapters:

- **Kahler, J.**, Boratto, R., Vanegas, L., Wieland, M., and Gore, M. (in press). Using conservation criminology to explore the opportunity structures, obstacles, and deterrence of urban bushmeat trafficking in Lékoumou District in the Republic of Congo. *In* S. Pires (Ed.) *Quantitative Studies in Green and Conservation Criminology*.

- **Kahler, J.** (2018). *The situational prevention of wildlife poaching in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Sumatra Indonesia* (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database. (UMI No.10815833)
- **Kahler, J.**, and Gore, M. (2017). Chapter 2: Conservation Crime Science. In M. Gore (Ed.) *Conservation Criminology*. Wiley: Hoboken, NJ.
- Gore, M., Ratsimbazafy, J., Rajaonson, A., Lewis, A. and **Kahler, J.**, (2016). Public perceptions of poaching risks in a biodiversity hotspot. *Journal of Trafficking, Organized Crime, and Security* 2: 1-20.
- **Kahler, J.** and Gore M. (2015). Local perceptions of risk associated with poaching of wildlife implicated in human-wildlife conflicts. *Biological Conservation* 189: 49-58 (Editor's Choice Article September 2015)
- Gore, M. and **Kahler, J.** (2015). Using visual scales in researching global human dimensions of wildlife. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife: An International Journal*, DOI: 10.1080/10871209.2014.992501
- **Kahler, J.**, Roloff, G. and Gore, M. (2013). Poaching risks in a community-based natural resource management system. *Conservation Biology* 27: 177-186.
- **Kahler, J.**, and Gore, M. (2012). Beyond the cooking pot and pocket book: Factors influencing noncompliance with wildlife poaching rules. *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, 36 (2): 103-120.
- Gore, M. and **Kahler, J.** (2012). Gendered Risk Perceptions Associated with Human-Wildlife Conflict: Implications for Participatory Conservation. *PLoS ONE* 7(3): e32901. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0032901.

Peer-reviewed professional reports:

- **Kahler, J.S.** (in review). Manual 1: Implementation Guidelines- Community-Based Wildlife Crime Prevention. Zero Poaching Toolkit, Wildlife Crime Initiative. World Wildlife Fund: Washington, DC.
- **Kahler, J.S.** (in review). Manual 2: Training of the Trainers- Community-Based Wildlife Crime Prevention. Zero Poaching Toolkit, Wildlife Crime Initiative. World Wildlife Fund: Washington, DC.
- **Kahler, J.S.** (in review). Manual 3: Manual of Site-Based Exercises- Community-Based Wildlife Crime Prevention. Zero Poaching Toolkit, Wildlife Crime Initiative. World Wildlife Fund: Washington, DC.
- **Kahler, J.S.** (2016, October). Post-Mission Report: Community-Based Wildlife Crime Prevention in Eastern Plains Landscape, Cambodia. Zero Poaching Toolkit, Wildlife Crime Initiative. World Wildlife Fund: Washington, DC.
- **Kahler, J.S.** (2016, April). Post-Mission Report: Community-Based Wildlife Crime Prevention in Jengi South East Forest Program, Cameroon. Zero Poaching Toolkit, Wildlife Crime Initiative. World Wildlife Fund: Washington, DC.
- **Kahler, J.S.** (2010). Local Perceptions of Risk and Vulnerability Associated with Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Namibian Conservancies. Retrieved from Pro-Quest Digital Dissertations, (AAT: 1483617).
- Kahler, B. and **Kahler, J.** (2008). *Distribution and Reproductive Success of Piping Plovers, Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Northeast Montana Wetland Management District, 2008*. (Report: The Nature Conservancy and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). Medicine Lake, MT: Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge.
- **Kahler, J.** (2006). *Trening Buk Blong Rif Jek Vanuatu* [Reef Check Vanuatu Training Manual]. AusAID, Vanuatu Department of Fisheries & U.S. Peace Corps Vanuatu Publication, Colorite Graphics Printers. Port Vila: Republic of Vanuatu.

Media:

- **Kahler, J.** (2010, Spring). "Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders." *Spotlight Magazine*, Michigan State University Department of Fisheries & Wildlife, pp. 14-15.
- **Kahler, J.** (2006, December 17-23). Santo Dive into Reef Check [Local News]. *Vanuatu Independent*, pp. 1, 27.
- **Kahler, J.** (2006, March 18). Vanuatu "Reef Checks" Make Waves. *Vanuatu Independent*, pp. 14, 23.

NOTABLE PRESENTATIONS

- **Kahler, J.**, Viollaz, J., and Gore, M. (2018, June). "Beyond the urban crime jungle: Refining the situational crime prevention framework for conservation crime." Presented by J. Viollaz at the International Symposium on Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis (ECCA). Elche, Spain.
- **Kahler, J.** and Gore, M. (2017, July). "Wildlife Guardianship: Understanding local willingness to intervene in the face of wildlife crime." Invited talk presented at the Wildlife Crime: Bridging the gap between conservation science and criminology Symposium Panel, 28th International Congress for Conservation Biology Conference. Cartagena, Columbia.
- Gore, M and **Kahler, J.** (2017, July). "Conservation criminology approaches for managing demand for wildlife products." Invited talk presented at the Wildlife Crime: Bridging the gap between conservation science and criminology Symposium Panel, 28th International Congress for Conservation Biology Conference. Cartagena, Columbia.
- **Kahler, J.** and Long, B. (2016, January). "Beyond the "Carrot or the Stick:" Introducing the Community-Based Wildlife Crime Prevention Framework." Brown Bag presentation given at World Wildlife Fund USA. Washington D.C., USA.
- **Kahler, J.** and Gore, M. (2015, August). "Applying Situational Crime Prevention Techniques to Global Conservation Crimes." Invited talk presented at the New Frontiers in Conservation Criminology Symposium Panel, 27th International Congress for Conservation Biology Conference. Montpellier, France.
- **Kahler, J.,** Roloff, G. and Gore, M. (2013, July). "Community mapping and poaching in Namibia." Invited talk at the Detecting, Understanding and Deterring Conservation Crime Symposium, 26th International Society for Conservation Biology Conference. Baltimore, USA.
- **Kahler, J.,** Gore, M. and Roloff, G. (2013, March). "Novel approaches to environmental compliance research: a case study of the risk of poaching in Namibian conservancies." Invited talk presented to ITC's 1st Annual Environmental Compliance Conference, Windhoek, Namibia.
- **Kahler, J.** (2010, December). "Local Perceptions of Risk and Vulnerability Associated with Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Namibian Conservancies." Thesis defense presented to the Department of Fisheries & Wildlife, Michigan State University.
- **Kahler, J.** and Gore, M. (2010, July). "Redefining human-wildlife conflicts using local perceptions of risk to wildlife and livelihoods." Poster presented at the International Congress for Conservation Biology Conference, Edmonton, Canada.

ACADEMIC GUEST LECTURES

- "In pursuit of wildlife guardianship: Poaching, communities,, and willingness to intervene" in Department of Geography Weekly Seminar Series, UF, Fall 2018
- "The environment and terrorism: Eco-terrorism, environmental terrorism & links to wildlife crime" in *Special Issues in Crime and Justice: Terrorism* (University of Louisiana at Lafayette CJUS 399), Spring 2018
- "Communication applications in conservation" in *Special Topics in Communication* (MSU Course COM: 399), Fall 2014

- “Island Biogeography: Allocating protected areas for species conservation” in *Conservation Biology* (MSU Course FW: 444), Spring 2014, Spring 2013
- “Cross-cultural communication” in *Communication for Fisheries and Wildlife Professionals* (MSU Course FW: 435), Fall 2014, Fall 2013
- “Gender and biodiversity: Theoretical and practical applications” in *Gender and Environment* (MSU Course FW 858), Fall 2013
- “Poaching: An exploration into the risks to biodiversity, ecosystems and social systems associated with illegal harvest of fish and wildlife” Online Camtasia Relay lecture in *Risk, Conservation and Crime* (MSU Course FW: 847), Fall 2012, *annual thereafter*
- “Methods: International considerations” in *Human Dimensions Research in Fisheries and Wildlife* (MSU Course FW: 810), Spring 2012
- “Conflict at the Human-Wildlife Interface: Conservation Implications” in *People and the Environment* (MSU Course ISS 310), Spring 2014, Spring 2013, and in *Conservation Biology* (MSU Course FW: 444), Spring 2012, Spring 2011
- “Transition: From Field Research to Writing” in *Gender and Environmental Methods* (MSU Course ANP: 859), Spring 2011
- “Psychological Traps and Decision-Making” in *Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Wildlife Management* (MSU Course FW: 434), Spring 2010

TECHNICAL TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

- Completed the First Year Teaching Academy through the Office of Faculty Development and Teaching Excellence workshops included Active Learning, Prompt Feedback and Emphasize Time on Task, Communicate High Expectations and Respect Diverse Talents, Planning and Preparations
- Courses Taught:
 - Introduction to Conservation Criminology (CCJ 4934/SYA 4930) Fall 2018
- Facilitated Community-Based Wildlife Crime Prevention workshops at WWF sites, which included site-based CBWCP assessment exercises based on programmatic needs:
 - Jengi South East Forest Program, Cameroon (April 2016); 5 days, 37 participants ²
 - Eastern Plains Landscape, Cambodia (October 2016); 3 days, 24 participants
- Trained 5 Indonesian college students in the responsibility of conducting research and methods to conduct in-depth mixed methods interviews in communities surrounding BBSNP to assess perceptions of poaching, crime seriousness, wildlife value orientations, and wildlife guardianship dimensions, May - June, 2015.
- Developed curriculum, coordinated and co-taught a one-day workshop in cooperation with a Malagasy Conservation NGO, Alliance Voahary Gasy, for over 25 professional conservation and police stakeholders on SCP applications for poaching prevention in Madagascar, December 2014.
- Trained 7 local Namibian research assistants in field methodology for conducting in-depth interviews and participatory rural appraisal activities and proctored MSU's Institutional Review Board guidelines training for responsible conduct in human subjects research (2009).
- Organized and led the facilitation of two In-Service Trainings for Peace Corps Vanuatu in 2007 which targeted volunteers, service providers and community-based host country nationals.
- Delivered training relating to environmental education, Reef Check monitoring, and coastal resource management techniques to 21 community-based groups on nine different islands in addition to public and private sector environmental groups in Vanuatu.
- Technical trainer for Coastal Resources Management, Gender and Development, and Reef Check Vanuatu for 70 incoming Peace Corps volunteers trained in 2006 and 2007.

² Post-Mission report available upon request

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Fall 2017
- School of Criminal Justice, Spring Semester Research Fellowship, 2013
- School of Criminal Justice, Summer Support Fellowship, 2013, 2012, 2011
- Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow (Swahili), 2011-2012
- University Graduate Fellowship (MSU), The Graduate School Summer Support, 2009
- Academic Achievement Graduate Assistantship (MSU), 2008-2009
- Honors Research Scholarship, School of Natural Resources (OSU), 2002-2003

LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Hiring committee member, Teacher Scholar Tenure Track Assistant Professor position Law, Society, and Justice, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law
- Reviewer for the following journals: Biological Conservation, Conservation Biology, Conservation Letters, Human Dimensions of Wildlife, and Journal of Environmental Management.
- Graduated from the 2009-2010 Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL) class; a rigorous two-year program that provides training to young conservationists in leadership skills, wildlife conservation campaigning skills and requires them to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate an international conservation campaign.
- Collaborated with colleagues on the EWCL Saola Team to conduct a conservation needs assessment, consult relevant agencies, organizations, and experts, procure funding for and design anti-poaching training modules for community rangers and conservation practitioners engaged in conservation efforts for the saola in Vietnam.
- The Department of Fisheries & Wildlife representative on the Council of Graduate Students (COGS), Michigan State University, August 2010 to May 2011.
- Mentored a Michigan State University Undergraduate, in the Lyman Briggs 2009 Venture Program (Under the direction of Dr. Meredith Gore), in relation to theoretical and practical aspects of research related to human dimensions of human-wildlife conflicts in Namibia.
- Chairperson of the US Peace Corps Vanuatu's Women in Development and Gender and Development committee from October 2005 to May 2007.
- Mentored and trained host-country nationals in the Department of Fisheries in relation to Reef Check Vanuatu monitoring protocols, facilitation of community trainings, and program administration, 2006 - 2007.