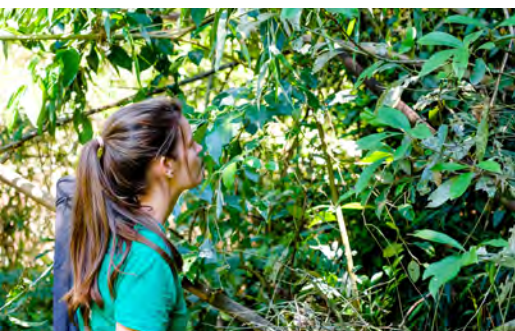


Conservation, Culture, and Environmental Change

A Virtual Field School across Latin America supporting local communities



Get a virtual field work experience
with Explorers from across Latin
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UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, FALL 2020

Conservation, Culture, and Environmental Change

A Virtual Field School across Latin America supporting local communities



Have you always wanted to travel Latin America? Ever thought it was possible with zero carbon footprint, while supporting a good cause?

Join us to take part in this innovative pilot **Virtual Field School** and learn from experts whose work with local communities across Latin America has been funded by the National Geographic Society.

This **undergraduate- and graduate-level course** is aimed at **interdisciplinary** social science and humanities students - from the disciplines of environmental science, anthropology, Latin American studies, and more – who are interested in sustainable development, nature conservation, and environmental anthropology.

Brought to you by the **University of Memphis**, this course offers seminars, virtual field-trips, project-based learning, and one-to-one mentorship. This course will give you an inside look at critical development and conservation issues, while supporting local communities and grassroots non-profit organizations.

Course Details

Semester: FALL 2020 (3 credits)

Dates: August 17 – November 24, 2020 (15 weeks)

Taught through the University of Memphis (UM Global). Cross-listed as upper-level undergraduate (4000-level) and graduate (6000-level) course.

Possibility to receive transfer credit for other universities.

[Click Here](#) or email Tigersabroad@memphis.edu for more information.

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, FALL 2020

Conservation, Culture, and Environmental Change

A Virtual Field School across Latin America supporting local communities



This course is led by experts whose work has been funded by National Geographic Society

Ashli Akins

Edoardo Antúnez

Daniel Arauz Naranjo

Vanessa Bézy, PhD

Keri Brondo, PhD

Rebecca Smith

Partnering NGOs

Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA), Honduras
Fundación-Para la Tierra, Paraguay

Mosqoy, Peru

Rescue Center for Endangered Marine Species (CREMA), Costa Rica
Wildlife Conservation Association (WCA), Costa Rica

Course Instructor Bios

All of our Course Instructors have been funded through the National Geographic Society for their research projects across Latin America.



ASHLI AKINS

Ashli is a 2019 National Geographic Explorer who critically examines the shifting relationship between cultural, environmental, and economic values, specifically relating to safeguarding cultural heritage in an era of rapid economic change. She is the Founder and President of Mosqoy, a non-profit organization based in Cusco, Peru, and has worked for over 14 years with Quechua communities of the Peruvian Andes, researching and advocating to mitigate adverse effects of unsustainable tourism and development.

Research Specialties: socioeconomic justice, intangible cultural heritage, sustainable development, rights of women & indigenous peoples, Andean culture and ecosystem.



EDOARDO ANTÚÑEZ

Edoardo is a Honduran biologist with the Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA). His National Geographic funded-project, in collaboration with University of Memphis professor Dr. Keri Brondo, focuses on incorporating local values to train new generations of islanders in Utila, Honduras, to steward and protect their changing landscape.

Research Specialties: environmental education, Mesoamerican reef ecology, water quality monitoring, community & youth development

Course Instructor Bios

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DANIEL ARAÚZ NARANJO

Daniel is a 2018 National Geographic Photo Ark EDGE Fellow who manages a sea turtle project at Costa Rica's Rescue Center for Endangered Marine Species (CREMA), where he catches, tags, and monitors sea turtles in foraging grounds in Costa Rica. He also coordinates a sustainable fisheries project, working with local fishermen to promote science and conservation.

Research Specialties: conservation and ecology of endangered species, sustainable fisheries, marine protected area.



VANESSA BÉZY, PhD

Vanessa has been studying sea turtles and the arribada phenomenon in Ostional, Costa Rica for over 10 years. She is a 2012 National Geographic Explorer who strongly advocates for the protection of sea turtles at the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge. Vanessa works with the community to form alliances between the tourism sector and the Refuge, and provides scientific data to support wildlife conservation policies.

Research Specialties: marine biology, wildlife conservation, environmental education, sustainable development and tourism

Course Instructor Bios

All of our Course Instructors have been funded through the National Geographic Society for their research projects across Latin America.



KERI BRONDO, PhD

Keri is a cultural anthropologist, professor, and department chair at the University of Memphis. Her international research focuses on the relationship between indigenous rights, conservation and development, tourism and local livelihoods, particularly on Honduras' north coast and islands. As a 2019 National Geographic Explorer, she is working on locally appropriate environmental education programming, community development, and cultural heritage preservation.

Research Specialties: conservation, development and local livelihoods, gender and social justice, indigenous rights, nature-based voluntourism.



REBECCA SMITH

Rebecca is a 2018 National Geographic Explorer who is the onsite primatologist with Fundación Para La Tierra. She supervises international students studying the urban howler monkeys of Pilar, runs the PLT Field Methods in Primatology course, and Primatology and Conservation online course. She teaches environmental conservation in 22 rural schools that border San Rafael National Park.

Research Specialties: primate behaviour and conservation, environmental education, Upper Paraná Atlantic Forest ecosystem, using primates as umbrella and flagship species for ecosystem protection

CONSERVATION, CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Partnering Non-Profit Organizations

All program fees will be donated to these partnering non-profit organizations.



BAY ISLANDS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (BICA)

Website: www.wearebicautila.org

Country: Honduras

The Bay Islands Conservation Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1990 by residents of the Bay Islands in order to initiate and coordinate efforts in protecting the islands' fragile natural resources. BICA has been instrumental in helping in the creation of terrestrial and marine protected areas, as well as the protection of the critically endangered hawksbill turtles and vulnerable loggerheads during their nesting season, protection of the reef through the installation of mooring buoys, waste management, beach clean-ups, and environmental education to divers, businesses and schools. It offers four main programs: Research and monitoring, Environmental education and community outreach, Community development, and Protection and surveillance.



FUNDACIÓN PARA LA TIERRA

Website: www.paralatierra.org

Country: Paraguay

Fundación Para La Tierra is a non-profit conservation organization founded in 2010 under the mission to protect the threatened habitats of Paraguay through scientific research, environmental education, and community engagement while training the next generation of conservation scientists in ecological research techniques. With its headquarters in the south of Paraguay, Para La Tierra conducts field research at four different field sites, including Paraguay's largest remaining fragment of Atlantic Forest, South America's second largest wetland complex, and the Gran Chaco, one of the fastest disappearing habitats on Earth. Para La Tierra also supports a network of 30 extracurricular "eco-clubs" for children between the ages of 7 and 14, and has hosted more than 400 life sciences students as part of its internship program to promote Paraguayan biodiversity conservation.

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MOSQOY

Website: www.mosqoy.org

Country: Peru

Mosqoy is a grassroots organization that works towards global sustainability and resilience by empowering local culture. It works in collaboration with rural Quechua populations in the Andean mountains of Peru to mitigate the adverse effects of unsustainable tourism and development in the region. Towards this end, it operates three main programs: 1) a fair-trade textile initiative, which offers market access for rural women artisans; 2) a sustainability field school, which inspires its students to become more responsible consumers and travelers; and 3) a youth program, which offers post-secondary scholarships to indigenous youth of the region.



THE RESCUE CENTER FOR ENDANGERED MARINE SPECIES

Website: www.cremacr.org

Country: Costa Rica

The Rescue Center for Endangered Marine Species ('CREMA' in Spanish) is a Costa-Rican based organization founded in 2012. It specializes in marine conservation and research, working to protect ocean resources and promote sustainable fisheries policies in Costa Rica and Central America. It directs its efforts towards the following projects: 1) Direct in-the-field conservation projects, 2) Public awareness and education, and 3) International marine biodiversity conservation policy.

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Partnering Non-Profit Organizations

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (WCA)

Website: www.nosarasustainability.org

Country: Costa Rica

The Wildlife Conservation Association (WCA) is a non-profit organization in Nosara, Costa Rica, dedicated to promoting wildlife conservation through scientific research, community engagement, and immersive educational experiences that inspire sustainable living. It believes that successful conservation is dependent on us making the change to a sustainable lifestyle, where a harmonious balance of social, environmental, and economic interests exists. Its vision is to be a leading example locally and internationally in wildlife conservation through its research, sustainability, and educational programs. Its mission is a planet in balance.