

BECKETT STERNER

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I use interdisciplinary methods to study **how knowledge systems can better address wicked problems**. My projects advance pluralistic approaches to biodiversity data sharing, modeling, and governance.

EMPLOYMENT

Arizona State University	2023–Present	Associate Professor
Arizona State University	2016–2023	Assistant Professor
University of Michigan	2014–2016	Society of Fellows, Department of Philosophy
Field Museum	2012–2014	NSF Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy of Biology

EDUCATION

University of Chicago	
2012	PhD, Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science Thesis: “The Practice of Theorizing in Computational Biology” Committee: William Wimsatt, Robert Richards, C. Kenneth Waters
2011	M.Sc., Statistics
2009	M.A., Philosophy
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	
2006	B.S., Mathematics

HONORS AND AWARDS

2021	Inclusive Teaching Fellowship, Research for Inclusive STEM Education Center	Arizona State University
2020–2021	Graduate College Teaching Innovation Fellowship	Arizona State University
2020	Ideas Challenge winner (ranked #4 out of 250 nationally)	Templeton Foundation
2014–2016	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Society of Fellows	University of Michigan
2011–2012	Mellon Foundation Dissertation-Year Fellowship	University of Chicago
2006–2008	University Fellowship	University of Chicago
2006	Pogosyants Award for Outstanding Undergrad Research, Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science	MIT

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Awarded External (\$3.8M total, \$1.8M active)

2024–2025	Effective Design of Institutions and Data Sharing Platforms in International Environmental Agreements
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	PI	40% REC	\$392k	NSF Law & Science	Co-PI Ute Brady, Zoe Nyssa (Purdue)
2023–2028	DMS/NIGMS 2: Spatial, Multi-Host Petri Net Models for Zoonotic Disease Forecasting				
	PI	40% REC	\$1.1M	NIH R01 (NIGMS)	Co-PI Petar Jevtic, Nate Upham
2023–2025	Debating the Who, What, and Where of the National Ecological Observatory Network				
	PI	60% REC	\$240k	Sloan Foundation	Co-PI Ute Brady, Zoe Nyssa (Purdue)
2023–2025	DDRIG: Boundary Speak: Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Dinétah				
	PI	50% REC	\$14k	NSF Science and Technology Studies	Co-PI Myla Vicenti Carpio
2022–2027	CAREER: Knowledge Infrastructure in the Red List of Threatened Species				
	PI	100% REC	\$439k	NSF CAREER	
2022–2023	Alliance for Biodiversity Knowledge Governance Models				
	PI	33% REC	\$26k	Global Biodiversity Information Facility	Co-PI Ute Brady, Zoe Nyssa (Purdue)
2021–2024	Dynamic Linear Modeling to Unlock New Tests of Directionality in Fossil Lineages				
	PI	60% REC	\$250k	Templeton Fdn	Co-PI John Fricks
2021–2023	Intelligently predicting viral spillover risks from bats and other wild mammals				
	Co-PI	25% REC	\$475k	NIH R21	PI Nathan Upham, Co-PI Nico Franz, Atriya Sen (Univ. of New Orleans), DeeAnn Reader (Bucknell)
2021–2023	Explaining Differential Success in Biodiversity Knowledge Commons				
	PI	67% REC	\$396k	NSF Science of Science	Co-PI Steve Elliott, Zoe Nyssa (Purdue)
2019–2020	Essays on Emerging Ecological Risk				
	Co-PI	50% REC	\$9.2k	Society of Actuaries	PI: Petar Jevtic
2018–2021	Productive Ambiguity in Classification				
	PI	55% REC	\$160k	NSF Science and Technology Studies	Co-PIs: Nico Franz, Manfred Laubichler, Liz Lerman, Joeri Witteveen
2012–2014	The Impact of Mathematics on Inferring Classifications and Phylogenies				
	Co-PI	50% REC	\$120k	NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship	PI: Scott Lidgard (Field Museum)
2008–2011	Implications of the History of Computers in Biology for the Unity of Science				
	PI	100% REC	\$150k	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship	

Awarded Internal (\$702k total: \$0k active)

2023	Community visions of the Salt River: collaborative meaning-making through game play				
	PI	NA	\$5k	Seize the Moment Initiative, Humanities Lab	Co-PI Nancy Grimm, Jennifer Keahey
2020–2021	Biocollections DEI Research Fellowship: Facilitating Equity and Inclusivity in Human-Nature Connections				
	Co-PI	NA	\$10k	ASU Natural Sciences JEDI Seed Grant	PI: Kelsey Yule, Co-PI Nico Franz
2019	Workshop: Closing The Feedback Loop Between Decision-Making and Biodiversity Data				
	PI	NA	\$12k	Global Futures Initiative	Co-PI: Nico Franz

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2019–2021	Biodiversity Data Science Initiative	PI	NA	\$600k	ASU Presidential Strategic Initiative Fund	Co-PI: Nico Franz
2017–2019	Statistical Innovation, Models, and Complex Data Questions in Paleontology and Beyond	Co-PI	100% REC	\$55k	Field Museum Science Innovation Award	PI: Scott Lidgard
2017–2018	When Does Taxonomy Matter: Linnaeus and Beyond	PI	33% REC	\$20k	McDonnell Foundation, via Marine Biological Laboratory	Co-PIs: Nico Franz, David Remsen

PUBLICATIONS

My research program is highly interdisciplinary and best suited to collaborative, co-authored research articles. Significance of author order: First authorship indicates the person who contributed the primary research effort to the publication, and corresponding authorship indicates the main project lead. Author order is determined by effort contributed.

Google Scholar Profile: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Visl4CkAAAAJ>

Total citations: 660; h-index: 14; i10-index: 20; accessed January 21, 2026

Trainees: ^u undergraduate; ^g graduate; ^p postdoctoral or assistant research professor. The corresponding author is starred (*).

Works Forthcoming (10 total: 2 first author; 2 corresponding)

10. In Press ***B Sterner**. “Kinds of Pluralism about Function.” Book Chapter in *Philosophy of Biological Function*, Routledge. Edited by Zdenka Brzović, Justin Garson and Predrag Šustar.
9. In Press T Reckell^g, **B Sterner**, *P Jevtić, R Davidrajuh. “A Numerical Comparison of Petri Net and Ordinary Differential Equation SIR Component Models.” *IEEE Access*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.10019>
7. Revision ***B Sterner**, Ute Brady^p, Zoe Nyssa, Steve Elliott, Krystal S. Tsosie. “Chartering a New Social Contract for Public Science: Relationholders and Shared Governance.” *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.
6. Revision J Ginos^g, **B Sterner**, *P Jevtić. “Spatial Point Pattern Analysis of Valley Fever in the Phoenix Metropolitan Area.” *Infectious Disease Modeling*. Pre-Print: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2025.07.14.25331482v3>
5. Submitted *Z Nyssa, U Brady^p, **B Sterner**. “Collected Resources or Resourceful Collectives? Reimagining the Social Experience of Open Data Portals.” *BioSocieties*.
4. Submitted *U Brady^p, Z Nyssa, **B Sterner**. “Curating knowledge commons: Institutional arrangements for data provisioning in online biodiversity portals.” *Policy Studies Journal*.
3. Submitted BK Manu^g, T Reckell^g, **B Sterner**, *P Jevtić. “A Simple Approximate Bayesian Inference Neural Surrogate for Stochastic Petri Net Models.” *Simulation Modelling Practice and Theory*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.10714>

2. Submitted Powell C^g, B Sterner, N Franz. “Synthetic Data as a Tool for Reducing Manual Annotation in Herbarium Specimen Segmentation: The LaForge10k dataset.” *Applications in Plant Sciences*.
1. Pre-print Sarabi Ali^g, Arash Sarabi^g, H Yan, **B Sterner**, *P Jevtić. “Forecasting Coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever) in Arizona: A Graph Neural Network Approach.” Pre-print: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.10014>

Published Peer-Reviewed Articles (39 total: 20 first author; 25 corresponding)

39. 2025 *Compton Mellon WJ, **B Sterner**, J Arvid Ågren, et al. 2026. “Leveraging Comparative Phylogenetics for Evolutionary Medicine: Applications to Comparative Oncology.” *Evolution, Medicine, and Public Health* 14 (1): 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1093/emph/eoaf039>.
38. 2025 *Reckell T^g, **B Sterner**, and P Jevtić. “The Basic Reproduction Number for Petri Net Models: A Next-Generation Matrix Approach.” *Applied Sciences* 15 (23): 12827. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app152312827>.
37. 2025 *Hunt G, WR Martinez^g, J Fricks, **B Sterner**. “Using State Space Models to Understand Trait Evolution in Fossil Lineages.” *Paleobiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/pab.2025.10075>
36. 2025 *Weiss KCB^g, R Larson, **B Sterner**, I Wierzbowska, S VandeWoude, Kevin Crooks, J Schipper, J Lewis. “Prey selection of a widespread carnivore relative to predator-prey co-occurrence in space and time.” *Journal of Animal Ecology*.
35. 2025 *Weiss KCB^g, SCP Coogan, P Deviche, JS Lewis, SC Hess, J Schipper, EG Strauss, **B Sterner**. “Coyote (*Canis latrans*) Macronutrient Consumption and Diet Relative to Seasonality and Urbanization.” *Ecology and Evolution*. 15 (5): e71405. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.71405>
34. 2025 Finkbeiner A^u, A Khatib^u, N Upham, and ***B Sterner**. “A Systematic Review of the Distribution and Prevalence of Viruses Detected in the *Peromyscus maniculatus* Species Complex (Rodentia: Cricetidae).” *PLoS Pathogens*. 21(6): e1013125. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1013125>
33. 2025 Elliott S, ***B Sterner**. “Open Data and Epistemic Oppression.” *European Journal of Philosophy of Science*.
32. 2024 Cheng H^g, and ***B Sterner**. “Error Statistics Using the Akaike and Bayesian Information Criteria.” *Erkenntnis*. DOI: 10.1007/s10670-024-00897-2
31. 2024 Chiaradonna S^g, *P Jevtić, **B Sterner**. “MPAT: Modular Petri Net Assembly Toolkit,” *SoftwareX*. 28: 101913. DOI: 10.1016/j.softx.2024.101913.
30. 2024 ***Sterner B**, and S Lidgard. “Objectivity and Underdetermination in Statistical Model Selection.” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. DOI: 10.1086/716243.
29. 2024 ***Sterner B**, and S Elliott. “How Data Governance Principles Influence Participation in Biodiversity Science.” *Science as Culture*. 33(3), 366-391. DOI: 10.1080/09505431.2023.2214155.
28. 2023 Alshawi R, *A Sen^p, N Upham^p, **B Sterner**. “A Novel Dataset Towards Extracting Virus-Host Interactions.” *Workshop on Information Extraction from Scientific Publications 2023*. DOI: 10.18653/v1/2023.wiesp-1.5
27. 2023 ***Sterner B**, S Elliott, E Gilbert^g, and N Franz. “Unified and Pluralistic Ideals for Data Sharing and Reuse in Biodiversity.” *Database*. DOI: 10.1093/database/baad048.
26. 2023 *McCartney A, KS Tsosie, **B Sterner**, JR Glass, S Paez, J Geary, M Hudson, and MA Head. “Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities as Partners in the Sequencing of

- All Eukaryotic Life for the Future of Life.” *NPJ Biodiversity*, October 5, 2022. DOI: 10.21203/rs.3.rs-2128776/v1.
25. 2023 ***Sterner B**. 2023. “Norms of Evidence in the Classification of Living Fossils.” *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 11. DOI: 10.3389/fevo.2023.1198224
24. 2023 ***Sterner B**, S Elliott, J Wideman. “An Account of Conserved Functions and How Biologists Use Them to Integrate Cell and Evolutionary Biology.” *Biology and Philosophy*. DOI: 10.1007/s10539-023-09933-x
23. 2023 *Halpern, BS, C Boettiger, MC Dietze, JA Gephart, P Gonzalez, ... **B Sterner**, ... L Lancaster. “Priorities for synthesis in ecology and environmental science.” *Ecosphere*. DOI: 10.1002/ecs2.4342
22. 2022 ***Sterner B**, J Witteveen, and A Sen. “Consensus and Scientific Classification.” *Knowledge Organization*. DOI: 10.5771/0943-7444-2022-4-236
21. 2022 ***Sterner B**. “Explaining Ambiguity in Scientific Language.” *Synthese*. DOI: 10.1007/s11229-022-03792-x
20. 2021 *Upham N^P, JH Poelen, DL Paul, Q Groom, NB Simmons, MPM Vanhove, S Bertolino, DM Reeder, C Bastos-Silveira, A Sen, **B Sterner**, N Franz, M Guidoti, L Penev, and D Agosti. “Liberating Host–Virus Knowledge from Biological Dark Data.” *The Lancet Planetary Health* 5(10): e746–50. DOI: 10.1016/S2542-5196(21)00196-0
19. 2021 *Sen A^P, **B Sterner**, N Franz, C Powell^g, N Upham^P. “Combining Machine Learning & Reasoning for Biodiversity Data Intelligence.” *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence* 35(17): 14911–19. DOI: 10.1609/aaai.v35i17.17750
18. 2021 ***Sterner B**, S Elliott, N Franz, and N Upham^P. “Bats, Objectivity, and Viral Spillover Risk.” *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 43(1): 7. DOI: 10.1007/s40656-021-00366-x
17. 2021 ***Sterner B**, and C DiTeresi. 2021. “Making Coherent Senses of Success in Scientific Modeling.” *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* 11(1). DOI: 10.1007/s13194-020-00336-3.
16. 2020 ***Sterner B**, E Gilbert^g, and N Franz. 2020. “Decentralized but Globally Coordinated Biodiversity Data.” *Frontiers in Big Data* 3: 519133. DOI: 10.3389/fdata.2020.519133
15. 2020 ***Sterner B**, J Witteveen, and N Franz. 2020. “Coordinating dissent as an alternative to consensus classification: insights from systematics for bio-ontologies.” *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 42(1): 8. DOI: 10.1007/s40656-020-0300-z
14. 2020 Cullan M^g, S Lidgard, and ***B Sterner**. “Controlling the Error Probabilities of Model Selection Information Criteria Using Bootstrapping.” *Journal of Applied Statistics* 47(13–15): 2565–81. DOI: 10.1080/02664763.2019.1701636
13. 2019 Cusimano S^u and ***B Sterner**. “Integrative Pluralism for Biological Function.” *Biology & Philosophy* 34(6): 55. DOI: 10.1007/s10539-019-9717-8
12. 2019 Cusimano S^u, and ***B Sterner**. “The Objectivity of Organizational Functions.” *Acta Biotheoretica*. DOI: 10.1007/s10441-019-09365-9
11. 2019 ***Sterner B**. “Evolutionary Species in Light of Population Genomics.” *Philosophy of Science*. 86: 1-12. DOI: 10.1086/705527
10. 2018 ***Sterner B**, and S Lidgard. “Moving Past the Systematics Wars.” *Journal of the History of Biology*. 51: 31–67. DOI: 10.1007/s10739-017-9471-1
9. 2018 *Franz N, and **B Sterner**. “To Increase Trust, Change the Social Design of Biodiversity Data Aggregation.” *Database*. DOI: 10.1093/database/bax100

8. 2017 ***Sterner B.** “Individuating Population Lineages: A New Genealogical Criterion.” *Biology and Philosophy*. 32 (5): 683–703. DOI: 10.1007/s10539-017-9580-4
7. 2017 ***Sterner B** and N Franz. “Taxonomy for Humans or Computers?” *Biological Theory*. 12 (2): 99–111. DOI: 10.1007/s13752-017-0259-5
6. 2015 ***Sterner B.** “Pathways to Pluralism about Biological Individuality.” *Biology and Philosophy*. 30 (5): 609–628. DOI: 10.1007/s10539-015-9494-y
5. 2014 ***Sterner B.** “The Practical Value of Biological Information for Research.” *Philosophy of Science* 81 (2): 175–94. DOI: 10.1086/675679.
4. 2014 ***Sterner B.** and S. Lidgard. “The Normative Structure of Mathematization in Systematic Biology.” *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 46: 44–54. DOI: 10.1016/j.shpsc.2014.03.001 .
3. 2009 ***Sterner B.** “Object Spaces: An Organizing Strategy for Biological Theorizing.” *Biological Theory* 4(3): 280–286. DOI: 10.1162/biot.2009.4.3.280
2. 2008 Li S, F Zhao, **B Sterner**, and *J Xu. “Discriminative Learning for Protein Conformation Sampling.” *Proteins: Structure, Function, and Bioinformatics* 73(1): 228–240. DOI: 10.1002/prot.22057
1. 2007 **Sterner B**, R Singh, and *B Berger. “Predicting and Annotating Catalytic Residues: An Information-Theoretic Approach.” *Journal of Computational Biology*. 14(8): 1058–1073. DOI: 10.1089/cmb.2007.0042

Book Chapters (3 total; 3 first author; 3 corresponding)

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3. 2025 ***B Sterner.** “Commentary on: ‘Transforming Objects into Data’ by Ayelet Shavit and James R. Griesemer (2011). *Science in the Context of Application*.” Book section in *Scaffolding Griesemer: Selected Contributions of James R. Griesemer to History, Philosophy, and Biology*, edited by Rachel A. Ankeny, Michael R. Dietrich, and Sabina Leonelli. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-84609-0_17
 2. 2017 ***Sterner B.** “Individuality and the Control of Life Cycles.” In *Biological Individuality*, eds. Scott Lidgard and Lynn Nyhart. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 84–108.
 1. 2013 ***Sterner B.** “Well-Structured Biology: Numerical Taxonomy and Its Methodological Vision for Systematics.” In *The Evolution of Phylogenetic Systematics*, edited by Andrew Hamilton, 213–44. Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Essay Reviews (1 total; 1 first author; 1 corresponding)

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1. 2018 ***Sterner B.** (5000 words) “Review of *Data-Centric Biology: A Philosophical Study*.” *Philosophy of Science*. 85 (3): 540–550.

Scientific Reports (2 total; 1 first author; 0 corresponding)

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2. 2021 **Sterner B**, E Boyle^g, *P Jevtic. “Emerging Risks in the Health Sector from Changing Species Distributions and Seasonality.” *Environmental Risk Series*, Society of Actuaries. <https://www.soa.org/globalassets/assets/files/resources/research-report/2021/emerging-risks-health-sector.pdf>
 1. 2021 Boyle E^g, **B Sterner**, A Kinzig, *P Jevtic. “New Fire Hazard Risk from Policy Responses to Climate Change.” *Environmental Risk Series*, Society of Actuaries. <https://www.soa.org/globalassets/assets/files/resources/research-report/2021/fire-hazard-risk.pdf>

Conference Abstracts (8 total; 2 first author; 4 corresponding)

8. 2023 *Gilbert, E^g, **B Sterner**, M Fisher, S Orellana , K Pearson, G Post , L Walker , L Wilt , J Yost, N Franz. “Symbiota Integrations: Exploration of Historical and Current Methods of Data Sharing Across a Decentralized Portal Network and Goals of Extending Interoperability Globally.” *Biodiversity Information Science and Standard* 7: e111680
7. 2022 *Upham N, C Powell, L Rocha Prado, N Franz, and ***B Sterner**. “Extended Taxonomic Curation: Moving beyond Species Lists to Linking Species Data.” *Biodiversity Information Science and Standards* 6 (August 23, 2022): e93670.
6. 2022 *Rocha Prado L, N Upham, N Franz, and ***B Sterner**. “Extending Recognition for Taxonomic Curation Beyond the Traditional Authorities.” *Biodiversity Information Science and Standards* 6 (September 7, 2022): e94252.
5. 2021 ***Sterner B**, N Upham^P, P Gupta^P, C Powell^g, and N Franz. 2021. “Wanted: Standards for FAIR Taxonomic Concept Representations and Relationships.” *Biodiversity Information Science and Standards* 5: e75587.
4. 2020 *Gilbert E^g, N Franz, **B Sterner**. “Historical Overview of the Development of the Symbiota Specimen Management Software and Review of the Interoperability Challenges and Opportunities Informing Future Development.” *Biodiversity Information Science and Standards*. 4: e59077.
3. 2020 *Sen A^P, N Franz, **B Sterner**, N Upham^P. “The Automated Taxonomic Concept Reasoner.” *Biodiversity Information Science and Standards*. 4: e59074.
2. 2020 ***Sterner B**, N Upham^P, A Sen^P, N Franz. “Avenues into Integration: Communicating taxonomic intelligence from sender to recipient.” *Biodiversity Information Science and Standards*. 4: e59006.
1. 2019 *Franz N, E Gilbert^g, and **B Sterner**. “Distributed, but Global in Reach: Outline of a de-centralized paradigm for biodiversity data intelligence.” *Biodiversity Information Science and Standards*. 3: e37749.

PRESENTATIONS

Venue type: **Bold** = international; Underlined = national; *italics* = regional

External Invited Presentations (25 total)

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25. 2025 “A Network, Not A Hierarchy: Pluralistic Governance for Species Lists in Conservation and Systematics.” Annual Symposium Keynote, Ethical Open Science Research Coordination Network, University of California Merced
 24. 2025 “Scientific Practices for Wicked Problems.” History and Philosophy of Science Department, University of Pittsburgh
 23. 2024 “Debating the Who, What, and Where of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON).” NEON Headquarters, Boulder, Colorado.
 22. 2024 “A Network, Not A Hierarchy: Pluralistic Governance for Species Lists in Conservation and Systematics.” **Aims, Norms, and Values in Scientific Classification for Biodiversity Conservation**, Konrad Lorenz Institute, Austria.
 21. 2024 “Modeling Directionality in Phenotypic Evolution.” **Science of Purpose Initiative Final Summit**, University of Minnesota, USA.
 20. 2024 “Modeling Directionality Across Scales.” **Science of Purpose Initiative**, University of Minnesota

19. 2023 “Implications of digitization for the governance of biodiversity data.” **Global Biodiversity Information Facility**, Denmark.
18. 2023 “Designing Pluralistic Knowledge Systems for Wicked Problems.” **University of Copenhagen**, Denmark.
17. 2023 “State space modeling to unlock new tests of directionality in fossil lineages,” with John Fricks, Gene Hunt, Melanie Hopkins, and Antonio Campbell. **40th Altenberg Workshop in Theoretical Biology**, “Directionality in Genomics and Macroevolution,” Konrad Lorenz Institute, Vienna.
16. 2023 “Data for Whom? Intellectual Property, Biodiversity, and Indigenous Genomic Data Sovereignty,” with Krystal Tsosie. **7th Annual Digital Data in Biodiversity Conference**, iDigBio.
15. 2023 “An Account of Conserved Functions and How Biologists Use Them to Integrate Cell and Evolutionary Biology,” **Science of Purpose Initiative**, University of Minnesota.
14. 2022 “Knowledge Systems for Wicked Problems,” **Egenis Seminar**, University of Exeter
13. 2021 “Building a Community Around Your Taxonomic Needs,” **TaxonWorks Together 2021**, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign.
12. 2021 “Making Biodiversity Portals FAIR and CARE,” *Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collaboratory*, University of Arizona
11. 2021 “Biodiversity Data Methods Now and Into the Future,” Plenary presentation with Leah Oliver and Anne Frances, *Biodiversity without Borders*, NatureServe Annual Conference
10. 2021 “The Practical Value of Biological Information,” Guest lecture for graduate Philosophy of Mind seminar, *University of Arizona*
9. 2020 “Biodiversity and Intensive Agriculture: Determining the Landscape for Win-Win Outcomes.” Food and Values Workshop, **University of Adelaide**, Australia.
8. 2020 Commentator and panelist, Book manuscript seminar for Paola Castaño, “Beyond the Lab: The Social Life of Experiments on the International Space Station,” University of Chicago
7. 2020 Panelist, “Numbers and Names: How taxonomic challenges affect biodiversity conservation,” NatureServe **Pulse of the Planet Webinar**
6. 2017 “What Does It Mean to Know Something? The Ontological and Epistemological Faces of Information.” *Templeton World Charity Foundation Workshop*, Phoenix, Arizona.
5. 2017 “Modeling the Ephemeral Branches of Population Lineages.” Species in the Age of Discordance Workshop, University of Utah.
4. 2013 “The Epistemology of Causal Selection: Insights from Systems Biology.” Center for Philosophy of Science Colloquium, University of Pittsburgh.
3. 2013 “What Statistical Phylogenetics Implies About Species.” *Watson Armour Seminar*, Field Museum, Chicago.
2. 2011 “Well-Structured Biology: Statistics and Philosophies of Systematics.” Progress by Design: Mathematization in Science and Engineering from the Enlightenment to the Personal Computer, **Bielefeld University**, Bielefeld, Germany.
1. 2008 “Reduction and Modular Objects: DNA, Evolution, and Sequence Space.” Boundaries and Edges of Biological Objects, University of Utah.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Submissions (38 total)

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38. 2025 “Chartering a New Social Contract for Public Science: Relationholders and Shared Governance.” The Public’s Science Conference, Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, USA.
 37. 2024 “Resolving Conflicts of Care and Objectivity in the Red List of Threatened Species.” Philosophy of Science Association, New Orleans, USA.
 36. 2024 “In Search of A Bigger Picture for Philosophy of Scientific Practice.” **Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice**.
 35. 2024 Co-presented with Riley Taitingfong, “‘Phase 0’ of CARE Implementation in Repository Setting: Looking Back Before Moving Forward.” U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty & Governance Summit 2024.
 34. 2023 “Modeling Evolutionary Rates.” **International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB)**.
 33. 2023 “Cognitive and affective domains of evolution acceptance,” presented by Josh Hoskinson. **ISHPSSB**
 32. 2023 “Specimens and the Free Rider Problem For Biodiversity Data,” with Ute Brady. **Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections**.
 31. 2023 “From social dilemma to social panacea: Openness in natural and knowledge commons,” presented by Ute Brady. **International Association for the Study of the Commons**.
 30. 2022 “Governance and the Social Epistemology of Data Integration for Global Biodiversity Loss,” with Ute Brady and Steve Elliott. Governance of Emerging Technologies and Science
 29. 2021 “Wanted: Standards for FAIR Taxonomic Concept Representations and Relationships,” with Nathan Upham, Prashant Gupta, Caleb Powell, and Nico Franz. **TDWG 2021**.
 28. 2021 “Data Integration without Unification,” with Steve Elliott, Ed Gilbert, and Nico Franz, Philosophy of Science Association (PSA)
 27. 2021 “Making Biodiversity Data Portals FAIR and CARE,” with Steve Elliott, **ISHPSSB**
 26. 2021 “AI for biodiversity Data,” presenter and panelist with Atriya Sen, Nathan Upham, Nico Franz, Sara Beery, and Anuj Karpatne, 6th Annual Digital Data in Biodiversity Research Conference
 25. 2021 “Focus on Platforms to Understanding Environmental Data Commons and Make Them Accessible,” with Steve Elliott and Zoe Nyssa, **Commoning the Anthropocene**, Arizona State University
 24. 2021 “Explaining Ambiguity in Scientific Language: Towards a Computational Approach,” **Digital Studies of Digital Science**, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium
 23. 2020 “Explaining Differential Success in Biodiversity Knowledge Commons.” **Environmental Evidence Summit**, November 2020.
 22. 2020 “Interdisciplinary Responses to the Pandemic,” Plenary Panelist, Association of Interdisciplinary Studies
 21. 2020 “Fair but inequitable: the impacts of data governance on participatory biodiversity science.” Presented with co-author Steve Elliott. **GEO BON Open Science Conference**.

20. 2020 “Taxonomically intelligent biodiversity data: Progress and next steps to scale up.” Organized panel discussion and presented. Fourth Annual Digital Data in Biodiversity Research Conference.
19. 2020 “The Social Epistemology of Data Integration for Global Biodiversity Loss,” *Philosophy of Biology At the Mountains* (POBAM)
18. 2019 “Decentralized but globally coordinated biodiversity data science.” Philosophy in Biology and Medicine Conference, **University of Bordeaux**, France.
17. 2019 “Synthesis Research As Maintenance” (Declined due to schedule conflict). The Maintainers III, Washington DC.
16. 2019 “Naming Practices In and Outside Biology.” Two-session symposium co-organized with Sabina Leonelli, **ISHPSSB**
15. 2019 “Coordinative Synthesis Research in Areas of Low Scientific Consensus” (Declined due to schedule conflict). Computational Methods and the Future of Science, University of Kansas.
14. 2018 “Evolutionary Species in Light of Population Genomics.” PSA, Seattle.
13. 2018 “Standards of Evidence in Model Selection: A New Underdetermination Problem.” History and Philosophy of Science Conference 2018: Chance and Probability in Science, University of Colorado Boulder, CO.
12. 2018 “A Synthetic Approach to Studying Scientific Problems.” **Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice** (SPSP), Ghent, Belgium.
11. 2018 “Evolutionary Species in Light of Population Genomics.” Pacific American Philosophy Association (APA) Conference, San Diego.
10. 2017 “Integrative Pluralism for Biological Function.” Scientific Knowledge Under Pluralism, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.
9. 2016 “Natural Kinds in Practice.” **SPSP**, Glassboro, NJ.
8. 2016 “A Formal Model of Biological Lineages.” Central APA Conference, Chicago.
7. 2015 “Species are Probabilistic Processes.” **ISHPSSB**, Montreal, Canada.
6. 2014 “Mathematization and Methodology,” with Scott Lidgard. History of Science Society (HSS), Chicago.
5. 2013 “Structuring Problems, Coordinating Research.” **SPSP**, Toronto, Canada.
4. 2012 “Pragmatics of Prediction and Explanation.” PSA, San Diego.
3. 2011 “Biological Information Justifies and Explains How Mechanisms Realize Functions.” **ISHPSSB**, Salt Lake City, UT.
2. 2009 “Making Meaning of Mathematics: Computer Technology in Systematics and Taxonomy.” **ISHPSSB**, Brisbane, Australia.
1. 2007 “Reconnecting Evolutionary and Descriptive Biology: A Network Effect in Computational and Systems Biology.” **ISHPSSB**, Exeter, England.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ASU Courses

2026	Spring	Biology and Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
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	Spring	Philosophy of Biology & Medicine	BIO/HPS/PHI 452, 598	Instructor
2025	Fall	Evolution	BIO 345	Co-Instructor
	Fall	Big Data in Context	BIO/EVO/HPS 511	Instructor
	Fall	Intro to AI in Biodiversity	BIO 494	Co-Instructor
	Spring	Biology and Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
	Spring	Philosophy of Biology & Medicine	BIO/HPS/PHI 452, 598	Instructor
2024	Fall	Evolution	BIO 345	Co-Instructor
	Fall	Big Data in Context	BIO/EVO/HPS 598	Instructor
	Spring	Biology and Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
	Spring	Philosophy of Biology & Medicine	BIO/HPS/PHI 452, 598	Instructor
2023	Spring	Biology and Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
	Spring	Evolution	BIO 345	Co-Instructor
2022	Fall	Big Data in Context	BIO/EVO/HPS 598	Instructor
	Spring	Philosophy of Biology & Medicine	BIO/HPS/PHI 494, 598	Instructor
	Spring	Biology and Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
2021	Fall	Evolution	BIO 345	Co-Instructor
	Fall	Big Data in Context	BIO/EVO/HPS 598	Instructor
	Spring	Philosophy of Biology & Medicine	BIO/HPS/PHI 494, 598	Instructor
	Spring	Creative Tools for Saving Biodiversity	BIO/HDA/HPS 494, 598	Co-Instructor
	Spring	Biology and Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
2020	Fall	Evolution	BIO 345	Co-Instructor
	Fall	Big Data in Context	BIO/EVO/HPS 598	Instructor
	Spring	Philosophy of Biology & Medicine	BIO/HPS/PHI 394, 598	Instructor
	Spring	Biology and Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
	Spring	Honors Thesis	BIO 493	Instructor
	Spring	Undergraduate Research	BIO 495	Instructor
2019	Fall	Evolution	BIO 345	Co-Instructor
	Fall	History and Philosophy of Data	HPS/BIOS/EVOL 598	Instructor
	Spring	Philosophy of Biology & Medicine	BIO/HPS/PHI 394, 598	Instructor
	Spring	Biology and Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
	Spring	Advanced Reading Seminar	BIO 590	Instructor
	Spring	Undergraduate Research	BIO 499	Instructor
2018	Fall	Evolution	BIO 345	Co-Instructor
	Fall	Biology & Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
	Spring	Philosophy of Science	HPS 314	Instructor
	Spring	Biology & Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
2017	Fall	Biology & Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
	Spring	Biology & Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor
	Spring	Advanced Reading Seminar	BIO 590	Instructor

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2016	Fall	Philosophy of Biology	BIO 494/598, HPS 494/598, PHI 420/591	Instructor
	Fall	Biology & Society Lab	BIO/HPS 615	Co-Instructor

Mentorship

Postdoctoral & Assistant Research Professor Mentoring, ASU (5 total: 2 current)

5.	2024–2026	Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow (Co-Mentor)	Biology	Leke Hutchins
		<i>Obtained tenure-track position</i>		
4.	2022–2026	Asst. Research Prof.	Social Science	Ute Brady
3.	2021–2022	Postdoc	Computer Science	Prashant Gupta
		<i>Obtained Data Engineer position at Amazon</i>		
2.	2020–2022	Asst. Research Prof.	Evolutionary Biology	Nathan Upham
		<i>Obtained tenure-track position at ASU</i>		
1.	2019–2020	Postdoc	Computer Science	Atriya Sen
		<i>Obtained tenure-track position at University of New Orleans</i>		

Ph.D. Student Primary Advisor, ASU (12 total: 9 current)

12.	2025–Present	Co-Advisor	PhD	Biology & Society	Nicole Brewer
11.	2025–Present	Advisor	PhD	Biology & Society	Brennan Hays
10.	2025–Present	Advisor	PhD	Hist & Phil of Sci	Abel Peña
9.	2025–Present	Co-Advisor	PhD	Biology & Society	Luis Gutierrez
8.	2024–Present	Co-Advisor	PhD	Biology & Society	Jocelyn Santiago
7.	2024–Present	Advisor	PhD	Biology & Society	Livia Cruz
6.	2024–Present	Advisor	PhD	Evolutionary Biology	Caleb Powell
5.	2022–Present	Advisor	PhD	Biology & Society	Josh Hoskinson
4.	2019–Present	Advisor	PhD	Biology & Society	Charles Wallace
3.	2019–2024	Advisor	PhD	Environmental Life Science	Katherine Weiss
		<i>Obtained tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Marist College, NY</i>			
2.	2018–2024	Advisor	PhD	Biology & Society	Elliott Millinor
		<i>Earned DVM during Covid and left to start successful veterinarian practice</i>			
1.	2016–2021	Advisor	PhD	Biology & Society	Kelle Dhein
		<i>Obtained Lyman T. Johnson Postdoctoral Fellowship at University of Kentucky</i>			

M.S. Student Primary Advisor, ASU (3 total: 2 current)

3.	2025–Present	Co-Advisor	MS	Biology	Brandon Ligon
2.	2024–Present	Advisor	MS	Biology	Jacqueline Dominguez
1.	2017–2018	Advisor	MS	Statistics	Michael Cullan
		<i>Obtained job as Data Scientist in Residence at The Data Incubator</i>			

ASU Graduate Student Committee Member, ASU (15 total: 6 current)

15.	2025–Present	Committee	PhD	Hist & Phil of Sci	Matthew Tontonoz
14.	2025–Present	Committee	PhD	Statistics	John Ginos
13.	2024–Present	Committee	PhD	Applied Math	Trevor Reckell

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12.	2023–Present	Committee	PhD	Statistics	Antonio Campbell
11.	2023–Present	Committee	PhD	Biology & Society	Linda Howard
10.	2023–2025	Committee	PhD	Evolutionary Biology	Ángel Robles Fernández
9.	2023–2024	Committee	PhD	Evolutionary Biology	Samanta Orellana
8.	2022–2024	Committee	MS	Biology	Courtney Grigsby
7.	2022–Present	Committee	PhD	Biology & Society	Risa Schnebly
6.	2022	Committee	MS	Biology & Society	Baylee Edwards
5.	2021–2023	Committee	PhD	Biology & Society	Taya Misheva
4.	2018–2023	Committee	PhD	Biology & Society	Anna Guerrero
3.	2018	Committee	MS	Biology & Society	Jerica Vie
2.	2017–2025	Committee	PhD	Evolutionary Biology	Edward Gilbert
1.	2016–2019	Committee	MS	Biology & Society	Sean Cohmer

Other Universities, Graduate Student Advising (2 total: 0 current)

2.	2023–2024	Externship	MS	Conservation Medicine, Tufts University	Shawna Brechbill
1.	2022–2024	Committee	PhD	Philosophy, U. of Arizona	Robert Lazo

Barrett Honors Undergraduate Thesis Director, ASU (14 total: 1 current)

14.	2026–Present	Thesis Advisor		Biology	Madysen Eckes
13.	2024–2025	Thesis Advisor		Biology	Mia Madine
12.	2023–2025	Thesis Advisor		Biology	Anvita Makhija
				<i>Enrolled in University of Michigan dental school</i>	
11.	2023–2025	Thesis Advisor		Biology	Leah Cotton
				<i>Enrolled in MS in Biology program at ASU</i>	
10.	2023–2025	Thesis Advisor		Biology	Jordan Soward
				<i>Applying for medical school</i>	
9.	2023–2025	Thesis Advisor		Biology	Jennifer Johnson
				<i>Applying for medical school</i>	
8.	2023–2024	Thesis Advisor		Biology	Nikita Kumari
				<i>Applying for medical school</i>	
7.	2023–2025	Thesis Advisor		Biology	Linnea Donovan
6.	2022–2023	Thesis Advisor		Biology	Reilly Burton
				<i>Obtained job as Clinical Research Coordinator at HonorHealth</i>	
5.	2022–2023	Thesis Advisor		Biology	Muhammad Tariq
				<i>Enrolled in MS/MD at University of Arizona Medical School - Phoenix</i>	
4.	2022–2023	Thesis Advisor		Conservation Biology	Tanishq Jain
				<i>Enrolled in Dual Masters of Urban Planning and Sustainability at ASU</i>	
3.	2022–2023	Thesis Advisor		Conservation Biology	Ally Finkbeiner
				<i>Enrolled in Masters in Environmental Management at Duke University</i>	
2.	2019–2020	Thesis Advisor		Biology	Sylvia Karjala
				<i>Enrolled in Masters in Education for Applied Behavioral Science</i>	

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1.	2019–2020	Thesis Advisor	Biology & Society	Sydney Fikse
			<i>Obtained job as Behavioral Technician, Desert Choice Schools</i>	

Barrett Honors Undergrad Thesis Committee Member, ASU (4 total: 1 current)

4.	2025–2026	Thesis 2nd Reader	Biology & Society	Akaash Surendra
3.	2022–2023	Thesis 2nd Reader	Biology	Elisa Olofsson
2.	2021–2022	Thesis 2nd Reader	Biology	Monica Lam
1.	2020–2021	Thesis 2nd Reader	Biology	Andrew Sinclair

Undergraduate Research Mentor, ASU (43 total: 8 current)

43.	2025–Present	Barrett Fellowship	Biology	Riona Nanzeeba
42.	2025–Present	Barrett Fellowship	Biology	Neha Kanjamala
41.	2025–Present	Barrett Fellowship	Biology	Madysen Eckes
40.	2025–Present	Barrett Fellowship	Biology	Avery Roland
39.	2025–Present	Barrett Fellowship	Biology	Annarose Fisler
38.	2025–Present	Barrett Fellowship	Biology	Tyler May
37.	2024	Barrett Fellowship	Biology	Chinmai Giddigam
36.	2024	Barrett Fellowship	Biology	Sathvika Damera
35.	2024–Present	Research Asst.	Biology	Mia Hules
34.	2024	Research Asst.	Data Science	Chastity Barnes
33.	2024–Present	Research Asst.	Biology	Abigayle Cole
32.	2023–2024	Research Asst.	Biology	Jacqueline Dominguez
31.	2023–2024	Research Asst.	Biology	Hanna Rodrigo
30.	2023–2024	Research Asst.	Biology	Rohan Patel
29.	2023	Research Asst.	Biology	Jillian Amend
28.	2023–2024	Research Asst.	Biology	Sophia Koutsogiannis
27.	2023–2024	Barrett Fellowship	Biology	Leah Cotton
26.	2023	Research Asst.	Biology	Hannah Spraggins
25.	2023–2025	Research Asst.	Biology	Gwenyth Calaro
24.	2023–2024	Research Asst.	Biology	Gabrielle Suarez
23.	2023	Research Asst.	Biology	Jennifer Johnson
22.	2022–2023	Research Asst.	Biology	Jordan Sowards
21.	2022–2023	Research Asst.	Environmental Science	Zoe Gentry
20.	2022–2023	Research Asst.	Biology	Briana Gonzales
19.	2022–2023	Research Asst.	Biology	Casie Navarro
18.	2022–2024	Barrett Fellowship	Biology	Ahmad Katib
17.	2022–2024	Research Asst.	Biology	Anvita Makhija
16.	2022–2023	Barrett Fellowship	Biology	Shawna Brechbill
15.	2022–2023	Research Asst.	Biology	Natalie Wade
13.	2022	Research Asst.	Biology	Niles Clipson
12.	2022	Research Asst.	Biology	Mariah Beltran
11.	2022	Research Asst.	Biology	Jackelyn Lobatos

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10.	2022	Research Asst.	Biology	Shahad Ayad
9.	2022	Research Asst.	Conservation Biology	Diana Nguyen
8.	2021–2022	Research Asst.	Biology	Samantha Naman
7.	2021–2022	Research Asst.	Biology	Savage Hess
6.	2021–2022	Research Asst.	Biology	Nicole Veeder
5.	2021–2022	Research Asst.	Biology	Reane Raj Kaur
4.	2020–2021	Research Asst.	Biology	Vinit Karkathar
3.	2020	WAESO advisor	Biology	D’Kiehl Cole-Cash
2.	Spring 2019	Research Asst.	Biology	Davis Cammann
1.	Spring 2019	Research Asst.	Conservation Biology	Michael Renner

Teaching Professional Development

2021	ASU	RISE Inclusive Teaching Fellowship Training
2020	ASU	Graduate College Teaching Fellowship
2019	ASU	ACUE Effective Teaching Certification
2019	ASU	Training in Course Assessment
2018	ASU	Midterm Course Consultation with Joshua Caulkins, SOLS
2018	ASU	Biospine Development Meetings for BIO 345 Evolution
2017	ASU	Doing Active Learning, TeachT@lk Workshop
2016	ASU	Workshop on Designing Authentic Learning Outcomes
2014	Univ. of Michigan	Teaching Academy
2011	Univ. of Chicago	Seminar on the Survey Course
2011	Univ. of Chicago	Individual Teaching Consultation
2011	Univ. of Chicago	Workshop on Using the Blackboard for Effective Teaching
2010	Univ. of Chicago	Seminar on Course Design
2010	Univ. of Chicago	Conference on “Thinking through Teaching”
2010	Univ. of Chicago	Midterm Course Review, Teaching and Learning Center

SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Positions

2024–Present	Director	SOLS	History and Philosophy of Science Program
2024–Present	Member	SOLS	Graduate Programs Committee
2024–2025	Interim Director	SOLS	Biodiversity Knowledge Integration Center
2024–2025	Member	SOLS	Research Initiatives Committee
2024–Present	Advisory Board	USA	CARE Principles Accelnet, PI Stephanie Russo Carroll
2023–Present	Contributor	Int’l	Indigenous Data and Repositories Consortium
2022–Present	Panel Reviewer	USA	National Science Foundation
2022–2024	Member	Int’l	Indigenous Data Sharing and Management Working Group, Earth BioGenome Project
2021–2025	Contributor	Int’l	IEEE Standards Working Group, Indigenous Data Provenance

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2021–Present	Program Committee Member	SOLS	Computational Life Sciences Certificate, School of Life Sciences (SOLS)
2021–Present	Program Lead	SOLS	Big Data in Biodiversity, Center for Biodiversity Outcomes
2020–Present	ASU Co-Lead	ASU	Governing Board, Red List of Threatened Species Partnership, International Union for Conservation of Nature
2018–2024	Associate Director	SOLS	Biodiversity Knowledge Integration Center
2018–Present	Advisory Board	SOLS	Life Science Ethics Initiative
2018–2023	Co-Director	SOLS	Biodiversity Data Science Initiative
F2017, S2019	Graduate Director	SOLS	History and Philosophy of Science PhD Program
2018–2019	Reviewer	ASU	ARCS Fellowship Program
2017–2018	Co-organizer	SOLS	Center for Biology & Society Conversation Series

Search Committees

2025	Committee Member	Vertebrate Collections Manager, School of Life Sciences
2024	Committee Member	Full Professor, Biodiversity Genomics, School of Life Sciences
2024	Committee Member	Director of Biocollections, School of Life Sciences
2024	Committee Member	Assistant Professor, Ecology of Global Change, School of Life Sciences
2024	Committee Member	Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship, School of Life Sciences
2022	Chair	Lecturer in History of Life Sciences
2021	Committee Member	Lecturer in Bioethics
2020	Committee Member	Open Rank Tenure Track Faculty, Center for Evolutionary Medicine
2019	Committee Member	Assistant Professor, Center for Evolutionary Medicine

Workshops Organized

2022	“Alliance 2022 Workshop,” Virtual, international 2-day workshop, organized as part of the Alliance for Biodiversity Knowledge Governance Models project.
2019	“Closing the Feedback Loop on Decision Making and Biodiversity Data,” ASU
2018	“Catalyzing the Taxonomic Intelligence Knowledge Base,” with Nico Franz and David Remsen, Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL)
2017	“The Future of Systematics in Data-Centric Biology,” with Nico Franz and David Remsen, MBL
2013	“Is Adding More Data Always Better?” Field Museum

Organizational Affiliations

International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology
 Philosophy of Science Association
 Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice
 American Philosophical Association

Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG)
Research Data Alliance

Refereeing

Acta Biotheoretica; Applied Ontology; Biology and Philosophy; Biomolecules; BioScience; British Journal for Philosophy of Science; Conservation Science and Practice; Entropy; European Journal of Taxonomy; History and Philosophy of Life Sciences; International Journal of the Commons; International Journal of Digital Earth; JMIR Public Health and Surveillance; Journal of the History of Biology; MIT Press; Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing; Perspectives in Plant Ecology; Philosophy of Science; Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology; PLoS One; Social Science Information; Springer Science+Business; Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences; Synthese; Theoria; University of Chicago Press.