



# Katherine J. Kling, PhD

## RESEARCHER & SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR

Find me at [katherinekling.com](http://katherinekling.com) | [in](https://www.linkedin.com/in/katherine-kling) [katherine-kling](https://www.linkedin.com/in/katherine-kling)

### Objective

Earnest, attentive, and ever-curious applied anthropologist with expertise in socio-ecological systems seeking to advance place-based, nature-based strategies for human livelihood and ecosystem resilience

### Education

2015-2024

#### **Stony Brook University** **PhD, Anthropological Sciences**

Dissertation: "Natural resource use by forest-adjacent communities in northeastern Madagascar: its drivers and implications" | [Plain Language Summary](#)

Advisors: Dr. Patricia C. Wright,

Dr. A. Catherine Markham

Committee: Dr. Cortni Borgerson, Dr. Liliana M. Dávalos

#### **Advanced Graduate Certificate in Science Communication**

Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, Stony Brook School of Communication and Journalism (Awarded 2022)

2009-2013

#### **The University of Texas at Austin**

#### **BA, Plan II Honors and Anthropology, *summa cum laude***

Honors Thesis: "An analysis of the current state of primate conservation education: Can we help primates make the grade?"

Advisors: Dr. Rebecca H. Lewis and Dr. Mariah Hopkins

### Honors and Awards

2023

#### **First Place: Three-Minute Thesis (3MT®) | Stony Brook University**

Presentation: "Paradise Lost in Madagascar?" ([Video](#))

2023

#### **Finalist: 3MT® Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools**

Placed in final round for competition in region incl. USA, Canada

2016-2021

#### **Graduate Research Fellowship | National Science Foundation**

2015-2022

#### **Graduate Council Fellowship | Stony Brook University**

2013

#### **Dean's Distinguished Graduate | The University of Texas at Austin**

One of 12 honorees, nominated for outstanding leadership, scholarship, service

2012

#### **Inductee | Phi Beta Kappa**

2009-2013

#### **Dedman Scholar | The University of Texas at Austin**

One of five awardees; Full, merit-based university scholarship

## Research and Professional Experience

2025-2026

### **Project Conservation Data Officer | Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** Richmond, Greater London, UK [*Fixed-Term*]

- Analyze and manage complex socio-ecological datasets for the *Fitantanana Maharitra Holovainjafy* (FMH) project in Madagascar, a large-scale, multi-site, and multi-year sustainable development/ research project focused on community-led natural resource management; funded by UK government's Biodiverse Landscape Fund (Defra)
- Coordinate data collection on community livelihood interventions (e.g., Climate Smart Agriculture, VSLA, and Agroforestry efforts) across project consortium's five NGO/research institution partners
- Contribute to monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) activities through adaptive programming recommendations and learning notes

2024-Present

### **Research Assistant Professor | Stony Brook University**

Project Co-PIs: Drs. Katharine Thompson, Katheryn Twiss, E. Troy Rasbury (SBU); Dr. Marjorie Cantine (U Washington) [*Remote*]

- Collaborate on research and academic publications for multi-year, NSF-funded project "SAFER (Scientist Adverse Field Experiences Research)" to understand the actors and factors involved in traumatic incidents associated with scientific fieldwork
- Facilitated project participant recruitment and focus group development, organization, and analyses

2022-Present

### **Researcher and Fact Checker | Freelance**

National Geographic Kids, Scholastic, & DK Limited [*Remote*]

- Research scientific validity of manuscripts on biodiversity, field research, and other topics to communicate suggested edits with editorial team
- Highly sought-after, completed 32 projects to-date\* and primarily for readers aged 3-12 years

*\* Titles available on request*

2020-2024

### **Lead Researcher: Dissertation | Stony Brook University**

Maroantsetra district, northeastern Madagascar [*Remote*]

- Identified drivers and consequences of wild plant extraction in threatened biodiversity hotspot
- Documented availability, use of locally-accessed forest resources to evaluate their role in human livelihoods using longitudinal household surveys, botanical inventories, focus groups
- Collaborated with international team to complement long-term research project's data with novel, remotely-coordinated data collection protocols

2016-2019

### **Lead Researcher | Stony Brook University**

Ifanadiana district, southeastern Madagascar

- Examined impact of anthropogenic landscape change on lemur distribution, behavior
- Designed and executed 5 field seasons in remote agricultural communities near remnant rainforest
- Managed team of 10+ field technicians, local guides

2016-2017

### **Project Manager | Centre ValBio Research Station**

Ranomafana, southeastern Madagascar

- Produced Malagasy radio education programming and after-school curricula that explored children's role in conservation, sustainability; IUCN-sponsored
- Supervised and collaborated with international team to design and co-produce radio episodes, activities
- Managed project finances, reporting

2013-2014

**Conservation Education Presenter | The Walt Disney Company**

Disney's Animal Kingdom, Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL, USA

- Led dynamic, interactive "Wilderness Explorer" conservation-centered activities for park guests
- Engaged high-volume, diverse audience (est. 47,000 guests while employed) in fast-paced, energetic environment

2014

**Research Assistant | The Little Fireface Project**

Cipiganti, West Java, Indonesia

Project lead: Dr. Anna Nekaris, Oxford Brookes University

2012

**Research Assistant | Ankoatsifaka Research Station**

Kirindy Mitea National Park, southwestern Madagascar

Project lead: Dr. Rebecca Lewis, The University of Texas at Austin

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## Publications

ORCID:

000-0002-4552-3038

## Journal publications

2026

Borgerson C, **Kling KJ**, Wuchter A, Pascal E, Paschalis EM, Razafindrapaoly BN, & Eppley TM. (2026). How economic choices affect livelihoods in Madagascar's park-adjacent communities and what it means for conservation and development. *Environmental Development* 57, 101357. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envdev.2025.101357>

2025

Thompson KET, Borgerson C, Wright PC, Randriamanetsy JM, Andrimavosoloarisoa NNM, Andrianantenaina MY, Razafindrahasy TA, Rothman RS, Daniels CW, **Kling KJ**, Surkis C, & Twiss KC. (2025). Management Implications of Human Livelihood Strategies on Madagascar's Coastal Landscapes. *Conservation Science and Practice*, e70006. <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.70006>

2024

**Kling KJ**, Eppley TM, Markham AC, Wright PC, Razafindrapaoly BN, Delox R, Rasolofoniaina BJR, Randriamanetsy JM, Elison P, Andriamahaihana M, Gibson D, Rasamisoa DC, Razafindramanana J, Vasey N, Daniels CW, & Borgerson C. (2024). Provisioning services decline for both people and Critically Endangered wildlife in a rainforest transformation landscape. *People and Nature* 6(2), 627-645. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10591>

2020 **Kling KJ**, Yaeger K\*, & Wright PC. (2020). Trends in forest fragment research in Madagascar: documented responses by lemurs and other taxa." *American Journal of Primatology*, 82: e23092. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajp.23092> [Invited contribution to the Special Issue: Surviving in Fragmented Landscapes]  
\*Mentored undergraduate student

2015 **Kling KJ** & Hopkins ME. (2015). Are We Making the Grade? Practices and Reported Efficacy Measures of Primate Conservation Education Programs. *American Journal of Primatology*, 77: 434-448. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajp.22359>

#### Journal publications in press and in review

*In review* Devenish AJK, Convery-Fisher E, Govender N, Fidelis A, Randriamboavonjy T, Randria H, Rakotondratsima M, Jaovola D, Andrindrainy D, Andrianjafy E, Andrianavalona H, Lewis R, Borrell JS, **Kling KJ**, Wilkin P, Hammond D, & Lehmann CE. Aligning Fire Policy with Ecological and Social Realities in Madagascar.

*In review* Wuchter A, **Kling KJ**, Andriamanalina AAH, Ramiarison A, Rasamisoa DC, Eppley TM, & Borgerson C. The effects of road use on livelihoods and protected area natural resource collection in northeastern Madagascar.

*In review* Thompson KET, **Kling KJ**, Rowe AK, McLean S, Tran CY, & Salmon PM. Aligning Risk Frameworks with Fieldwork Realities: Extending Rasmussen's Model to Scientific Research Settings

#### Technical reports

2024 Borgerson C, **Kling KJ**, Wuchter A, Pascal E, Paschalis EM, Razafindrappaoly BN, & Eppley T. (2024). How economic choices affect livelihoods in Madagascar's park-adjacent communities and what it means for conservation and development: An Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve human livelihoods assessment. Full Forests commissioned study for Wildlife Madagascar. 64 pg.

#### Encyclopedia entries and non-peer-reviewed articles

2023 Rothman RS, **Kling KJ**, Andrianandrianina LH, Andrianoely D, Rabeson P, Rakotonirina P, Ramanantsoa J, Randrianarista D, Solo J, Docherty M, Razafimahaimodioson JC, & Wright PC. (2023). Centre ValBio Research Station: International Centre for the Valorization of Biodiversity. *Ecotropica*, 24: 1-6. <https://doi.org/10.30427/ecotrop202203>

2022 **Kling KJ** & Rowe AK. (2022) "Madagascar Forests and Shrublands." In *Imperiled: The Encyclopedia of Conservation*, Vol. 2. Dominick A. DellaSala & Michael I. Goldstein (eds). Elsevier, 26-26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-821139-7.00001-5>

2019 **Kling KJ** & Wright PC. (2019). "Mating Systems of Lemurs." In *Encyclopedia of Animal Behavior*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Jae Chun Choe (ed). Elsevier, 568-574. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-809633-8.20693-6>

2018 **Kling K** & Wright PC. (2018). "Conservation, Primates." In *The International Encyclopedia of Biological Anthropology*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed,

Wenda Trevathan (ed). John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1-14.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118584538.ieba0101>

- 2017 Wright PC, **Kling K**, & Cornejo F. (2017). "Primate Conservation Education." In *The International Encyclopedia of Primatology*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed, M. Bezanson, K. C. MacKinnon, E. Riley, C. J. Campbell, K. Al. Nekaris, A. Estrada, A. F. Di Fiore, S. Ross, L. E. Jones-Engel, B. Thierry, R. W. Sussman, C. Sanz, J. Loudon, S. Elton, & A. Fuentes (eds). John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1043-1053.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119179313.wbprim0326>
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## Presentations, Outreach, and Teaching Experience

### Podium presentations

All first author. *Co-authors available on request*

- 2018 "Seeing the forest and the trees: a review of fragmentation studies in Madagascar." 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Primatological Society (IPS), Nairobi, Kenya. [Invited contribution to symposium: "Surviving in fragmented landscapes: Identifying variables that influence primate population persistence in forest fragments"]
- 2017 "Fifteen years of forest fragmentation in southeastern Madagascar: making sense of fragmented data." 86<sup>th</sup> meeting of the American Association of Physical\* Anthropologists (AAPA). New Orleans, LA, USA. \*Now: AABA, for Biological

### Poster presentations

All first author. *Co-authors available on request*

- 2024 "Rooted in perception: Household preferences for timber species in northeastern Madagascar." 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Forests & Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement Network (FLARE). Rome, Italy.
- 2022 "A Useable Feast? Red-ruffed lemur (*Varecia rubra*) food resources and utilitarian plants in northeastern Madagascar." 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Northeastern Evolutionary Primatology group. Buffalo, NY, USA.
- 2019 "Habitat fragmentation in Madagascar: connecting fragmented research." 56<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation. Antananarivo, Madagascar.
- 2018 "Beyond group size effects: vigilance and social monitoring in Nepal gray langurs." AAPA, 87<sup>th</sup> meeting. Austin, TX, USA.
- 2016 "Testing Time: fifteen years of forest fragmentation in southeastern Madagascar." IPS, 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chicago, IL, USA.
- "Do grooming bouts diminish ectoparasite load in wild *Propithecus edwardsi* in the rainforests of Madagascar?" AAPA, 85<sup>th</sup> meeting. Atlanta, GA, USA.
- 2015 "Noisy neighbors: Slow loris response to anthropogenic noise disturbance in West Java, Indonesia." 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Student Conference for Conservation Science. New York City, NY, USA.

2014 "Assessing practices and reported efficacy measures of primate conservation education programs." IPS, 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Hanoi, Vietnam

2013 "Intersexual proximity and female dominance in Verreaux's sifaka (*Propithecus verreauxi*)." AAPA, 82<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Knoxville, TN, USA

#### **Select outreach and speaking engagements**

**Organized by Audience**  
Following constitutes 4 school-wide assemblies, 2 workshops, 4 full-day classroom visits, 2 lectures; All invited or self-initiated (\* online engagement)

Early childhood	2020   Long Island Explorium (Port Jefferson, NY*) 2019   Children's Aid PS 8 (NYC, NY)
K – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade	2019   Norwood Avenue Elementary School (Northport, NY)
6 – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	2024   Presbyterian School (Houston, TX) 2020   Presbyterian School (Houston, TX*) 2017   Lanier Middle School (Houston, TX)
9 – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	2016   Bulkeley Middle School (Rhinebeck, NY) Multiple   Madagascar Connect study abroad (Rhinebeck, NY)
MSc Course	2025   Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (London, UK)
Lifelong learners	2024   Inaugural Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) scholar (Stony Brook, NY)

#### **Teaching assistantships**

2015-2023 Department of Anthropology | Stony Brook University  
Supported undergraduate students across eight semesters;  
Courses: Cultural Anthropology, Evolution of Human Brain, Human Biology, What Makes Us Human

2017 Stony Brook University Study Abroad | Madagascar  
Select workshop topics: R and statistics, landscape ecology, forest fragmentation, conservation education in Madagascar

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## **Grants**

Total amount awarded to-date: \$88,825; with graduate fellowships: \$251,975

#### **Grants for Research**

2019 **The Explorers Club**  
Mamont Scholar Grant | \$3,000

**Duke University**  
Duke Lemur Center Director's Fund | \$755

Multiple **Primate Conservation, Inc.**  
Rowe-Wright Fund Research Grant | \$5,000 (2019), \$5,000 (2018), and \$2,000 (2016)

**International Primatological Society**  
Research Grant | \$1,500 (2019) and \$1,500 (2017)

#### **Grants for Development and Conservation Initiatives**

2019 **Conoco Philips and St. Andrews University** (co-contributor)  
Finalist: St. Andrews Prize for the Environment | \$25,000

2016 **International Union for the Conservation of Nature** (co-contributor)  
IUCN-SOS Save Our Species Call for Lemur Conservation | \$45,070

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## Select Professional Training

### Workshops

2023 **PhD Career Ladder Program**  
Stony Brook University | Online

2023 **Starting Strong: Active Teaching for Early-Career Conservation Educators**  
Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners, American Museum of Natural History | Online

2021 **Writing Science and Nature for Kids and Teens**  
The Highlights Foundation | Boyds Mills, PA, USA

2019 **Design Education Programs for Conservation Success**  
Primate Education Network | Online

2019 **AniMove: Statistics for Animal Tracking Data**  
Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation | Front Royal, VA

2016 **Graduate Student Women's Professional Development**  
American Association of Physical Anthropologists | Atlanta, GA, USA

2016 **Negotiation for Conservation and Field Research**  
Harvard University | Cambridge, MA, USA

2012 **Lemur Red-Listing and Conservation Planning**  
International Union for the Conservation of Nature – Species Survival Commission (IUCN-SSC), Primate Specialist Group | Antananarivo, Madagascar

### Certifications

2021 **Wilderness First Aid** | Wilderness Medical Associates

2021 **Mental Health Wilderness First Aid** | Mental Health Wilderness First Aid

2020 **Online Teaching** | Stony Brook University Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

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## Professional Service

2025-Present **Member** | Forest Livelihoods in a Changing Climate FLARE Working Group

2024 **Judge** | **Three-Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition, Stony Brook University**

2023-2024 **Junior Leader** | PhD Career Ladder Program

2023-Present **Fundraising Committee** | International Primatological Society 2025 Conference, Antananarivo, Madagascar

2021-2023	<b>Publication Manager</b>   IDPAS
2020-2024	<b>Co-founder and Treasurer</b>   Decolonization and Antiracism Group
2020-2021	<b>Elected Student Representative</b>   IDPAS Student-Faculty Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee ( <i>Inaugural year</i> )
2020-2021 2018	<b>Vice President and Webmaster</b>   Behavioral Ecology Group <b>Co-President</b>   Behavioral Ecology Group
2019-2020	<b>Judge</b>   Long Island Science & Engineering Fair
2018	<b>Symposium Co-Organizer</b>   International Primatological Society 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting, Nairobi, Kenya. "Primate Tourism: New Solutions"
2019-Present	<b>Peer-Reviewer</b>   <i>American Journal of Primatology</i> ; <i>Lemur News</i> ; <i>Oryx</i> ; <i>The Journal of Wildlife Management</i>
2021-2023	<b>Reviewer</b>   <i>Journal for Emerging Investigators</i> Advised middle- and high-school-aged researchers on publishing scientific research; Modeled peer review

## Community Service

2021-2025	<b>Bronx Zoo</b>   Bronx, NY, USA Volunteer, Education Program and Live Interpretation   > 50 hours of service to-date
2020-2025	<b>NYC Board of Elections</b>   Queens County, NY, USA Poll worker, Primary and general elections   > 125 hours of service to-date
2020-2021	<b>Astoria Mutual Aid Network</b>   Queens, NY, USA Volunteer, Community relief dispatcher   > 350 hours of service

## Core Competencies

Languages	English (native)   French (intermediate; advanced reading level)   Malagasy, Merina/Official and Tanala dialects (basic)
Skills <i>Advanced unless noted</i>	Public speaking, science communication   Stakeholder engagement   Focus group facilitation, survey design   Participatory mapping   Intermediate statistics, coding (R)   Meta-analysis, systematic review   Educational program design, evaluation   Spatial analysis (QGIS)   Biodiversity surveying   Grant writing   Data management, visualization
Research Expertise	Natural resource use and management   Nature-based livelihoods   Forests as a natural resource   Landscape ecology Land use policy in Madagascar   Animals in anthropogenic environments   Agroecosystems and urban ecology   Co-produced and participatory research   Decolonizing field research and conservation

## References

Co-advisor	<b>Dr. Patricia C. Wright</b>   Stony Brook University (NY, USA) Distinguished Service Professor   Department of Anthropology Director   Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments patricia.wright@stonybrook.edu +1 631-632-7425
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Co-advisor **Dr. A. Catherine Markham** | Stony Brook University (NY, USA)  
Associate Professor | Department of Anthropology  
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+ 1 631-632-5755

Mentor and  
Collaborator **Dr. Cortni Borgerson** | Montclair State University (NJ, USA)  
Associate Professor | Department of Anthropology  
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Line Manager **Dr. David S. Hammond** | RBG Kew (London, UK)  
FMH Project Manager | Ecosystem Stewardship Department  
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Last Updated: 6-Apr-26