

Katherine J. Kling, PhD



Science Writer & Researcher | Queens, NY

Available for writing, researching, fact-checking, and copy editing assignments. All reading levels and topics

Hi!

I am a researcher, writer, and science educator bringing enthusiasm, curiosity, and attentiveness to my work. Through engaging storytelling and rigorous research, I aim to encourage an appreciation of the world around us and to explore our role within it.

Expertise

Research & Field Work | Specializing in...
Ecology of lemurs and other primates
Animal adaptations in the Anthropocene
Habitat loss and landscape change
Biodiversity and land use in Madagascar
Forests as a natural resource
Agroecosystems and urban ecology

Science Communication | Engaging in...
Science and data literacy
Conservation education & public speaking
Participatory and applied research
Ethics in field research and conservation

Education

Stony Brook University (SBU)
Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in
Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS)

Ph.D. | 2015 - 2024


- Dissertation: "Natural resource use by forest adjacent communities in northeastern Madagascar: its drivers and implications"
- National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow (NSF-GRFP)
- Graduate Council Fellow


The University of Texas at Austin


B.A. Plan II Honors & Anthropology | 2013

- Summa cum laude, GPA 3.95 out of 4.0
- Phi Beta Kappa (inducted 2012)
- Dedman Scholar
- Dean's Distinguished Graduate (1 of 12 nominated graduates, c/o 2013)

Contact

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 katherinekling.com

 katherine-kling

Find a plain language summary of my dissertation research here! katherinekling.com/pls

Science Communication Experience

Fact Checker & Researcher National Geographic 2022 - Current	Fact check and research information on animals, paleontology, space exploration, and more for Nat Geo Kids book manuscripts (readers aged 3-12); Work with editorial team to provide suggested text, feedback, and rewrites. 29 projects completed to-date
Freelance 2024 - Current	Engage as Subject Matter Expert/ Fact Checker for DK Limited and Scholastic imprint book projects
Winner 2023	Won first place at SBU Three-Minute Thesis Competition (3MT®) with my presentation, "Paradise Lost in Madagascar?" <i>Check it out!</i> katherineklings.com/3MT Advanced to final round at 3MT® Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools (incl. US, Canada)
Presenter 2013 - Current	Delivered eleven podium & poster presentations (as first author) of original research at national and international academic conferences
Storyteller 2021	Performed at the "Live Storytelling Event" by the Graduate Student Organization and Alan Alda Center, SBU (Online)
Speaker 2015 - Current	Engaged with students (Pre-K - high school) and adults through assemblies, keynote speeches, and workshops at eight schools/ institutions to-date in New York, Texas, and online
Educator 2015 - Current	Supported undergraduate students across eight semesters at SBU as Teaching Assistant & Lecturer
Manager 2016 - 2017	Coordinated & managed IUCN-sponsored Malagasy radio education program centered on lemurs, ecology, storytelling, and children's roles in conservation
Conservation Education Presenter Disney's Animal Kingdom, Orlando, FL 2013-2014	Led guests through dynamic, interactive "Wilderness Explorer" nature and conservation-centered activities, interpreted animal enclosures to place animals in the park within broader conservation and ecological contexts, and engaged high volume of guests (est. 47,000 while employed) in fast-paced environment

Select Publications

Refereed Articles*

- Borgerson C, Kling KJ, Wuchter A, Pascal E, ..., 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.
- Kling KJ, Eppley TM, Markham AC, Wright PC, ..., 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
- 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
- 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

Encyclopedia Entries*

- Kling KJ, Rowe, AK. (2022) "Madagascar Forests and Shrublands". In: *Imperiled: The Encyclopedia of Conservation*, 1st edition, Elsevier.
- Kling KJ, Wright PC. 2019. "Mating Systems of Lemurs". In: *Encyclopedia of Animal Behaviour*, 2nd edition, Elsevier.
- Kling K, Wright PC. 2018. "Conservation, Primates". In: *International Encyclopedia of Biological Anthropology*, 1st edition, John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
- Wright PC, Kling K, Cornejo F. 2017. "Primate Conservation Education". In: *International Encyclopedia of Primatology*, 1st edition, John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Research Experience Madagascar

2016 - Current

Designed, planned, and executed five research field seasons for doctoral dissertation (15+ months total in-country) in remote agricultural communities near remnant rainforest in southeastern, Madagascar, a biodiversity hotspot

Managed a team of over ten field technicians and local guides; Mentored Malagasy graduate and international undergraduate students on designing research projects, collecting and interpreting data, academic writing, grant writing, and career-building

Deployed suite of methods including Biodiversity surveys; Lemur behavioral observation; GIS; Household interviews/ surveys; Focus groups; Participatory mapping; Botanical plot inventories

Select Training & Certifications

Advanced Graduate Certificate in Science Communication from the Alan Alda Center for Science Communication (awarded Spring 2022); training included:

- Science Communication (improvisational techniques)
- Communicating Science Through Digital Media
- Communicating with Decision Makers
- The Science of Science Communication

Writing Science and Nature for Kids and Teens (2021), The Highlights Foundation
Wilderness First Aid (2021), **Mental Health Wilderness First Aid** (2021), **Online Teaching** (CELT, Stony Brook; 2020); **Designing Education Programs for Conservation Success** (2019)

*Available on request

