

LAUREL ELIZABETH KLEIN SERIEYS
Lserieys@panthera.org
WhatsApp +1-214-729-2328; Fwob.org

EDUCATION

PhD Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Los Angeles, California, 2014
BS Bachelor of Science, Zoology, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 2003

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL POSITION

02/2021 – present Conservation scientist. [Panthera](#) Small Cats Program. Data capture and analysis. Writing publications and reports. Managed bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) research in Washington and New York. Training field teams in animal capture, handling, managing project logistics: fishing cats (*Prionailurus viverrinus*)–Thailand, onicllas (*Leopardus tigrinis*)–Columbia/Costa Rica, and ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*)–Colombia. Supervisor: Wai-Ming Wong

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

09/2014 – 01/2021 Founder/coordinator of the [Urban Caracal Project](#), Cape Town, South Africa. Postdoctoral researcher, Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa, University of Cape Town. Spatial ecology, diet, genetic, toxicological, and disease analyses of urban caracals (*Caracal caracal*). Supervisor: Jacqueline Bishop

05/2017 – 09/2019 Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) habitat connectivity project coordinator; Postdoctoral researcher: University of California, Santa Cruz. Supervisor: Chris Wilmers

01/2019 – present Scientific advisory board, Raptors Are The Solution (RATS). Non-profit organization with mission to change legislation surrounding consumer availability and use of anticoagulant rat poisons

2007-2014 Teaching assistant. University of California, Los Angeles. 4 Appointments. Courses: Ecology and Behavior Lab, Introductory Biology (for nonmajors), Vertebrate Biology, Introductory Biology (for biology majors)

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

01/2018 – present Graduate co-supervisor of master's student Anya Ratnayaka; University of Queensland, Australia. Urban fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) ecology

08/2022 – present PhD Candidate Michael Levin; Columbia University, New York. Effects of solar infrastructure on bobcat movement.

01/2016 – 12/2021 Graduate co-supervisor of PhD Candidate Gabriella Leighton; University of Cape Town, South Africa. Caracal (*Caracal caracal*) foraging-explicit resource selection, diet, ecotoxicology

SELECT GRANTS AND AWARDS (TOTAL EXCEEDS US\$500,000)

2020 Panthera Small Cat Research Award, \$5,000
2019 Big Cat Rescue grant, \$5,000
2017 NCCP Local Assistance Grant Program, Bobcat connectivity project, \$75,000

- 2016 “Experiment” Crowd-funding Campaign and Competition, awarded first place for most donors accrued, \$7,500
- 2015 – 2019 > \$60,000 private donations solicited via public outreach efforts
- 2015 Nominated by South African National Parks as an “unsung hero of conservation in Africa,” highlighted in Africa Geographic Magazine
- 2015 – 2016 Claude Leon Foundation (South Africa) 2-year Postdoctoral Researcher Fellowship, \$47,000
- 2015, 2016 University of Cape Town, URC Postdoctoral Researcher Fellowships, \$26,000
- 2015 Woolworth’s Corporate Sponsorship, \$4,000
- 2012 – 2015 G2 Gallery (Venice, California) Dedicated Gift and Gottlieb Scholarships, \$11,500
- 2012 Christine Stevens Wildlife Award, \$15,000
- 2010, 2012 Summerlee Foundation Research Grants, \$30,000
- 2010, 2012 Panthera Small Cat Research Awards, Total \$14,320
- 2007 – 2010 National Science Foundation Graduate Student Fellowship, \$121,500
- 2007 EPA Star 3-Year Graduate Student Fellowship; Offer Declined, \$111,000

SELECT PUBLICATIONS (30+ total peer-review publications)

- Serieys, L.E.K.**, Bishop, J.M., et al. 2023. Anthropogenic activities and age class mediate carnivore habitat selection in a human-dominated landscape. *iScience* 26(7): 107050.
- Ratnayaka, A.A.W., **Serieys, L.E.K.**, et al. 2023. Plastic ingestion by fishing cats suggests trophic transfer in urban wetlands. *Environ Pollut* 316(2): 120694.
- Sacks, B.N., Statham, M.J., **Serieys, L.E.K.**, Riley, S.P.D. 2022. Population genetics of California gray foxes clarify origins of the Island fox. *Genes* 13 (10): 1859.
- Leighton, G.R.M., Bishop, J.M., Camerero, P.R., Mateo, R., O’Riain, M.J., **Serieys, L.E.K.** 2022. Poisoned chalice: Use of transformed landscapes associated with increased persistent organic pollutant concentrations and potential immune effects for an adaptable carnivore. *STOTEN*, 822: 153581
- Serieys, L.E.K.**, Rogan, M.S., et al. 2021. Road-crossings, vegetative cover, land use and poisons interact to influence corridor effectiveness. *Biol Conserv*, 253: 108930
- Leighton, G., Bishop, J., Merundun, J., Winterton, D., O’Riain, M., **Serieys, L.E.K.** 2021. Hiding in plain sight: risk mitigation by a cryptic carnivore foraging at the urban edge. *Anim Conserv*, 1-15.
- Ratnayaka, A., **Serieys, L.E.K.**, et al. 2021. Urban habitat use and home ranges of fishing cats (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) in Colombo, Sri Lanka. *Mammal Biol*, 102: 271-277.
- Leighton, G., Bishop, J., Broadfield, J., Johnson, J., Avery, G., Avery, D.M., Orian, M.J., **Serieys, L.E.K.** 2020. An integrated dietary assessment reveals limited urban prey use by caracals (*Caracal caracal*) in Cape Town, South Africa. *Urban Ecosyst*, 23: 569-583.
- Serieys, L.E.K.**, Bishop, J., et al. 2019. Widespread anticoagulant poison exposure in predators in a rapidly growing South African city. *STOTEN*, 666:581-590.
- Serieys, L.E.K.**, Hammond-Ayree, K., et al. 2019. High seroprevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* in an urban caracal (*Caracal caracal*) population. *J Wildl Dis*, 55(4):951-953.
- Kraberger, S., **Serieys, L.E.K.**, et al. 2019. Novel smacoviruses identified in the faeces of two wild felids: North American bobcat and African lion. *Arch Virol*, 164: 2395–2399.
- Serieys, L.E.K.**, Lea, A., et al. 2018. Urbanization and anticoagulant poisons promote immune dysfunction in bobcats. *Proc R Soc B*, 285: 20172533. Doi:10.1098/rspb.2017.2533
- Fraser, D* and Mouton, A. * **Serieys, L.E.K.**, et al. 2018. Genome-wide expression analysis reveals multiple systemic effects of anticoagulant poisons in bobcats. *Molec Ecol*, 27(5): 1170-1187. *share first authorship
- Serieys, L.E.K.**, Lea, A., et al. 2015. Disease and freeways drive genetic change in urban bobcat populations. *Evolutionary Applications* 8(1): 75-92. doi:10.1111/eva.12226

Serieys, L.E.K., Armenta, T.C., et al. 2015. Anticoagulant rodenticides in urban bobcats: measuring exposure, risk factors, and consequences. *Ecotoxicology*, 24 (4): 844-862.

Riley, S.P.D., **Serieys, L.E.K.**, et al. 2014. Individual behavior dominates the dynamics of a mountain lion population in a highly fragmented urban landscape. *Curr Biol* 24(17): 1989-1994.

BOOK CHAPTER

Riley, S.P.D., **Serieys, L.E.K.**, Moriarty, J. 2014. Infectious disease and contaminants in urban wildlife: unforeseen and often overlooked threats. Pages 175-216 in McCleery, R.A., Moorman, C. and Peterson, N. editors. Urban Wildlife Science: Theory and Practice. Springer, New York, NY.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

Allen, M., **Serieys, L.E.K.**, Broadfield, J. 2016. It takes a village to raise a project. National Geographic website.

Serieys, L.E.K. 2016. A caracal snared in Cape Town. Africa Geographic website.

Serieys, L.E.K. Summer 2015. Elusive cats and roads: some consequences may be just as hard to spot. *Environment Magazine*, 24.

Serieys, L.E.K. 2013. Anticoagulant rodenticides: a cryptic threat for wild felid populations. *Wild Felid Monitor*, 6(2): 13-15.

SELECT PARTNERS

- Universities: University of California (UC)- Los Angeles, UC-Santa Cruz, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Arizona State University, University of Queensland, Australia
- Government Agencies: National Park Service (USA), South Africa National Parks, City of Cape Town, Cape Nature (South Africa Provincial body)

SELECT PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Website Founder/Editor. UrbanCaracal.org, facebook.com/UrbanCaracal, UrbanCarnivores.com.
- Expert witness: State of California (2014- present); Los Angeles City Council Hearing (04/2014).
- Consultant: City of Cape Town, South Africa, and South African National Parks.
- Invited Speaker/Workshop leader. More than 75 public presentations and local training events.
- Interviews. Newspapers, magazines, websites, nationally syndicated radio, and podcast.
- Mentorship. 3 PhD students; 12 master's students; 30 Undergraduates/recent graduates; >40 field assistants; >20 laboratory assistants; 3 high school students.
- Vice President and Newsletter Committee. Wild Felid Research and Management Association
- Board Member & Communications Officer. TWS Urban Wildlife Working Group.
- Symposium organizer and mediator. "Urbanization as a driver of change in wildlife." TWS, 2013.

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Public outreach: website design and maintenance, social media engagement, public speaking; donor relations, corporate affiliations, and crowd funding
- Mentoring and training: skills training, protocol design, team management, student supervision
- Conference talks, figure and infographic design and preparation.
- Grant writing and research development
- Animal capture, immobilization, and handling: Bobcats, pumas, caracals, fishing cats, gray foxes, opossums
- Laboratory investigations: PCR, immunophenotyping, Flow Cytometry, cytokine expression assays, DNA and RNA extractions, ELISAs

REFERENCES

Wai-Ming Wong, PhD

Director, Small Cats Program

Panthera

8 W 40th St, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10018 USA

+1-(917) 244-4552

wwong@panthera.org

Jacqueline Bishop, PhD

Department of Biological Sciences

University of Cape Town, South Africa

+27 21 6503631

jacqueline.bishop@uct.ac.za OR jbishop.uct@gmail.com

Seth P.D. Riley, PhD

Wildlife Ecologist, National Park Service

and Adjunct Associate Professor, University of California, Los Angeles

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

401 W. Hillcrest Dr.

Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

+1-(805) 370-2358

seth_riley@nps.gov