

Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila

ADVOCATE AND SCIENTIST — WILD ANIMALS AND NATURE

Objective

I am an animal advocate and interdisciplinary scientist focused on the convergence of science, ethics, and policy as they relate to the protection of wild animals. My primary goal is to promote the equitable inclusion of wild animal interests in scientific and policy discussions. I achieve this through a combination of advocacy and research which aim to present alternative, holistic approaches for safeguarding individual wild animals as well as their ecological and social communities. My work involves advocacy centered on foregrounding the importance of ethics and the science of animal wellbeing in public policy; empirical research to assess current policies and interventions designed to mitigate conflicts with wild animals; and qualitative analyses that critique existing frameworks that often neglect animals. I frequently engage in public outreach efforts, such as writing and giving talks, to advocate for the protection of wild animals.

Education

2015-2019	University of Wisconsin-Madison PhD Environment & Resources Dissertation: "An interdisciplinary evaluation of large carnivore management: The gray wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) in the Western Great Lakes" Advisor: Dr. Adrian Treves
2010-2013	Duke University Masters in Public Policy, Masters in Environmental Management Thesis: "Impact of Protected Areas on Land Cover in Mexico" Advisor: Dr. Alexander Pfaff
2003-2008	Universidad de Puerto Rico – Río Piedras BA Political Science & Economics Graduated Magna Cum Laude

Professional experience

Aug 2024-Present	Science & Advocacy Director Washington Wildlife First, Tacoma, WA
2023-Present	Science & Ethics Manager Project Coyote, Madison, WI
2022-Present	Clerk of the Board PAN Works, Marlborough, MA
2022-2023	Big River Connectivity Science & Conservation Manager Project Coyote & The Rewilding Institute, Madison, WI

Fellowships, honors, awards and grants

Sep 2023	Rising Star Alumni Award Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, UW-Madison
2020	Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, UW-Madison
Jul 2019	Animal Studies Summer Institute Animals and Society Institute, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)
2015-2019	Graduate Research Scholar/Advanced Opportunity Fellow Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, UW-Madison
Feb 2017	Small Grants Program (\$3,500) Animal Law & Policy Program, UCLA Law School

Research experience

2022-Present	Fellow , PAN Works, MA
2021-2022	Research Associate UW-Madison, WI Advisor: Dr. Adrian Treves
2020	Post-doctoral Research Fellow UW-Madison, WI Advisor: Dr. Adrian Treves
2015-2019	Graduate Research Assistant UW-Madison, WI Advisor: Dr. Adrian Treves
2013-2015	Research Assistant Resources for the Future, Washington DC Supervisor: Dr. Juha Siikamäki
2012-2013	Research Assistant Duke University, Durham, NC Advisor: Dr. Alexander Pfaff
2012	Research Assistant Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Durham, NC Supervisor: Mr. Efan Gumerman
2011	Field Supervisor/Data Analyst Duke University & CONAFOR, Michoacán, MX Research PI: Dr. Elizabeth Shapiro
2008-2010	Research Assistant/Junior Economic Analyst Estudios Técnicos, Inc. Supervisor: Dr. Juan Castañer & Anitza Cox

Teaching experience

Fall 2021	University of Wisconsin , Madison, WI Associate Lecturer , Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introductory Ecology (one semester, ~100 students)
Fall 2020	Madison Area Technical College , Madison, WI Adjunct Faculty , Biology Department <ul style="list-style-type: none">Environmental Science (online course, ~20 students)

- 2017-2019 **University of Wisconsin**, Madison, WI
Senior/Graduate Teaching Assistant, Nelson Institute
- Introductory Ecology (Fall 2017, 2018, 2019)
 - Preserving Nature (Spring/Summer 2018)
- 2011-2012 **Duke University**, Durham, NC
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Sanford School of Public Policy
- Microeconomic Policy Tools (Fall 2011)
 - Policy choice & value conflicts (Spring 2012)

Academic Publications

Castelló, Pablo P. and **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**. "Conservation After Biodiversity: An Analysis of Michael E. Soulé's 'What is Conservation Biology?'" *Biological Conservation*.

Lynn, William S., Baker Liv, **Francisco Santiago-Ávila**, and Kristin L. Stewart. 2023. "Ethics, Wellbeing and Wild Lives." In *The Routledge International Handbook of Human-Animal Interactions and Anthrozoology*, pp. 438-452. Routledge.

Treves, Adrian and **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**. 2023. "Estimating wolf abundance with unverified methods ". *Academia Biology*.

Lynn, William S. and **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**. 2022. "Outdoor cats: Science, Ethics, and Politics". In Lynn, William S., Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila and Kristin L. Stewart, eds. 2022. "Special Issue on Outdoor Cats." *Society and Animals*.

Lynn, William S., **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila** and Kristin L. Stewart. 2022. "Outdoor cats: An Introduction". In Lynn, William S., Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila and Kristin L. Stewart, eds. 2022. "Special Issue on Outdoor Cats." *Society and Animals*.

Lynn, William S., **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila** and Kristin L. Stewart, eds. 2022. "Special Issue on Outdoor Cats." *Society and Animals*.

Santiago-Ávila Francisco J., Suzanne Agan, Joseph W. Hinton and Adrian Treves. 2022. "Evaluating how management policies affect red wolf mortality and disappearance." Stage 2 Registered Report. *Royal Society Open Science* 9: 210400.

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J., and Adrian Treves. 2022. "Poaching of protected wolves fluctuated seasonally and with non-wolf hunting." *Scientific Reports* 12, 1738.

Castelló, Pablo P. and **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**. 2022. "Conservation after Sovereignty: Deconstructing Australian Policies Against Horses with a Plea And Proposal." *Hypatia*, 37(1), 136-163.

Treves, A.*, **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila***, and Karann Putrevu. 2021. "Quantifying the effects of delisting wolves after the first state began lethal management." *PeerJ* 9, 1–16. (***equal lead co-authors**)

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J., Suzanne Agan, Joseph W. Hinton and Adrian Treves. 2021. "Evaluating how management policies affect red wolf mortality and disappearance." Stage 1 Registered Report, *Royal Society Open Science*.

Kopnina, Helen, Reingard Spannring, Shé Hawke, Colin D. Robertson, Alessio Thomasberger, Michelle Maloney, Marco Morini, William Lynn, Naziru Zakari Muhammad, **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**, 2021 "Ecodemocracy in Practice : Exploration of Debates on Limits and Possibilities of Addressing Environmental Challenges within Democratic Systems." *Visions for Sustainability*. **15**, 1–20.

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J. and Adrian Treves. 2021. "Towards multispecies justice in human-wildlife coexistence: a reply to Clark et al.". *Conservation Biology* 35(4), 1337-1340.

Louchouart Naomi*, **Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J. ***, David R. Parsons and Adrian Treves. 2021 "Evaluating how lethal management affects poaching of Mexican wolves." Stage 2 Registered Report, *Royal Society Open Science* **8**. (doi:https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.200330) (***equal lead co-authors**)

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J., Adrian Treves and William S. Lynn. 2020. "Just preservation, trusteeship and multispecies justice: Response to Commentary on *Just Preservation*." *Animal Sentience*.

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J. *, Naomi Louchouart*, David R. Parsons and Adrian Treves. 2020 "Evaluating how lethal management affects the illegal killing of Mexican wolves." Stage 1 Registered Report, *Royal Society Open Science*. (***equal lead co-authors**)

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J., Richard J Chappell, and Adrian Treves. 2020. "Liberalizing the Killing of Endangered Wolves Was Associated with More Disappearances of Collared Individuals in Wisconsin, USA." *Scientific Reports*, 1–14.

Santiago-Ávila, F. J. 2020. "Muddled Facts and Values: Positivism, Egoism, and Anthropocentrism in the Anthropocene" *Society & Animals*, 28(4), 420-429.

Treves, Adrian, Naomi Louchouart and **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**. 2020. "Modelling concerns confound evaluations of legal wolf-killing". *Biological Conservation*.

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J., and William S. Lynn. 2020. "Bridging compassion and justice in conservation ethics." *Biological Conservation* 248.

Lynn, William S., **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**, John Hadidian, Arian Wallach and Joann Lindenmayer, 2020. "Misunderstandings of science and ethics in the moral panic over cats: reply to Crespín et al. 2020." *Conservation Biology*.

Treves, Adrian, and **Francisco Santiago-Ávila**. 2020. "Myths and assumptions about human-wildlife conflict and coexistence." *Conservation Biology*.

Wallach, Arian D, Chelsea Batavia, Marc Bekoff, Shelley Alexander, Liv Baker, Dror Ben-Ami, Louise Boronyak... **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila et al.** 2020. "Recognizing Animal Personhood in Compassionate Conservation." *Conservation Biology*.

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J. "An interdisciplinary evaluation of large carnivore management: the gray wolf in the Western Gray Lakes" (PhD dissertation). 2019. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Treves, Adrian, **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**, Viorel D. Popescu, Paul C. Paquet, William S. Lynn, Chris T. Darimont, and Kyle A. Artelle. 2019. "Trophy Hunting: Insufficient Evidence." Edited by Jennifer Sills. *Science* 366 (6464): 435 LP – 435.

Lynn, William S, **Francisco Santiago-Ávila**, Joann Lindenmayer, John Hadidian, Arian Wallach and Barbara J King. "A Moral Panic over Cats." *Conservation Biology* 00, no. 0 (2019): 1–8.

Ohrens, Omar, **Francisco Santiago-Ávila**, and Adrian Treves. "The Twin Challenges of Preventing Real and Perceived Threats to Human Interests." In *Human-Wildlife Interactions: Turning Conflict into Coexistence*, edited by Beatrice Frank, Jenny A. Glikman, and Silvio Marchini, 242–64. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2019.

Treves, Adrian, **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**, and William S. Lynn (**equal co-authors**). "Just Preservation." *Biological Conservation* 229 (2018): 134–41. Reprinted in *Animal Sentience* (2019): 27(1).

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J., Ari M. Cornman, and Adrian Treves. "Killing Wolves to Prevent Predation on Livestock May Protect One Farm but Harm Neighbors." *PLoS ONE* 13, no. 1 (2018): 1–20.

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J., William S. Lynn, and Adrian Treves. "Inappropriate Consideration of Animal Interests in Predator Management: Towards a Comprehensive Moral Code." In *Large Carnivore Conservation and Management: Human Dimensions and Governance*, edited by Tasos Hovardas, 227–51. New York: Routledge, 2018.

Treves, Adrian, Kyle A. Artelle, Chris T. Darimont, William S. Lynn, Paul Paquet, **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**, Rance Shaw, and Mary C. Wood. "Intergenerational Equity Can Help to Prevent Climate Change and Extinction." *Nature Ecology and Evolution* 2, no. 2 (2018).

Pfaff, Alexander*, **Francisco Santiago-Ávila*** (*equal co-author), and Lucas Joppa. "Evolving Protected-Area Impacts in Mexico: Political Shifts as Suggested by Impact Evaluations." 2017. *Forests* 8(1).

Siikamäki, J. V., Vail, P., Epanchin-Niell, R., & **Santiago-Ávila, F.** 2015. "Mapping the Value of Ecosystem Services in Latin America and the Caribbean". *Resources Magazine*.

Siikamäki J., **Santiago-Ávila F.** & Vail, P. 2015. "Global Assessment of Non-wood Forest Ecosystem Services". *Resources For the Future & World Bank*.

Siikamäki, J. & **Santiago-Ávila, F.** 2014. "Improving the Forest Database to Support Sustainable Forest Management: A Scoping Study Final Report". *Resources For the Future & PROFOR, the World Bank*.

Popular Literature

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J. 'Persecution, torture and senseless death: the grim reality of being a wild carnivore in the US.' Project Coyote. April 28, 2024. <https://projectcoyote.org/persecution-torture-and-senseless-death-the-grim-reality-of-being-a-wild-carnivore-in-the-us/>

Castelló, Pablo P. and **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**. 'Rethinking the mantra of biodiversity: Why the past should not determine the future. Australian Broadcast Corporation. February 7, 2024. <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/rethinking-biodiversity-against-killing-feral-horses-kosciuszko/103443638>

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J., Melissa Smith and Diana Miller. "Don't take away gray wolves' protection under Endangered Species Act without proper discussion". *Chicago Sun-Times*, Chicago, IL. <https://chicago.suntimes.com/2023/6/26/23774097/dont-take-away-gray-wolves-protection-under-endangered-species-act-without-proper-discussion>

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J. and Amy Mueller. "The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is Broken". *Wisconsin Examiner*, Wisconsin. April 4, 2023. <https://wisconsinexaminer.com/2023/04/04/the-wisconsin-conservation-congress-is-broken/>

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J., Renee Seacor and Michelle Lute. "Don't Leave Wolf Hunting Up To Experts". *The Daily Sentinel*, Grand Junction, Colorado. October 9, 2022. https://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/columns/dont-leave-wolf-hunting-up-to-experts/article_bbf8df82-4695-11ed-8b1d-8b7044398073.html

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J. and Amy Mueller. "Opinion: Public input on wildlife issues derailed by illegitimate special interests". *Price County Review*, Wisconsin. September 15, 2022. https://www.apg-wi.com/price_county_review/opinion-public-input-on-wildlife-issues-derailed-by-illegitimate-special-interests/article_625d4207-efa3-5998-b34b-291686a15198.html (also appeared in: Duluth Reader, print edition, September 15, 2022, and Silent Sports Magazine, December Issue.)

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J., Liv Baker, Kristin L. Stewart, and William S. Lynn. "Science & Ethics Agree, Coexistence Must Replace Killing Wolves: Parts 1 & 2" *People, Animals and Nature Medium*. February 17 and 24, 2022. <https://panworks.medium.com/science-and-ethics-agree-coexistence-must-replace-killing-wolves-part-1-a5a6b88b1496> ; <https://panworks.medium.com/science-and-ethics-agree-coexistence-must-replace-killing-wolves-part-2-2c3effdb3faf>

Lynn, William S., **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**, Arian Wallach, and Joanne Lindenmayer. 2020. "Don't Blame Cats for Destroying Wildlife – Shaky Logic is Leading to Moral Panic." *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/dont-blame-cats-for-destroying-wildlife-shaky-logic-is-leading-to-moral-panic-138710>

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J. 2019. Contribution to: "Conflict Exploration: Culling Hyenas to Save Horses". *Medium*. <https://medium.com/@ConservConflict/conflict-exploration-culling-hyenas-to-save-horses-686cf3b17c29>

Santiago-Ávila, Francisco J., and William S. Lynn. 2019. "Multispecies Ethics are Messy: Five Questions for William Lynn." *Edge Effects*, <https://edgeeffects.net/william-lynn/>.

Presentations, interviews, panels and public speaking

Nijhuis, Michelle. "Killing one owl to save another. Is it ever the right thing to do? Two ethicists weigh in." Interview with William S. Lynn and **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**. May 10, 2024. https://www.hcn.org/articles/killing-one-owl-to-save-another/?utm_source=wcnl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2024-05-10-Newsletter

Rademacher, Chelsea. "Alpha Advocate". Interview with **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila** for Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison. June 26, 2023. <https://nelson.wisc.edu/alpha-advocate/>

Greer, Chelsea. "Wolf Stories: Sustaining the wellbeing of people, animals, and nature" (Parts 1 and 2). Interview with PAN Works' Drs. William Lynn, Liv Baker, Kristin Stewart and **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**. Raincoast Conservation Foundation. July 19 & 25, 2023. <https://www.raincoast.org/2023/07/wolf-stories-sustaining-wellbeing-people-animals-nature/>; <https://www.raincoast.org/2023/07/wolf-stories-sustaining-the-wellbeing-of-people-animals-and-nature-part-2/>

Mowry, Chris & **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila**. "Coyotes & Coexistence" (Webinar). Project Coyote & The Rewilding Institute's Heartland Rewilding Initiative with the Atlanta Coyote Project. June 13, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKEFs-ssh6A>

Hightower, Kim. "Justice For All" (Parts 1-3). Interview with **Francisco J. Santiago-Ávila** for PANWorks. May 04, 15 & 30, 2023. <https://panworks.medium.com/justice-for-all-bd324a243fbb>; <https://panworks.medium.com/justice-for-all-729aefd75132>; <https://panworks.medium.com/justice-for-all-4840ea16f2e5>

Urbanik, J. and William Lynn. "Multispecies Justice: Towards More Just Geographies". Virtual panel session for American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting (**Panelist**). March 24, 2023.

Lute, ML, **F.J. Santiago-Ávila**. "Reforming Conservation Governance to Promote Coexistence and Multi-species Justice." Part of the Symposia—Where Psychology, Ecology and Ethics Meet on the Road to Coexistence. International Wildlife Coexistence Conference. Chico Springs, MT. October 18, 2022.

Santiago-Ávila, F.J. "Beyond species counts: nonhuman values, conservation and rewilding." Webinar, Project Coyote & The Rewilding Institute. October 12, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fBIGcC00Os>

Santiago-Ávila, F.J. "Respecting Otherness: From Wolves To All Animals." Speak For Wolves 2022 Conference. March 31, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rEJ87Pbjtg>

Lute, ML, **F.J. Santiago-Ávila**. "Reforming Conservation Governance to Restore Resiliency and Multi-species Justice." North American Congress for Conservation Biology. Reno, NV. July 18, 2022.

Santiago-Ávila, F.J. "Science & Ethics Agree: Coexistence Must Replace Killing Wolves." Webinar, Lobo Week 2022. Wolf Conservation Center. March 31, 2022. <https://nywolf.org/science-and-ethics-agree-coexistence-must-replace-killing-wolves/>

Santiago-Ávila, F.J. "Killing wolves to prevent predation on domestic ungulates may help one farm but harm neighbors." Compassionate Conservation Middle East Conference, Coexistence with Predators Symposium, Katzrin, Israel. December 14, 2018.

Santiago-Ávila, F.J. "Killing wolves to prevent predation on domestic ungulates may help one farm but harm neighbors." 12th Annual Earth Day Conference, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, WI. April 23, 2018.

Santiago-Ávila, F.J. (on behalf of co-authors Alexander Pfaff & Lucas Joppa) "Protected Areas' Impacts Upon Land Cover in Mexico." American Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. July 28, 2014.

Languages

English	Fluent (advanced)
Spanish	Native speaker

Skills

Analysis	Policy/ethical/scientific analysis; wild animal advocacy; campaign management; interspecies ethics, statistical analysis (survival, competing risk, regression, spatial analyses); environmental program management and evaluation; adaptive conservation planning; human-wildlife conflict mitigation
Software	MS Office, Google Workspace, Slack
Others	Wordpress, Salsa, EveryAction

References

Dr. William Lynn	Founder and President, PAN Works Research Scientist, Marsh Institute, Clark University wlynn@clarku.edu
Dr. Adrian Treves	Professor of Environmental Studies, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison atreves@wisc.edu
Dr. Michelle Lute	Co-Director, Wildlife For All michelle@wildlifeforall.us