

## Alexis O'Callahan (she/her)

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### EDUCATION

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2026	Ph.D., <i>Environmental Dynamics</i> , University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR (anticipated graduation May 2026, Advisor: Dr. Kusum Naithani)
2026	Graduate Certificate, <i>Geographic Information Systems</i> , University of Arkansas
2023	Graduate Certificate, <i>Sustainability</i> , University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
2019	B.S., <i>Biology (minors in Chemistry &amp; Philosophy)</i> , St. Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ

### APPOINTMENTS

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2020-2026	<i>Graduate Assistant</i> , University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.
2023	<i>Yale Environmental Fellow</i> , Yale University, Dr. Dorceta Taylor's JEDSI Lab. Virtual. May-August.
2023	<i>Green Infrastructure &amp; Ecological Restoration Intern</i> , NYC Parks, Division of Environment & Planning, Conservation Team, New York, NY. May-August.
2019-2020	<i>Seasonal Naturalist and Wetland Kayak Guide</i> , NJ Dept of Environmental Protection, Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ. May 2019-July 2020.
2018-2020	<i>Ethnobiology Research Assistant</i> , Saint Peter's University, Department of Biology, Jersey City, NJ. August 2018-August 2020.
2018	<i>Graphic Design Intern</i> , Golden Door International Film Festival, Jersey City, NJ. March-September 2018.
2018	<i>Biofilm Research Assistant</i> , Saint Peter's University, Department of Chemistry, Jersey City, NJ. May-June 2017.
2014	<i>Museum Exhibit Interpreter</i> , Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ. June-August 2013.

### TEACHING AND ADVISING

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2020-present	<p><i>Teaching Assistant</i>, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BIOL 3861L - General Ecology Laboratory (Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025).</li> <li>BIOL 1541L - Principles of Biology Laboratory (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)</li> </ol>
2021/2022/2024	<p><i>REU Mentor</i>, University of Arkansas, EcoREU Experience, Fayetteville, AR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marvin Mendoza (summer 2021)</li> <li>Brian Martínez Soler (summer 2022)</li> <li>Andrew Ruegsegger (summer 2024)</li> </ul>

### GRANTS AND AWARDS (\$107,400)

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2026	Harold and Margaret Hedges Memorial Scholarship in Ornithology \$4,900
2025	Ecological Forecasting Initiative Student Award Travel Grant \$1,000
2024	University of Arkansas Graduate School Research Grant \$2,000
2023	Yale Environmental Fellowship Program \$13,000

2023	Ecological Forecasting Initiative Unconference Travel Grant \$1,000
2022	University of Arkansas Graduate School International Travel Grant \$3,100
2020	Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship, University of Arkansas \$88,000
2019	1st Place in Sustainable Campus Competition, Saint Peter's University, Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFNJ) \$500
2016-2019	(4x) 1st Place in Earth Week Nature Photography Competition, Saint Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ
2019	Member of the Most Noble Order of the Peacock at Saint Peter's University (Top 10 GPAs of graduating class)
2019	Wassman Medal for highest GPA in Saint Peter's University's Biology program
2019	Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honor Society
2018	Ignite Award for Superior Programming in a Student Organization, Saint Peter's University
2018	Sigma Gamma Epsilon Chemistry Honor Society.
2018	Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society. 28 March 2018.
2017	1st Place in Pavan Literary Magazine Poetry Competition, Saint Peter's University
2016	2nd Place in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest, Saint Peter's University
2016	ICFNJ PSE&G Scholarship for Advancing STEM Majors \$1,500

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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2024 – Present	Arkansas Native Plant Society
2024 – Present	North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA)
2023 – Present	Climate Change Social Science Network (CCSSN)
2023 – Present	International Association for Landscape Ecology-North America (IALE-NA)
2023 – Present	Ecological Forecasting Initiative (EFI)
2021 – Present	Women In Soil Ecology (WISE)
2019 – Present	Ecological Society of America (ESA)

## PUBLICATIONS

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[Google Scholar](#) | [ORCID Profile](#) | <sup>†</sup>undergraduate student author

### Peer-reviewed Publications

*In Preparation / In review*

6. Ruegsegger A.<sup>†</sup>, **O'Callahan A.**, Ogle J., and Naithani K. (2026). Effects of disturbance on measures of woodland plant diversity in a Northwest Arkansas watershed. *In preparation.*
5. St. Rose A., **O'Callahan A.**, Smith H., Muniyasamy A., Dunn III J. E., Bradford J.<sup>†</sup>, and Naithani K. (2026). A Comprehensive Review and Synthesis of Diversity Indices and Their Use in Ecology. *In preparation.*
4. **O'Callahan A.**, Ruegsegger A.<sup>†</sup>, Ogle J., and Naithani K. (2026). Entropy as a metric of human disturbance across Southeastern Forests and Grasslands. *Conservation Science and Practice. In preparation.*

3. **O’Callahan A.**, Ruegsegger A.<sup>†</sup>, Ogle J., and Naithani K. (2026) Developing a multidisturbance index to guide land management in Southeastern Forests and Grasslands. *In preparation*.
2. **O’Callahan, A.** & Naithani, K. (2026). Continental scale drivers of soil microbial biomass and community composition. *In review*.

*Published*

1. Chen, D., **O’Callahan, A.**, & Garrett-Kluthe, B. (2023). Immigrant foodways in Jersey City, NJ, *Food, Culture & Society*, 26:2, 387-408. [DOI: 10.1080/15528014.2021.2000700](https://doi.org/10.1080/15528014.2021.2000700)

Non-refereed Publications

10. **O’Callahan, A.** (2025). “Not Lost Yet.” *The Nature of Our Times: Poems on America’s Lands, Waters, Wildlife, and Other Natural Wonders* online gallery anthology, published by Poets for Science. [Poem link](#).
9. Scott, S., Ward, A., & **O’Callahan, A.** (2025). “Summary of the Third Annual AEOIP Workshop.” NASA. [Article link](#).
8. **O’Callahan, A.** (2024). “Ode to the College Social Justice Club.” *Roots Magazine*, edited by Amelia Southern Uribe. Issue 02. Zero Hour Arkansas, pp 16. [Literary magazine link](#).
7. **O’Callahan, A.** (2024). “Is What I’m Doing Really Science?” [Medium article link](#).
6. **O’Callahan, A.** (2023). “The Aesthetics of Collapse.” *Roots Magazine*, edited by Amelia Southern Uribe. Issue 01. Zero Hour Arkansas, pp 22. [News article](#); [editor interview](#).
5. **O’Callahan, A.** (2021). “Yes, It’s Taylor Ham: A Linguistic Analysis of the Pork Roll Debate.” [Medium article link](#). Featured in the [POLITICO New Jersey Playbook Newsletter](#) on 11/10/2021, edited by Matt Friedman.
4. **O’Callahan, A.** (2020). “Life Under a Log.” *The Green Oasis: Official Newsletter of Liberty State Park*, edited Lori Garth. Published by NJDEP. pp 3.
3. **O’Callahan, A.** (2019). “Why “Save the Whales”? An Examination of the Philosophical Justifications of Conservation Biology.” Saint Peter’s University Undergraduate Honors Thesis. [Repository Link](#).
2. **O’Callahan, A.** (2018). “Hudson County’s Third Annual Shooting Bee.” *Megazine*, edited by Meghan Ianiro. Issue 03, pp. 38-41. [Literary magazine link](#).
1. **O’Callahan, A.** (2017). “What Does Jersey City Mean to You?” *The Pavan*, edited by Gabby Robles. pp. 39-42. [Literary magazine link](#).

**PRESENTATIONS**

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<sup>†</sup>undergraduate student author

17. **O’Callahan, A.** “Translation Working Group Update: Tutorials on Scientific Co-production.” Annual Ecological Forecasting Initiative Conference, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. May 23, 2025.
16. Ruegsegger, A.<sup>†</sup>, **O’Callahan, A.**, Naithani, K., & Ogle, J. “Patterns and Drivers of Floristic Quality and Plant Diversity in the Beaver Lake watershed.” EcoREU Expo, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR. July 16-17, 2024. Presentation.
15. Ruegsegger, A.<sup>†</sup>, **O’Callahan, A.**, Naithani, K., & Ogle, J. “Patterns and Drivers of Floristic Quality and Plant Diversity in the Beaver Lake watershed.” Arkansas Water Resource Center. Annual Conference, Fayetteville, AR. July 16-17, 2024. Poster.

14. **O'Callahan, A.** & Naithani, K. "Drivers of Soil Microbial Biomass and Community Composition across Broad Spatial Scales and Diverse Land Cover and Land Use Types." International Association for Landscape Ecology-North America Annual Meeting (IALE-NA), Oklahoma City, OK. 02 April 2024. Poster.
13. St. Rose A.I, **O'Callahan A.**, Muniyasamy A., Smith H. W., Dunn III J. E., Bradford J, and Naithani K. "A Comprehensive Review and Synthesis of Diversity Indices and Their Use in Ecology." International Association for Landscape Ecology-North America Annual Meeting (IALE-NA), Oklahoma City, OK. 02 April 2024. Poster.
12. Finger-Higgins, R., **O'Callahan, A.**, Burnett, J., St. Rose., A. "Forecasting Impacts: Measuring the Current and Future Impacts of EFI." Collaborative Innovation and Skill-building at the 2023 Unconference: Empowering Ecological Forecasting with NEON Data. Ecological Forecasting Initiative Unconference, Boulder, CO. 21 June 2023. [Blog post](#) and presentation.
11. **O'Callahan, A.** and Naithani, K. Continental scale drivers of microbial biomass and community composition. ESA and Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution Joint Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, Canada. 15 August 2022. Poster.
10. <sup>1</sup>Martinez-Soler, B., **O'Callahan, A.**, St. Rose, A., and Naithani, K. Effects of Hurricane Maria in Guanica's Dry Forest Soil Properties. Arkansas Water Resources and Watersheds Conference, Fayetteville, AR, USA. 13 July 2022. Poster.
9. <sup>1</sup>Martinez-Soler, Brian J., **O'Callahan, A.**, St. Rose, A., and Naithani, K. Effects of Hurricane Maria in Guanica's Dry Forest Soil Properties. EcoREU Expo, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville AR. 04 August 2022. Talk.
8. Chen, D., Aquino, D., **O'Callahan, A.**, and Garrett-Kluthe, B. Ethnic Foodways, Fresh Produce, and Food Security in Jersey City, NJ. Metropolitan Association of College and University Biologists (MACUB) Annual Conference, Virtual. 31 October 2020. Poster.
7. **O'Callahan, A.** Committing to Sustainable Commuting: Bringing Systematic Carpooling to Campus. Green is the New Blue Competition. Saint Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ. 15 May 2019. Poster and talk. [Interview](#). Winning project and presentation for campus-wide competition.
6. **O'Callahan, A.** Why "Save the Whales"?: An Examination of the Philosophical Justifications of Conservation Biology. Saint Peter's University Undergraduate Honors Thesis Defense, Jersey City, NJ. 20 March 2019. Presentation.
5. Gonzalez, S., Barbour, A., Argueta, C., Diaz, J., Amaya, C., Cantillano, B., Mosqueda, G., Hernandez, V., Adewale, B., Perez, D., Fernandez, P., Quinonez, E., **O'Callahan, A.**, Fils, B., Giang, V., Raymond, S., Callahan, J. Garrett-Kluthe, B. and Wydner, K. Project FeederWatch, Year Five: A Garden of Birdly Delights. Metropolitan Association of College and University Biologists (MACUB). New York, NY. 26 October 2019. Poster.
4. **O'Callahan, A.** Local Participation and its Role in Conservation Action Plans: A Case Study of African Rhinoceroses. Biology Senior Capstone Symposium. Saint Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ 15 April 2019. Poster and presentation.
3. Barbour, A., Gonzalez, S., Adewale, B., Mosqueda, G., Fils, B., Raymond, S., **O'Callahan, A.**, Orologas, V., Garrett-Kluthe, B. and Wydner, K. Project FeederWatch at Saint Peter's: How Four Years Have Flown By. Metropolitan Association of College and University Biologists (MACUB). New York, NY. 27 October 2018. Poster.

2. *Invited Speaker.* “Workshop on Non-violence: History, Philosophy, and Tools for Change.” United Struggles Conference. Saint Peter’s University, Jersey City, NJ. 10 September 2016. Talk.
1. *Panelist.* “Cultivating Diversity on Campus.” Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA. 16 March 2016. Talk.

## **WORKSHOPS & SKILLS TRAINING**

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- 2026 *Participant.* Advanced Class: Dendrochronology. Fayetteville Community Forester Program. (1.5 hrs). Fayetteville, AR. January.
- 2025 *Participant.* Right Tree, Right Location. Fayetteville Community Forester Program. (1.5 hrs). Fayetteville, AR. October.
- 2025 *Participant.* Introduction to NASA Earth Observations and Tools for Wildfire Monitoring and Management: Parts I & II on Wildfire Monitoring and Evaluation (2 hrs). Virtual. April.
- 2024 *Facilitator, Group Leader.* NASA AEOIP - Fractional Vegetation Cover Co-production Breakout Group (8 hr). April.
- 2023 *Participant.* NYC Parks - Contract Design Training (2 hr). August.
- 2023 *Participant.* USFS-NYC Parks Stewardship Salons (6 hr). June & July.
- 2023 *Participant.* NYC Parks - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Conference (4 hr). July.
- 2023 *Participant.* NYC Parks Social Assessment Survey Training (2 hr). July
- 2023 *Participant.* NEON-NCAR EFI Unconference (3 days).
- 2022 *Participant.* NCAR-NEON Workshop. Virtual. September.
- 2017, 2018 *Participant.* Ignatian Summit for Justice. November.
- 2017 *Participant.* Ignatian Family Teach in for Justice. June.

## **SERVICE**

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### ***National/International***

- 2025-present *Co-Chair,* Translation Working Group, Ecological Forecasting Initiative
- 2023-present *Member,* Translation Working Group, Ecological Forecasting Initiative
- 2023-present *Member,* EFISA, Ecological Forecasting Initiative

### ***University***

- 2022 *Invited Panelist.* Graduate School Q&A for Visiting Undergraduates. University of Arkansas, Graduate School and International Education. 06 July 2022.
- 2022 *Peer Mentor,* University of Arkansas, Biology Graduate Student Association. Fall 2022.

### ***Community***

- 2025 Volunteer. Northern saw-whet owl monitoring for Ozark Bird Conservancy (checking mist nets). November. (7 hrs).
- 2025 Volunteer. Sign painting assistance for Appleseeds Teaching Farm fundraiser. October. (3 hr).
- 2025 Volunteer. Invasive Species Removals, Beaver Watershed Alliance, Fayetteville, AR. 16 September. (2.5 hrs).

- 2025 Volunteer. Graphic design, screenprinting, website design, and event set-up for Studio Foundations NWA. August-Present. (10 hrs).
- 2025 Volunteer. Archeology Month Trivia Night event breakdown. Fayetteville AR. 12 March 2025. (1 hr).
- 2024 Volunteer. Event photographer. Friends of India, University of Arkansas. 03 November 2024. (1 hr).
- 2023 Informal Educator & Volunteer. "Searching for Tardigrades." STEM Night, Holcomb Elementary, Fayetteville, AR. 06 March 2023. (8 hrs).
- 2023 Volunteer. Senior BFA ceramics art show disassembly, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR. 27 April 2023.
- 2023 Volunteer. Invasive Species Removals, University of Arkansas-Pack Rat Collaboration, Fayetteville, AR. 27 June 2021, 11 February 2023.
- 2023 Volunteer Judge. Northwest Arkansas Science Fair, Social Sciences Middle School Division, Fayetteville, AR. 10 March 2023.
- 2021 Co-organizer & Speaker. "What does a Scientist Look Like?" Hybrid event with South Plainfield High School Biology classes, NJ. 09 September 2021.
- 2019 Organizer & Speaker. "Climate Change: Problems and Solutions." P.S.#24, Jersey City, NJ. 16 May 2019.
- 2019 Volunteer. Bioblitz. Saint Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ. 04 May 2019.
- 2018-2019 Community Scientist. Project Feederwatch Team Member, Saint Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ. November-April 2018 and 2019.
- 2018 Volunteer. Native Pollinator Garden, Saint Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ
- 2018 Organizer, Undocu-Week. April 11-16th, 2018.
- 2018 Volunteer. King-Kairos Social Justice House community gardening, Saint Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ 13 April 2018.
- 2014 Teacher's Aide. Bayonne Summer Art Camp. Bayonne, NJ. July-August 2014.
- 2013 Volunteer. Leaders of Tomorrow Daycare, Jersey City, NJ. July 19-August 2nd 2013 (40 hrs).

## REFERENCES

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Kusum Naithani, Ph.D  
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 Dept. of Biological Sciences  
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