

HEATHER R. SPENCE, PhD

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www.HeatherSpence.net

CURRENT POSITION

Marine and Science Advisor, supporting 2019-present
Water Power Technologies Office, U.S. Department of Energy

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Biopsychology and Behavioral Neuroscience 2015
The Graduate Center of the City University of New York (New York, NY)
The importance of bioacoustics for dolphin welfare: soundscape characterization with implications for management

M.S. in Marine Biology 2008
University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth (Dartmouth, MA)
Recruitment of the invaders: factors affecting the distribution of early stage Hemigrapsus sanguineus and other crabs in southeastern New England with implications for shellfish aquaculture

B.S. in Biology 2005
The George Washington University (Washington DC)
Morphological, developmental and behavioral differences in three species of the snapping shrimp genus Alpheus (Crustacea, Decapoda)

RECENT POSITIONS

AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow 2017-2019
U.S. Department of Energy

Science Consultant, Longtail Studios/Ubisoft 2016
Develop science curricula, content and strategy for educational video games

Technical Communications Consultant, Liberty Biosecurity, LLC 2016
Develop communications tools and strategy for technical presentations to government

Editor, Cactus Communications 2015-2016
Center of Excellence for Plant and Animal Science
Review and revise science articles for submission to peer-reviewed journals for international non-native speakers

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LEADERSHIP

Co-Leader, Ocean Memory Project 2019-present

Transdisciplinary initiative funded by the National Academies Keck Futures Initiative (NAKFI)

Director, Marine & Bioacoustics Programs, Michelle's Earth Foundation 2008-present

Arlington, VA-based U.S. 501c3

Co-founder and President, GRACIASS 2008-present

Global Research and Arts Center for the Investigation and Advancement of Sustainability Solutions

Director, International Research & Outreach, CONANP 2005-present

Comision Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas, Quintana Roo, Mexico (Mexican federal government)

TEACHING / CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Hunter College, the City University of New York, New York NY 2011-2015

Develop curricula and teach 200/300 level undergraduate courses

Animal Behavior, Sex & Behavior, Motivation & Emotion, Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Personality, Sensation & Perception

Arlington, VA Public Schools 2009-2010

Guest lecturer, middle and high schools

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History 2006

Science Assistant to the Curator, Ocean Hall Exhibit

University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, Dartmouth, MA 2005-2008

Curriculum development and teaching, undergraduate Introductory Biology Labs and Evolution courses

RESEARCH

Noise research consultant, Natural Resources Defense Council 2016-2017

Design and lead review of noise research and policy

Visiting Researcher, Instituto Via Delphi 2014-2017

Develop and lead dolphin welfare research projects and train staff

Researcher, CUNY New Media Lab 2013-2015

Create digital innovations in interdisciplinary research group

Marine Mammal Researcher, National Aquarium in Baltimore 2010-2013

Develop and lead observational behavioral and acoustic studies

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PANELS

- Co-Organizer, panel on maritime markets** 2019
Marine Energy Technology Symposium, Waterpower Week, Washington DC
- Organizer & moderator, panel on marine energy** 2018
AGU Fall Meeting, Washington DC
- Organizer & moderator, Science & Art for Conservation symposium** 2018
International Conservation Marketing and Engagement Congress, Arlington, VA
Won best session award
- Curator & moderator, panel on ocean noise** 2017
National Academy of Sciences DASER program, Washington DC
- Panelist, FOCUS (Females of Color Underrepresented in STEM) program** 2016
George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

PRESS

- Grant Award, “Ocean Memory” National Academies Keck Futures Initiative** 2019
<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=09042018>
- TV, “When Sharks Attack,” National Geographic Wild** 2018
Consultant on multiple episodes; featured in Season 4, Episode 5
- Inauguration address, Science Photography Exhibit** 2018
Anilla Cultural, Montevideo, Uruguay
- Residency Fellowship Award, Science-Art Residency at Djerassi** 2017
<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Press-Release--Scientific-Delirium-Madness-4-0-Residents-Announced.html?soid=1114995572318&aid=9093TSKPJ7c>

AWARDS & GRANTS

- Assistant Secretary Annual Outstanding Achievement Award** 2020
- Co-PI, Ocean Memory Challenge, NAKFI grant** 2019
- PI, Marine Data Sonification Project, NAKFI grant** 2018
- Co-PI, Immersive Mesopelagic Theater Project** 2017
- NAKFI Fellow award for Djerassi Resident Artists Program** 2017

LANGUAGES

English (native), Spanish (fluent), ASL (some)