

# Rhonda Struminger

University of Padova  
Padova, Veneto Italy

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## Work History

- 2021 – date Visiting Researcher, University of Padova
- 2015 – date President, CICHAZ USA, College Station, TX and Secretary, CICHAZ, A.C. Calnali, Hidalgo, Mexico
- 2005 – date Co-Founder and Co-Director, Centro de Investigaciones Científicas de las Huastecas “Aguazarca” (CICHAZ), Calnali, Hidalgo, Mexico
- 2022 – 2023 Communication and Marketing Division: Outreach Associate, University of Padova
- 2015 – 2021 Assistant Professor of the Practice and Assistant Research Professor, Texas A&M University, Ecology and Conservation Biology, College Station, TX
- 2010 – 2020 VP, Research, CS4Ed, Consulting Services for Education, Newton, MA
- 2001 – 2005 Project Manager and Director of Product Integration, Houghton Mifflin Publishing Co. (now Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co.), Boston, MA
- 1999 – 2001 Director of Content and Director of Online and Curriculum Productions, GlobalLearn, Cambridge, MA
- 1998 – 1999 Teaching and Research Assistant, MIT, The Information Technology Masters of Engineering Project: Distributed Software Engineering Lab, Cambridge, MA
- 1998 – 1999 Research Associate, Harvard Project Zero, Cambridge, MA
- 1994 – 1997 Production Coordinator, National Geographic Online, Washington, D.C.  
Researcher, National Geographic Television, Washington, D.C.

## Education

- 2006 – 2013 Ph.D. – Texas A&M University, College Station, TX  
Department of Political Science  
Thesis: “Education Spending: Impacts on Human Capital Development”
- 1997 – 1999 Ed.M. – Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
School of Education – Technology in Education Focus
- 1989 – 1994 B.S. – Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA  
Applied History (College Honors, 1993) and Industrial Management (1994)
- 1992 The American University World Capitals Program, Brussels, Belgium

## Skills

- Mother Tongue: English
- Languages: Italian B1, Spanish B1
- Communication: International virtual conferences (25+ participants)
- Digital Skills: Google Suites, MS Office, Web site development and maintenance, Social Media, ZOOM
- Organizational: Project Management (teams of 20+), Principal Investigator (grants)

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## Funding

- 2020 – 2022 Texas A&M University and Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología Collaborative Research Grant (TAMU PI GG Rosenthal and INECOL PI L Arellano). “The Ecological and Social Impacts of Regenerative Ranching in Mexico’s Sierra Madre Oriental.” Proposal 19-20-038 (\$30,000)
- 2017 – 2021 National Science Foundation, Advancing Informal STEM Learning, Exploratory Pathways Grant, AISL (PI with co-PI A. M. Lawing and Colorado State University PI J. Zarestky), “Collaborative Research: Informal STEM learning at biological field stations.” DRL-1713359 (\$182,200)
- 2017 – 2021 National Science Foundation, FSML (co-PI with PI Gil Rosenthal), “Science in the Sierra Madre: developing infrastructure for multidisciplinary research at the CICHAZ field station.” DBI-1723266. (\$199,918)

## Teaching Experience

- 2019 – 2020 Outreach: From Theory to Practice (Graduate course), Ecosystem Science and Management, Texas A&M University.
- 2016 – 2020 Spatial Project Management (Capstone undergraduate, writing intensive course – co-instructor with A.M. Lawing), Ecosystem Science and Management, Texas A&M University
- 2016 - 2016 Exploring Citizen Science (Graduate course), Ecosystems Science and Management, Texas A&M University
- 2014 – 2016 Seminar in Executive Leadership I & II (Instructor), School of Military Science at Texas A&M University
- 2011 – 2012 Political Systems of Latin America (Upper level undergraduate, writing intensive course), Texas A&M University

## Publications

- Short, Rachel, Sethna, J.M., Zarestky, J., **Struminger, R.**, Vilen, L., and Lawing, A.M. In Review. Volunteers as Participants and Leaders at Biological Field Stations.
- McDermott, V., Roketenetz, L.D., Jekielek, P., **Struminger, R.** 2023. “IDEA + and OBFS: Using Transdisciplinary Strategies to Create More Inclusive Spaces.” *Integrative and Comparative Biology* icad025, <https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icad025>
- **Struminger, R.**, Adame, G. V., Hussein Shannan, Y. 2022. “Womens’ Perspectives on Building Community-Field Station Partnerships.” In *Women of the Wild*, edited by Victoria M. McDermott, Jennifer M. Gee, and Amy R. May, 225-254. Lanham: Lexington Books.
- Zarestky, J., Vilen, L., Short, R. A., **Struminger, R.**, & Lawing, A. M. 2021. Adult Education at Biological Field Stations: Building Capacity for Science Learning. *Adult Education Quarterly*.
- **Struminger, R.**, Short, R., Zarestky, J., Vilen, L. & Lawing, A.M. 2021. Biological Field Stations Promote Science Literacy through Outreach. *Bioscience* 71(9), 953-963. <https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biab057>

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## Publications, Continued

- Short, R.A., **Struminger, R.**, Zarestky, J., Vilen, L., Wong, M., Pippin, J., & Lawing, A.M. 2020. "Spatial inequalities leave micropolitan areas and Indigenous populations underserved by informal STEM learning institutions." *Science Advances* 6(41): eabb3819.
- **Struminger, R.**, Zarestky, J., Short, R.A., & Lawing, A.M. 2018. "A Framework for STEM Educational Outreach at Field Stations." *BioScience*, 68(12), 969–978. doi:[https:// doi.org/](https://doi.org/)
- Ross, A., **Struminger, R.**, Winking, J., & Wedemeyer-Strombel, K.R. 2018. "Science as a Public Good: A Research Note on Findings from March for Science Participants." *Science Communication*. 40 (2): 228-245.
- Zarestky, J., **Struminger, R.**, Rodriguez, J., Short, R.A., & Lawing, A.M. 2018. Perspectives on informal learning: Cross-disciplinary concepts and a new venue for adult education. Proceedings of the *Adult Education Research Conference*, Victoria, BC, Canada.
- **Struminger, R.**, A. Ross, & J. Winking. July 19, 2017. "How Will Science Survive in the Age of Alternative Facts?" *Huffington Post*. [http:// www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/how-will-science-survive-in-the-age-of-alt-facts\\_us\\_596fa33be4b0110cb3cb427f](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/how-will-science-survive-in-the-age-of-alt-facts_us_596fa33be4b0110cb3cb427f).
- Taylor-Robinson, M.M., Geva, N., **Struminger, R.**, & Paras, P. 2011. "What Should Congress Members Do? Using Survey Embedded Experiments to Study Citizens' Clientelistic Expectations in Mexico." *Revista Latinoamericana de Opinión Pública*, no.1: 147-184.
- **Struminger, R.** 2004. "Slavery and Forced Labor Study Guide." Human Rights Education Association's Online Learning Centre. <[http:// www.hrea.org/learn/guides/slavery.html](http://www.hrea.org/learn/guides/slavery.html)>.
- Mora, F., **Struminger, R.**, Favela, J., Hussein, K. M., & Losey, R. 2000. Collaborative Design and Learning: Competence building for innovation, Editors: J. Bento, J. Duarte, M. Heitor and W. Mitchell, QUORUM Books, Series on "Technology Policy and Innovation", Volume 5, Chapter 6: Supporting a "Real World" Project-Based, Technology-Supported, Collaborative, Distance Learning Environment: The MIT-CICESE Distributed System Engineering Lab.
- **Struminger, R.** 1999. "The Distributed Software Engineering Laboratory: Reflections on a Collaborative Classroom." Unpublished paper. Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.
- Wiske, S., Moore, J., Sweeney, L. B., Grogan, D., **Struminger, R.**, & Williams, A. 1997. "Designing a Networked Learning Environment: A Working Paper." Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.

## Conferences, Presentations, and Workshops

- Rouse, S.M., Ross, A.D., **Struminger, R.S.**, January 2024. "In Science We Trust? Depends on Who "We" Are: How Overlapping Identities Inform Attitudes about COVID-19 and Trust in Science." Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting panel on Public Opinion on Issues Implicating Science and Morality: COVID, Climate Change, Sexual Health, and Universal Basic Income, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.
- BioScience Talks Podcast. Interviewed as an OBFS Board representative. October 2023.
- OBFS Europe/ Africa Virtual Conference Moderator and Organizer. April 2023.

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### Conferences, Presentations, and Workshops, continued

- XXX Aniversario del Postgrado en Agroecosistemas Tropicales, Foro de Avances y Perspectivas en la Investigación del Campus Veracruz 2023, Conferencia Magistral (invited Keynote Speaker), “Ganadería regenerativa y Extensión Rural”, 13 April 2023.
- OBFS Latin America Region Virtual Conference Moderator and Organizer. March 2023.
- Rouse, S.M., Ross, A.D., **Struminger, R.S.**, January 2023. “The Influence of Overlapping Identities on Perceptions about Science and COVID-19.” Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, St. Pete Beach, Florida, USA.
- **Struminger, R.**, Mineli, D., Gee, J. September 2022. “The OBFS International Committee Matching Program.” Moderated session at the Organization of Biological Field Stations Annual Meeting. Beaver Island, Michigan, USA.
- **Struminger, R.**, Zarestky, J., Vilen, L., Short, R.A., & Lawing, A.M. September 2021. “Promoting Conservation, Environmental Stewardship, and Science Literacy through Outreach.” Moderated session at the Organization of Biological Field Stations Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- Sethna, J, **Struminger, R.**, Zarestky, J., Vilen, L., Lawing, A.M., and RA Short, R.A. August 2021. Leveraging place-based learning at biological field stations to advance science literacy among different audiences. Ecological Society of America. Virtual.
- **Struminger, R.**, Vilen, L., Zarestky, J., Short, R.A., & Lawing, A.M. October 2020. “Informal Environmental Learning at Biological Field Stations.” NAAEE Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- **Struminger, R.**, Rosenthal, G., Vázquez Adame. G., September 2020. “Murals integrate science and art in rural Mexico.” Lightning Talk at the Organization of Biological Field Stations Annual Meeting. .
- **Struminger, R.**, Zarestky, J., Vilen, L., Short, R.A., & Lawing, A.M. September 2020. “Outreach at Biological Field Stations: Opportunities and Impacts.” Moderated session at the Organization of Biological Field Stations Annual Meeting.
- Zarestky, J., **Struminger, R.**, Vilen, L. Short, R.A., & Lawing, A.M. September 2019. “Evaluating and Assessing Outreach Activities at Biological Field Stations.” Moderated Session at the Organization of Biological Field Stations Annual Meeting. Centre for Environmental Sciences, Hasselt University, Brussels, Belgium.
- Merson, M., **Struminger, R.**, Stern, M., Garlick, S., & Heimlich, J. February 2019. “Science in Natural Settings.” Co-presenter at the National Science Foundation Advancing Informal STEM Learning program’s Principal Investigator Meeting. Alexandria, Virginia, USA.
- **Struminger, R.**, Zarestky, J., Vilen, L., Short, R.A., & Lawing, A.M. September 2018. “Designing Outreach: Aligning Programs with Field Station Priorities.” Workshop at the Organization of Biological Field Stations Annual Meeting. Schoodic Peninsula, Maine, USA.
- Ross, A. & **Struminger, R.** August 2018. “Perceptions of Science and Scientists: Bridging Ideological Divides in the US.” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition. Boston, Massachusetts, US.
- Zarestky, J., **Struminger, R.**, Rodriguez, J., Short, R. A., & Lawing, A. M. September 2017. Perspectives on informal learning: Cross-disciplinary concepts and a new venue for adult education. Adult Education Research Conference, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

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### Conferences, Presentations, and Workshops, continued

- **Struminger, R.**, Zarestky, J., Vilen, L., Short, R.A., & A.M. September 2017. Lawing. STEM Outreach. Moderated session at the Organization of Biological Field Stations Annual Meeting. Lake Itasca, Minnesota, USA.
- Zarestky, J., **Struminger, R.**, Vilen, L., Short, R.A., & Lawing, A.M. September 2017. "Outreach at Field Stations: Best Practices for Engaging Participants." Workshop at the Organization of Biological Field Stations Annual Meeting. Lake Itasca, Minnesota, USA.
- **Struminger, R.**, Lawing, A.M., & Zarestky, J. September 2016. "Field Stations: Connecting Communities with their Natural Environments." Moderated session at the Organization of Biological Field Stations Annual Meeting. Sitka, Alaska, USA.
- **Struminger, R.** & Hussein, Y. June 2015. "Student Aspiration and Science Education: Possibilities in Calnali." Jornada de la Ciencia/Day of Science, Calnali, Hidalgo, Mexico.
- **Struminger, R.** April 2015. "Authentic Leadership: An Introduction." The Nichols Rising Leadership Conference, La Grange, Texas.
- **Struminger, R.** June 2014. "Education Spending in Calnali: Impacts on Human and Social Capital Development." Jornada de la Ciencia/Day of Science, Calnali, Hidalgo, Mexico.
- **Struminger, R.** April 2012. "The Education Policy Index: Balancing Supply- and Demand-side Policies." Midwest Political Science Association National Political Science Conference, Chicago, Illinois, USA.
- Taylor-Robinson, M.M., Geva, N., **Struminger, R.**, & Paras, P. April 2010. "What should congress members do? Using survey embedded experiments to study citizens' clientelistic expectations in Mexico." WAPOR Latin American Conference.
- **Struminger, R.** April 2009. "Is Government Spending on Education an Investment in Human Capital? *Oportunidades* and Professional Expectations in Mexico." Midwest Political Science Association National Political Science Conference, Chicago, Illinois, USA.
- **Struminger, R.** April 2007. "Texas Charter Schools: A Decade of Policy Outcomes." Midwest Political Science Association National Political Science Conference, Chicago, Illinois, USA.
- **Struminger, R.** & Hussein, Y. November 1998. *UN Declaration of Human Rights Exhibit*, Harvard Graduate School of Education. Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.
- **Struminger, R.** February 1998. "The Voices of Youth Project: Creating Global Understandings" Roundtable session. Harvard Graduate School of Education Student Research Conference, *Research for Praxis: Learning in the Global Community*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

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## Working Groups/Professional Service

- Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) President, January 2024 – Current.
- OBFS Matching Program, Committee member, Spring 2022 – 2024.
- International Committee co-Chair, Organization of Biological Stations. Fall 2021 – 2023.
- X-FSML Freshwater Habitats Group. Spring 2020 – 2023.
- Elected Member at Large, Organization of Biological Field Stations. Fall 2020 – 2022.
- NSF Review Panel 2018 and 2021.
- NSF-AISL sponsored Rural Informal STEM Learning Conference. Working group participant. September, 2018. Washington, D.C.

**Referee For:** *BioScience, Conservation Biology, Education Sciences, Minerva*

## Memberships and Organizations

- Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS)
- Scholars Strategy Network (SSN)

## Honors and Awards

- Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of Political Science, 2012
- Houghton Mifflin Corporate Information Technology Boston Employee of the Year, 2004
- Ethnographic Honors Thesis, Carnegie Mellon University 1992 - 1993
- Phi Alpha Theta, History Honors

## Fellowships

- Association of Former Students Graduate Merit Fellowship, Texas A&M University, 2006-2007
- Fifth Year Scholar, Carnegie Mellon University, 1993 – 1994

## Research Fields

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Informal STEM learning    | - Science as a public good       |
| - Science communication     | - Education policy               |
| - Biological Field Stations | - Informal Learning Institutions |