

# Rhonda Struminger

Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology  
534 John Kimbrough Blvd; WFES 314  
College Station, TX 77843-2258

Email: [struminger@tamu.edu](mailto:struminger@tamu.edu)

Web: [rhondastruminger.net](http://rhondastruminger.net)

## 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

## Positions

- 2015 – date Assistant Professor of the Practice and Assistant Research Professor, Texas A&M University, Ecology and Conservation Biology, College Station, TX
- 2015 – date President, CICHAZ USA, College station, TX and Secretary, CICHAZ, A.C. Calnali, Hidalgo, Mexico
- 2010 – date VP, Research, CS4Ed, Consulting Services for Education, Newton, MA
- 2005 – date Co-Founder and Co-Director, Centro de Investigaciones Científicas de las Huastecas “Aguazarca” (CICHAZ), Calnali, Hidalgo, Mexico
- 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.

## Funding

- 2020 – 2021 Texas A&M University and Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología Collaborative Research Grant (TAMU PI GG Rosenthal and INECOL PI LA Gámez). “The Ecological and Social Impacts of Regenerative Ranching in Mexico’s Sierra Madre Oriental.” Proposal 19-20-038 (\$30,000)
- 2020 - 2021 National Science Foundation RAPID grant. The Virtual Field: An Opportunity to Mitigate for the Covid Pandemic. Coalition Member and Participating Field Station (CICHAZ).

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- 2017 – 2021 National Science Foundation, Advancing Informal STEM Learning, Exploratory Pathways Grant, AISL (PI with co-PI A. M. Lawing and TAMU 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 – date 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
- 1996 – 1997 G.E.D. Prep Class, The Academy of Hope, Washington, D.C.

### Publications in Review or Preparation

- **Struminger, R.**, Short, R., Zarestky, J., Vilen, L. & Lawing, A.M. [In Review]. Working Title: Biological Field Stations Promote Science Literacy through Outreach.
- **Struminger, R.** & Ross, A.D., “Bridging Partisan Divisions with Science Experience.” [In Revision].
- Zarestky, J., Vilen, L., Short, R. **Struminger, R.**, & Lawing, A.M. [In Review]. Working Title: Adult Education at Biological Field Stations: Building Capacity for Environmental and Science Learning.

### Publications

- 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/
- 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.

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- 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>>.
- 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

- Vilen, L., Zarestky, J., **Struminger, R.**, Short, R.A., & Lawing, A.M. September 2021. "The Power of Place: Leveraging Place-Based Perspective in Outreach and Science." Workshop and follow-up concurrent session accepted at the Organization of Biological Field Stations Annual Meeting. Flathead Lake Bio Station. Polson, MT.
- **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.**, G. Rosenthal, G. Vázquez Adame. September 2020. "Murals integrate science and art in rural Mexico." Lightning Talk at the Organization of Biological Field Stations Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- **Struminger, R.**, J. 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. Virtual.
- 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, VA.

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- **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.
- 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, MA.
- 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, BC, Canada.
- **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, MN.
- 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, MN.
- **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.
- **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, TX.
- **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, IL.
- 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, IL.
- **Struminger, R.** April 2007. "Texas Charter Schools: A Decade of Policy Outcomes." Midwest Political Science Association National Political Science Conference, Chicago, IL.
- **Struminger, R.** & Hussein, Y. November 1998. *UN Declaration of Human Rights Exhibit*, Harvard Graduate School of Education. Cambridge, MA.
- **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, MA.

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## Working Groups

- International Committee, Organization of Biological Field Stations. Fall 2020 – Current.
- X-FSML Freshwater Habitats Group. Spring 2020 – Current.
- NSF-AISL sponsored Rural Informal STEM Learning Conference. Working group participant. September, 2018. Washington, D.C.

## Memberships and Organizations

- Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS)
- America Political Science Association (APSA)
- 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

- Informal STEM learning
- Science as a public good
- Science communication
- Education policy