

Viorel D. Popescu, PhD

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PROFILE

I am a quantitative ecologist and conservation scientist with a background in ecology, geography and environmental sciences. My research focuses on animal population ecology, biostatistics and systematic conservation planning and is aimed at identifying conservation strategies to reverse biodiversity loss. I have 15+ years of research experience, leading collaborative projects, transposing science to practice, outreach, facilitation and leadership, and 10 years of teaching experience, graduate and postdoc mentorship, and curricular development and programming.

Publications : 81 peer-reviewed articles, 1 book, 4 book chapters; h-index = 31, i10index = 58;

<https://scholar.google.ca/citations?user=nwhHaL4AAAAJ&hl=en>

Grants : >7 million USD in Federal, State and private funding from USA, Canada, Romania and China

Mentoring : 6 PhD, 6 postdocs, 16 MSc, 5 Honors 30+ undergraduate researchers

EDUCATION

PhD	Wildlife Ecology	University of Maine, Orono, ME, USA	2011
MSc	Conservation Biology	SUNY-ESF, Syracuse, NY, USA	2007
BSc	Environmental Science	University of Bucharest, Romania	2001

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2025 - present	<i>Lecturer in Biodiversity Data Analytics</i> , Columbia University, School of Professional Studies
2023 - 2025	<i>Associate Research Scientist</i> , Columbia University, E3B, New York NY
2016 - 2023	<i>Assistant/Associate Professor of Conservation Biology</i> , Ohio University, Biological Sciences
2012 - 2015	<i>David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellow</i> , Simon Fraser Univ. & U of California, Santa Cruz
2011 - 2012	<i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i> , University of California, Berkeley
2000 - 2008	<i>Research Assistant</i> , University of Bucharest, Centre for Environmental Research, Romania

TEACHING

Columbia U	GU4670 <i>Introduction to GIS</i> (3 CR; 27 students; Spring 2026) GR6010 <i>Biodiversity Data Analysis</i> (3 CR; 13 students; Fall 2025) GR6905 <i>Seminar in Conservation Biology</i> (3 CR; 20 students; Spring 2025) GU4005 <i>Conservation Policy</i> (3 CR; 21 students; Fall 2024) GR6135 <i>Global Health at the Human-Wildlife Interface</i> (3 CR; 10 students; Spring 2024) GR6320 <i>Population Ecology</i> (3 CR; 15 students; Fall 2023)
Ohio U	BIOS 4810/5810 <i>Conservation Biology</i> (3 CR; 60-70 students, Spring) BIOS 4770/5770 <i>Population Ecology</i> (3 CR; 10-15 students, Fall) BIOS 3690 <i>Wildlife Habitat Management</i> (3 CR; 20-25 students, Fall) BIOS 7970 <i>Seminar in Conservation Biology</i> (2 CR; 5-10 students, Spring) CAS 1415 <i>Introduction to Sustainability</i> (3 CR, 25-35 students, Spring and Fall 2016-20)
U of Bucharest	<i>Scientific writing and communication</i> (4 CR; 30 students) (2015)
Simon Fraser U	<i>Renewable energy and Biodiversity</i> (undergraduate seminar; 2 CR; 36 students) (2014)
SUNY-ESF	<i>Introduction to Conservation Biology</i> (3 CR; 85 students) - TA (2007); <i>Geographic Modeling</i> (3 CR; 12 students) - TA (2007); <i>Herpetology</i> (4 CR; 93 students) - TA (2006)

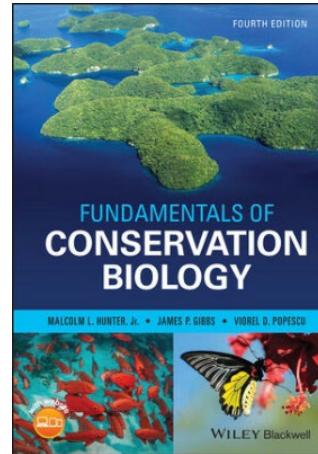
FELLOWSHIPS

2024	President's International Fellowship Initiative, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Kunming, China
2012-14	David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship, Society for Conservation Biology
2010-11	Maine Economic Improvement Fund Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Maine
2010	George F. Dow Graduate Scholarship, University of Maine
2005-07	Fulbright Scholarship, U.S. Department of State and SUNY-ESF, Syracuse NY

PUBLICATIONS

Books and book chapters

1. **Hunter, M.L., J.P. Gibbs, and V.D. Popescu (2021) Fundamentals of Conservation Biology, 4th edition, Wiley**
2. Böhm, M., and **Popescu, V.D.** (2016) *Landscape ecology, macroecology and GIS methods*. Pages 298-314 In C.K. Dodd (ed.) *Reptile Ecology and Conservation*, Oxford University Press
3. **Popescu, V.D.** and M.L. Hunter (2012) *Assisted colonization of wildlife species at risk from climate change*. In J. Brodie, E. Post, D. Doak (eds.) *Conserving wildlife populations in a changing climate*. U Chicago Press.
4. **Popescu, V.D.** and J.P. Gibbs (2009) *Landscape Ecology and GIS methods*. In C.K. Dodd (ed.) *Amphibian Ecology and Conservation*, Oxford University Press
5. **Popescu, V.D.** and J.P. Gibbs (2008) *Global Change: will a cold-adapted frog survive in a warmer environment?* In J.P. Gibbs, M.L. Hunter, and E.J. Sterling (eds.) *Problem-Solving in Conservation Biology and Wildlife Management*, Blackwell Publishing



Peer-reviewed articles (undergraduate and graduate* students)

- 12 articles published with *undergraduates* (7 with undergraduates as first authors)
- 44 articles published with *graduate students* (25 with graduate students as first authors)
- 19 articles as *first author* (co-author); 25 articles as *senior author*

1. Popescu, V.D. (accepted) *Island Biogeography Revisited: Invasive predators rewire island food webs*. *Current Biology*
2. Holland, L.* R. Iosif, A. Aldea, C. Serban and V. D. Popescu (accepted) *Spatial ecology and habitat selection of translocated European bison in the Romanian Carpathians*. *Ecosphere*
3. Iannarilli, F., B. Keeves-von Wolff, M. Wikelski, M. Heurich, R. Kays, W. McShea... V. D. Popescu... and F. Cagnacci (accepted). *Snapshot Europe 2021-2022: The first public dataset from a Europe-wide camera-trap survey of terrestrial vertebrates*. *Ecology*
4. Mathes, S.* S. Kuchta, K. Johnson and V. D. Popescu (2026) *Developmental, physiological and fitness consequences of chronic exposure to high conductivity in larval Eastern Hellbenders*. *Journal of Zoology* in press
5. Ji, Y., A. Diana, X. Li, E. Matechou, J.E. Griffin, S. Liu, M. Luo, C. Wu, R. Bai, C. Yao, T. Yin, F. Dong, F. Wu, K. Wang, Z. Yu, X. Chen, X. Jiang, J. Che, D. Wu and V. D. Popescu (2025) *High quality, granular, timely, trustworthy and efficient vertebrate species distributions data across a 30,000 sqkm protected area complex*. *Ecology Letters* 28: e70302
6. Cai, W. Y. Li, C. Yang; Z. Ding, W. Zhang, V.D. Popescu and J. Yang (2025) *Airborne eDNA reveals resource-based assembly of frugivorous vertebrates in the tropical rainforest*. *Molecular Ecology Resources* 25: e70056
7. Wang, Y., Z. Liu, V.D. Popescu, Z. Ding, X. Luo, C. Yang, G. Wang, and C. Yang (accepted) *Comparative efficiency of multiple eDNA sampling methods for monitoring vertebrate diversity in mountainous regions*. *Environmental DNA* 7: e70168
8. Pop, M.I., R. Iosif, B. Promberger-Furpass, S. Chiriac, A.-Z. Keresztesi, L. Rozylowicz and V.D. Popescu (2025) *Romanian Brown Bear Management Regresses*. *Science* 387: 1361
9. Dyck, M.* R. Iosif, B. Promberger-Furpass and V. D. Popescu (2025) *Dracula's Menagerie Reloaded: Assessing the relative roles of habitat and interspecific interactions in an intact mammalian assemblage using structural equation modeling*. *Ecology and Evolution* 15: e71381
10. Brown, R.* M. D. D. Kaunert*, K. Johnson, W. Roosenburg and V.D. Popescu (2025) *Assessing the effects of conductivity on egg development and survival of Eastern Hellbenders (*Cryptobranchus a. alleganiensis*)*. *Scientific Reports* 15: 682
11. Kenyon, M., C. Dennison and V.D. Popescu (2024) *Improving the efficiency of aerial surveys for monitoring North American beaver population dynamics*. *Wildlife Research* 51(10)
12. Connolly, A., and V.D. Popescu. 2024. *Trends in anuran occupancy dynamics in a forested landscape in southeastern Ohio*. *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* 19: 48–62
13. Mirea, M.D.* I.V. Miu, V.D. Popescu, B.S. Brodie, S. Chiriac and L. Rozylowicz. 2024. *Priority conservation areas for protected saproxylic beetles in Romania under current and future climate scenarios*. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 33: 2949–2973

14. Brehme, C.S., S.O. Petrovan , V.D. Popescu, T.E.S. Langton , K.M. Andrews and R.N. Fisher (2024) *Editorial on the Frontiers Research Topic: Amphibian and Reptile Road Ecology*. Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution 12: 1415003
15. Dyck, M.*, G. Uhrig, S. Spear, R. Iosif, and V.D. Popescu. 2024. *First density estimates for a recovering bobcat population in southeast Ohio using DNA from scat*. Population Ecology 66: 294-307
16. Rozylowicz, L., V. D. Popescu, S. Manolache, A. Nita, S.R. Gradinaru, M.D. Mirea* and R.I. Bancila. 2024. *Occupancy and N-mixture modeling applications in ecology: a bibliometric analysis*. Global Ecology and Conservation 50: e02838
17. Kaunert, M.D.D.* , R.K. Brown*, S.F. Spear, P.B. Johantgen, and V.D. Popescu. 2024. *Restoring eastern hellbender (Cryptobranchus a. alleganiensis) populations through translocation of headstarted individuals*. Population Ecology 66: 93-107.
18. Edwards, W.I.* , V.D. Popescu, N. Guma, H. Agaba, G. Balyesiima, L. Nakami and N.J. Stevens. 2023. *Living at the edge: Home range patterns of the Buraiga Chimpanzee Community, Kibale National Park, Uganda*. Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution 11:1267688
19. Blakeman, E., V.D. Popescu, E. Olin, C. Scott and B.S. Brodie. 2023. *Harnessing social media to evaluate flies (Diptera) flower foraging and pollen load*. Journal of Pollination Ecology 33: 180–193
20. Dyck, M.*, K.T. Shoemaker, C.A. Dennison, and V.D. Popescu. 2023. *Simulated effects of roadkill and harvest on the viability of a recovering bobcat population*. The Journal of Wildlife Management. e22460
21. Sperry, B.R., V.D. Popescu, E. Wyza*, S. Porter, R. Wiley, D. Cottrill*, and D. McAvoy. 2023. *Assessment of deer-vehicle crash mitigation structures on the U.S. 33 Nelsonville Bypass*. Journal of Transportation Engineering, Part A Systems 149: 05023004-1
22. Harman, K.* , K. Omlor and V.D. Popescu. 2023. *Evaluating fence-end treatments to mitigate for the fence-end effect using behavioral analysis*. Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution 11: 1008462
23. Pop, M.I., M. Dyck*, L. Rozylowicz, and V.D. Popescu. 2023. *Predictors of brown bear livestock predation events in the Romanian Carpathians*. Conservation Science and Practice 5: e12884
24. Pop, M.I., S.R. Gradinaru, V.D. Popescu, D. Haase, C.I. Iojă. 2023. *Emergency-line calls as an indicator to assess human-wildlife interaction in urban areas*. Ecosphere 14: e4418
25. Dyck, M.* , R. Iosif, B. Promberger, C. Promberger, and V.D. Popescu. 2022. *Dracula's Menagerie: A multispecies occupancy analysis of lynx, wildcat, and wolf in the Romanian Carpathians*. Ecology and Evolution 12: e8921
26. Thompson, C.* , M.R. Sweeney, and V.D. Popescu. 2022. *Carryover effects of sublethal exposure to pesticide Imidacloprid and shortened hydroperiod on juvenile wood frog fitness and behavior*. Journal of Zoology 317 229-240
27. Iosif, R., V.D. Popescu, M. Dyck*, and B. Promberger. 2022. *Estimating Eurasian lynx (Lynx lynx) density using camera traps in the Romanian Carpathians*. Journal of Mammalogy 317: 229-240
28. Yinqui, J., C.C.M. Baker, V.D. Popescu, J. Wang, C. Wu, Z. Wang, Y. Li, L. Wang, C. Hua, C. Yang, C.C.Y. Xu*, Q. Wen, N.E. Pierce, and D.W. Yu. 2022. *Large-scale quantification of vertebrate biodiversity from leech iDNA in Ailaoshan Nature Reserve, China*. Nature Communications 13(1): 1555
29. Geue, J., P.J. Rotter*, C. Gross, Z. Benko, I. Kovacs, C. Fantana, V.D. Popescu and H.A. Thomassen. 2022. *Bird species and habitat types have limited use as reciprocal surrogates and are inconsistently represented in the current Natura 2000 network in Romania*. Plos ONE 17(2): e0251950
30. Earl, J.E., S.M. Blomquist, E.B. Harper, D.J. Hocking, M.L. Hunter, Jr., J.R. Johnson, M.S. Osbourn, D.A. Patrick, V.D. Popescu, T.A.G. Rittenhouse, and B. Rothermel. 2022. *Amphibian biomass export from geographically isolated wetlands: temporal variability, species composition, and potential implications for terrestrial ecosystems*. Diversity 14(3): 163
31. Popescu, V.D., M. Kenyon, R. Brown*, M. Dyck*, S. Prange, W. Peterman and C. Dennison. 2021. *Habitat connectivity and resource selection in an expanding US Midwest bobcat population*. PeerJ 9: e12460
32. Dyck., M.* , E. Wyza*, and V.D. Popescu. 2021 *When carnivores collide: a review of competitive interactions between bobcats (Lynx rufus) and coyotes (Canis latrans)*. Mammal Review 52: 52-66
33. Popescu, V.D., M.I. Pop, and L. Rozylowicz. 2021. *Trophy hunting undermines public trust*. Science 372: 1049 LP – 1049
34. Sweeney, M.R., C. Thompson*, and V.D. Popescu. 2021. *Sub-lethal exposure to neonicotinoid pesticide Imidacloprid induces behavioral changes in larval wood frogs (Lithobates sylvaticus)*. Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry 40: 1840-1849
35. Wagner, R.B., C. Brune, and V.D. Popescu. 2021. *Snakes on a lane: Snake road mortality is influenced by land cover and traffic intensity in a road-dense area of US Midwest*. Journal for Nature Conservation 61: 125978
36. Thompson, C.M.* and V.D. Popescu. 2021. *Hydro-period induced carryover responses for survival, growth, and endurance of a pond-breeding amphibian*. Oecologia 195: 1071–1081

37. Miu, I.*, L. Rozylowicz, V.D. Popescu and P. Anastasiu. 2020. *Identification of areas of very high biodiversity value to achieve the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 key commitments*. PeerJ 8: e10067

38. Popescu, V.D., R. Munshaw, N. Shackelford, F. Montesino-Pouzols, E. Dubman*, P. Gibeau*, M. Horne, A. Moilanen and W.J. Palen. 2020. *Quantifying biodiversity trade-offs in the face of widespread renewable and unconventional energy development*. Scientific Reports 10(1): 7603

39. Wyza, E.*, L. Dollar, L. Rahajarinina, V.D. Popescu and N. Stevens. 2020. *Spatial dynamics and activity patterns of the Fosa (Cryptoprocta ferox): Village avoidance and forest corridor use in a human-influenced landscape*. Oryx 1:10

40. Iosif, R., M. I. Pop*, L. Rozylowicz, S. Chiriac, R. M. Sandu, L. Berde, S. Szabó, and V.D. Popescu. 2020. *Den structure and selection of denning habitat by brown bears in the Romanian Carpathians*. Ursus 31e5: 1-13

41. Treves, A., Santiago-Ávila, F.J.*, V.D. Popescu, Paquet, P.C., Lynn, W.S., Darimont, C.T., and Artelle, K.A. 2019. *Trophy hunting: Insufficient evidence*. Science 366: 435

42. Bencin, H.*, C. Rose, S. Prange and V.D. Popescu. 2019. *Roadkill and space use data predict vehicle-strike hotspots and mortality rates in a recovering bobcat (Lynx rufus) population*. Scientific Reports 9: 15391

43. D'Amore, D.*, M. Morris, and V.D. Popescu. 2019. *Invasive process does not produce 'invasive syndrome' in Xiphophorus helleri-maculatus hybrids*. Animal Behaviour 156: 79-85

44. Weigand, N.*, R. Wagner, C. Tonra, and V.D. Popescu. 2019. *Proximity to highways has limited influence on space use and physiology of terrestrial testudines*. European Journal of Wildlife Research 65: 80

45. Popescu, V.D., M.I. Pop*, S. Chiriac, and L. Rozylowicz. 2019. *Romanian large carnivores at a crossroads*. Science 364: 1041

46. Brodie, B.S., V.D. Popescu, R. Iosif, C. Ciocanea, S. Manolache, G. Vanau, A.A. Gavrilidis, R. Serafim, and L. Rozylowicz. 2019. *Non-lethal monitoring of longicorn beetle communities using generic pheromone lures and occupancy models*. Ecological Indicators 101: 330-340

47. Rozylowicz, L., Bodescu F.P., Ciocanea C.M., Gavrilidis A.A., Manolache S., Matache M.L., Miu I.V., Moale C., Nita A., and V.D. Popescu. 2019. *Empirical analysis and modelling of Argos Doppler location errors in Romania*. PeerJ 7: e6362

48. Wood, C.*, V.D. Popescu, H. Klinck, J. Keane, R. J. Gutierrez, S. Sawyer, F. Atuo, and M. Z. Peery. 2019. *Detecting small population changes at landscape scales: A bioacoustic-site occupancy framework*. Ecological Indicators 98: 492-507 (CW and VDP had equal contributions)

49. Rozylowicz, L., A. Nita, S. Manolache, V.D. Popescu, and T. Hartel. 2019. *Navigating protected areas networks for improving diffusion of conservation practices*. Journal of Environmental Management 230: 413-421

50. Miu, I.*, G. Chisamera, V.D. Popescu, R. Iosif, A. Nita, S. Manolache, V.D. Gavril*, I. Cobzaru and L. Rozylowicz. 2018. *Conservation priorities for terrestrial mammals in Dobrogea Region, Romania*. Zookeys 792: 133-158

51. Rich, M., C. Thompson*, S. Prange, and V.D. Popescu. 2018. *Relative importance of habitat characteristics and interspecific interactions in determining terrestrial carnivore occurrence*. Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution 6:78

52. Pop, M.*, L. Bereczky, S. Chiriac, R. Iosif, A. Nita, V.D. Popescu, and L. Rozylowicz. 2018. *Movement ecology of brown bears (Ursus arctos) in the Romanian Eastern Carpathians*. Nature Conservation 26: 15-31

53. Pop, M.I.*, I. Ruben, I.V. Miu*, S. Chiriac, L. Rozylowicz, and V.D. Popescu. 2018. *Combining resource selection functions and home range to identify conservation priorities for brown bears*. Animal Conservation 21: 352-362

54. Nita, A., S. Manolache*, C.M. Ciocanea, V.D. Popescu, and L. Rozylowicz. 2018. *Power, influence and structure in Natura 2000 governance networks. Can NGOs make a difference as protected areas administrators in Romania?* Journal of Environmental Management 212: 54-64

55. Popescu, V.D., R. Iosif, M. Pop*, S. Chiriac, G. Bouros*, and B.J. Furnas. 2017. *Integrating sign surveys and home range data for estimating brown bear (Ursus arctos) density in the Romanian Carpathians*. Ecology and Evolution 7: 7134-7144

56. Rozylowicz, L., A. Nita, S. Manolache*, C.M. Ciocanea, and V.D. Popescu. 2017. *Recipe for success: A network perspective of partnership in nature conservation*. Journal for Nature Conservation 38: 21-29

57. Nita, A.*, L. Rozylowicz, S. Manolache*, C. M. Ciocănea*, I. V. Miu* and V. D. Popescu. 2016. *Collaboration networks in LIFE Nature projects across Europe*. PLoS ONE 11(10): e0164503

58. Yang, C., D.A. Schaefer, W. Liu, V.D. Popescu, C. Yang, X. Wang, C. Wu, and D.W. Yu. 2016. *Higher fungal diversity reduces CO₂ emissions from dead wood in a natural forest*. Scientific Reports 6:31066

59. Popescu, V.D., K. Artelle*, M.I. Pop*, S. Manolache*, and L. Rozylowicz. 2016. *Assessing biological realism of wildlife population estimates in data-poor systems*. Journal of Applied Ecology 53(4): 1248-1259

60. Sweitzer, R. A., V.D. Popescu, R. H. Barrett, C. M. Thompson, K. L. Purcell, G.M. Wengert, M.W. Gabriel, and L.W. Woods. 2016. *Mortality risks and limits to population growth of fishers*. Journal of Wildlife Management 80:438-451

61. Sweitzer, R., V.D. Popescu, K.L. Purcell, C.M. Thompson, and R.H. Barrett. 2015. *Reproduction, abundance and population growth for a fisher (Pekania pennanti) population in the Sierra National Forest, California*. Journal of Mammalogy 96: 772-790
62. Murray, R.*, V.D. Popescu, W. Palen, and P. Govindarajulu. 2015. *Relative performance of ecological niche and occupancy models for predicting the extent of invasive species*. Biological Invasions 17:2691-2760
63. Popescu, V.D., R. Sweitzer, and P. de Valpine. 2014. *Testing the consistency of wildlife data types before combining them: the case of camera traps and telemetry*. Ecology and Evolution 4(7):933-943
64. Souther, S., M. Tingley, V.D. Popescu, D. Hayman, T. Graves, M. Ryan, B. Hartl and K. Terrell. 2014. *Biotic impacts of energy development from shale: research priorities and knowledge gaps*. Frontiers in Ecology and Environment 12:330-338 [featured in >50 media outlets: *The Guardian, Bloomberg, NPR, Vancouver Sun*]
65. Popescu, V.D., L. Rozylowicz, A. Cucu*, I. Niculae and T. Hartel. 2014. *Species, habitats, society: An evaluation of research supporting EU's Natura 2000 network*. PLoS ONE 9(11): e113648
66. Mikoláš, M., M. Svoboda, V. Pouska, R. C. Morrissey, D. C. Donato, W. S. Keeton, T. Nagel, V.D. Popescu, J. Müller, C. Bässler, J. Knorn, L. Rozylowicz, M. C. Enescu, V. Trotsiuk, P. Janda, H. Mrhalová, Z. Michalová, F. Krumm, and D. Kraus. 2014. *Comment on the "Opinion paper: Forest management and biodiversity": The role of protected areas is greater than the sum of its number of species*. Web Ecology 14: 61-64
67. Hartel, T., T. Sos, V.D. Popescu, R. I. Băncilă, D. Cogalniceanu, and L. Rozylowicz. 2014. Amphibian conservation in traditional cultural landscapes: the case of Central Romania. North-Western Journal of Zoology 10(S1):51-61
68. Eck, B., A. Byrne, D.A. Patrick, V.D. Popescu, and E.B. Harper. 2014. *Effects of water temperature on larval amphibian predator-prey dynamics*. Herpetological Conservation and Biology 9(2):302-308
69. Popescu, V.D., A.M. Kissel*, M.M. Pearson*, W.J. Palen, P. Govindarajulu, and C.A. Bishop. 2013. *Defining conservation-relevant habitat selection by the highly imperiled Oregon Spotted Frog, Rana pretiosa*. Herpetological Conservation and Biology 8: 688-706.
70. Popescu, V.D., L. Rozylowicz, D. Cogalniceanu, A. Cucu*, and I. Niculae. 2013. *Moving into protected areas? Setting priorities for conservation for Romanian reptiles and amphibians at risk from climate change*. PLoS ONE 8: e79330.
71. Iosif, R.*, L. Rozylowicz and V.D. Popescu. 2013. *Modeling road mortality hotspots for Eastern Hermann's tortoise in Romania*. Amphibia-Reptilia 34: 163-172.
72. Rozylowicz, L. and V.D. Popescu. 2013. *Habitat selection and movement ecology of Eastern Hermann's tortoises in a rural Romanian landscape*. European Journal of Wildlife Research 59: 47-55.
73. Popescu, V.D., P. de Valpine, D. Tempel*, and M.Z. Peery. 2012. *Estimating population impacts via dynamic occupancy analysis of Before-After Control-Impact studies*. Ecological Applications 22: 1389-1404.
74. Popescu, V.D., D.A. Patrick, M.L. Hunter, and A.J.K. Calhoun. 2012. *The role of forest harvesting and subsequent vegetative regrowth in determining patterns of amphibian habitat use*. Forest Ecology Management 270: 163-174.
75. Patrick, D.A., J.P. Gibbs, V.D. Popescu, and D.A. Nelson. 2012. *Multi-scale habitat-resistance models for predicting road mortality hotspots for reptiles and amphibians*. Herpetological Conservation and Biology 7: 407-426.
76. Patrick, D.A., E.B. Harper, V.D. Popescu, Z. Bozic, A. Byrne, J. Daub, A. LeCheminant, and J. Pierce. 2012. *The ecology of the Mink Frog, Lithobates septentrionalis, in the Adirondack Park, NY, with notes on conducting experimental research*. Herpetological Review 43: 396-397.
77. Popescu, V.D., B.S. Brodie*, M.L. Hunter, and J.D. Zydlewski. 2012. *Use of olfactory cues by newly metamorphosed wood frogs (L. sylvaticus) during emigration*. Copeia 3: 424-431.
78. Popescu, V.D. and M.L. Hunter. 2011. *Clearcutting affects habitat connectivity for a forest amphibian by decreasing permeability to juvenile movements*. Ecological Applications 21: 1283-1295.
79. Rozylowicz, L., V.D. Popescu, M. Patroescu, and G. Chisamera. 2011. *The potential of large carnivores as conservation surrogates in the Romanian Carpathians*. Biodiversity and Conservation 20:561-579.
80. Ioja, C.I., M. Patroescu, L. Rozylowicz, V.D. Popescu, M. Verghelet, M.I. Zotta, and M. Felciuc. 2010. *The efficacy of Romania's protected areas network for conserving biodiversity*. Biological Conservation 143: 2468-2476.
81. Popescu, V.D. and J.P. Gibbs. 2009. *Interactions between climate, beaver activity, and pond occupancy of the cold-adapted mink frog in New York State, USA*. Biological Conservation 142: 2059-2068.

GRANTS (total amount from private, State and Federal sources >7 million USD)

2025-30 NSF-EEID - US-UK Collab: *Eco-social dynamics of tick-borne pathogens along urbanization gradients*, co-PI with Dr. Maria Diuk-Wasser, Columbia University (\$2.96 million)

establishment, spillover, and management

2025-27 Columbia University President's Global Innovation Fund - *Evaluating the Contributions of Nature-Based Solutions to Protecting Biodiversity and Building Resilient Communities in Rural China*, co-PI with Deren Eaton and Yushu Xia (\$25,000)

2024-25 BC Hydro, Canada - *Environmental footprints of renewable energy in British Columbia*, co-PI, with Wendy Palen, Simon Fraser University (\$60,000)

2024-26 Yunnan Province Xingdian Grants - *Assessment of protected areas efficacy for biodiversity conservation in Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas* (\$170,000) - declined

2023-26 Pfizer Cybergrants - *Measuring Lyme disease risk along two urbanization gradients in New York City and Boston*, co-PI with Maria Diuk-Wasser and others (\$2,000,000)

2022-25 Indiana Department of Natural Resources - *Assessment of ecosystem services and economic disservices from carnivores - a metagenomic approach*, co-PI with Diego Alvarado Serrano, Ohio University (\$242,772)

2022-23 Ohio University Research Committee - *Bioaccumulation of neonicotinoid pesticide Imidacloprid in hemlock leaf litter and its effects on forest amphibians* (\$8,000)

2022-23 Rural Action (subaward via Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District) - *Assessment of hellbender habitat and water quality in the Walhonding Watershed* (\$17,000)

2021 Ohio University Undergraduate Research Discretionary Fund - *Engaging undergraduate students in amphibian surveys on the Wayne National Forest* (\$3000)

2021-23 Romanian Ministry of Education and Research - *Assessment of trophic relations in a terrestrial carnivore guild in the Romanian Carpathians*, PI (\$105,000)

2020-21 BC Hydro, Canada - *Environmental assessment of future renewable energy resources in British Columbia*, co-PI, with Wendy Palen, Simon Fraser University (\$42,700)

2019-20 US Forest Service - *Wayne National Forest Integrated Assessment*, co-PI (\$122,930)

2018-20 Ohio University 1804 Fund grant - *OHIO Aquatic Research Mesocosm Facility*, PI (\$50,000)

2018-21 Ohio Department of Natural Resources - *Developing monitoring methods for an endangered amphibian, the Eastern Hellbender (Cryptobranchus alleganiensis)*, PI (\$109,000)

2018 Ohio University Research Committee - *Developing population monitoring tools for the endangered Eastern Hellbender salamander*, PI (\$8,000)

2017-21 Ohio Department of Natural Resources - *Developing a Population Viability Analysis for Ohio's bobcat (Lynx rufus) population*, PI (\$245,000)

2017-18 US Forest Service - *Spotted Owl Population Dynamics in the Central Sierra Nevada*, sub-award, with PI Dr. Zach Peery, University of Wisconsin, Madison (\$10,500)

2016-18 Harvard Global Initiative - *Developing an innovative and efficient performance indicator for biodiversity protection in Chinese Nature Reserves*, Collaborator, PI's Dr. Douglas Yu, Kunming Institute of Zoology, and Dr. Naomi Pierce, Harvard University (\$200,000)

2016-18 National Science Foundation of China - *Rapid biodiversity assessment in Chinese protected areas using iDNA*. Co-PI, with Dr. Douglas Yu, Kunming Institute of Zoology (\$75,000)

2016 Ohio Department of Transportation - *Deer ecology at Nelsonville Bypass, Ohio*. Co-PI, with Dr. Willem Roosenburg and Dr. Shawn Kuchta (\$19,000)

2015-17 Romanian Ministry of Education and Research - *Incorporating sources of uncertainty in large carnivore management and conservation in Romania*. PI (University of Bucharest) (\$138,312)

2015 NSERC Engage research grant - *Characterizing wind and small hydropower energy development in BC*. PI (with Dr. Wendy Palen at Simon Fraser University and BC Hydro) (\$25,000)

2012-15 Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation & Wilburforce Foundation - *Tradeoffs between small hydropower development and conservation targets in British Columbia, Canada*. Co-PI with Dr. Wendy Palen (Simon Fraser University) (\$836,000)

2011-14 Romanian Ministry of Education and Research - *Multi-scale spatial planning for conservation: accounting for habitat dynamics and uncertainty in planning inputs*. Co-PI, with Dr. Laurentiu Rozylowicz (University of Bucharest, Romania) (\$236,000)

2010-13 Northeastern States Research Cooperative - *Assessing the potential effects of changes in climate on the range and long-term persistence of the Mink Frog, Lithobates septentrionalis, in the Northern Forest*. co-PI, with Dr. David Patrick (Paul Smith's College, NY) (\$63,000)

2006 Sussman Foundation Grant - *Predictors for mink frog occurrence in New York State* (\$3500)

2004-06 Romanian Ministry of Education and Research - *Natural Capital Assessment in Southwestern Carpathians National Parks, Romania* (\$6000)

2005	MATRA/KNIP Small Nature Projects – <i>Saving the amphibians of Semenic National Park</i> – with Societas Herpetologica Romaniae (€5200)
2004	Rufford Small Grant – <i>Monitoring of the amphibians of Semenic National Park, Romania</i> (£4800)
2003	Rufford Small Grant – <i>Monitoring of the reptile fauna of Semenic National Park, Romania</i> (£3500)

UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE and POSTDOC MENTORING

- **Columbia University – Postdoc:** Dr. Iulia Miu (2023 Romanian Fulbright Scholar); **MA:** Zalika Cheruvattam (2023), Lucy Holland (2024); current: Dani Pergola, Jared Kannel, Henry Hardy, Adrian Casanova, Hannah Hess, Soham Mehta, Arel Triyono, Brigitte Beryl Harbers, Matthew Huang, Luveen Wadhwani
- **Ohio University – Postdoc:** Dr. Florina Stanescu (2018 Romanian Fulbright Scholar), Dr. Chris Baker and Dr. Yuanheng Li (co-advised with N. Pierce at Harvard University and D. Yu at Kunming Institute of Zoology, China); **MSc:** Heidi Bencin (2018), Nicole Weigand (2018), Ryan Brown (2022), Samuel Mathes (2024); **PhD:** Cassandra Thompson (2022), Matthew Kaunert (2023), Marissa Dyck (2023), Courtney Silver-Peavey (2024); **Honors Theses:** Mackenzie Rich (2017), Megan Sweeney (2019), Ryan Wagner (2019), Madeline Kenyon (2022), Andrew Connolly (2022)
- **University of Bucharest** (co-advisor) – **Postdoc:** Dr. Ruben Iosif (2015-17), Dr. Mihai Pop (2020-21); **PhD:** Mihai Pop (2019), Iulia Miu (2019), Marian Mirea (current)

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (partial listing; 2020 onwards)

V.D. Popescu. Rapid biodiversity surveys using eDNA and eDNA-aware statistical methods in a biodiversity hotspot in SE Asia. 32nd Meeting of The Wildlife Society, Edmonton CA, 23-6 October 2025

V.D. Popescu. *Assessing bottom-up vs top-down effects on mammal community structure in the Romanian Carpathians*. 30th Meeting of The Wildlife Society, Louisville KY, 5-9 November 2023

V.D. Popescu. *Building hellbender populations via introductions of headstart animals*. North American Congress for Conservation Biology, Reno NV, 13-16 July 2022

V.D. Popescu. *Population viability analysis for a recovering bobcat population in Ohio*. Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Des Moines IA, 14-17 Feb 2022

V.D. Popescu. *Livestock depredation by brown bears in the Romanian Carpathians*. 27th International Conference on Bear Research and Management. Virtual conference. 14-16 Sep 2021

V.D. Popescu. *Implications of road mortality for the population viability of recovering bobcats in Ohio*. 27th Meeting of The Wildlife Society, Virtual conference, 28 September - 2 October 2020

INVITED PRESENTATIONS and OUTREACH (partial listing; 2020 onwards)

“*Mapping British Columbia’s renewable energy future*”, American Museum of Natural History, (Nov 2024)

“*Using environmental DNA and hierarchical models to evaluate the efficacy of Yunnan’s protected areas*”, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (June 2024)

“*Developing biodiversity monitoring protocols for China’s protected areas*”, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Kunming Institute of Zoology (June 2023)

“*Challenges and opportunities for conserving terrestrial carnivores in human-dominated landscapes*”, Columbia University, E3B Departmental Seminar (Apr 2023)

“*The secret lives of the real Ohio bobcats*” – Science Café, Ohio University (April 2022)

“*Bobcats, hellbenders, and snakes, oh my...: wildlife conservation in SE Ohio*” – Athens Area Birders and Ohio Division of Wildlife, Athens OH (Feb 2020)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Conservation Biology (since 2007; life member); The Wildlife Society (since 2016)
Ohio Wildlife Management Association (since 2017); International Bear Association (since 2017)

LEADERSHIP and MENTORING (selection)

2024 – Development *MSc program in Biodiversity Data Analytics* at Columbia University - **lead**
2016-23 – Ohio University Wildlife Club **academic mentor**
2018-20 – development of the Ohio University Aquatic Research Mesocosm Facility – **lead**
2018 – development of a Certificate in Sustainability Citizenship, Ohio University – **lead**
2014- **organizer** of symposium “*Opportunity and challenges of distributed renewable energy in North America*”, Missoula MT
2012-13 – **co-author** of the Smith Fellows *Policy Statement on Hydraulic Fracturing*
2002-13 – **founder** of environmental NGO *Societas Herpetologica Romaniae*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (selection)

Current **Senior Editor:** Scientific Reports
Associate Editor: Conservation Science and Practice
Associate Editor: Reclamation Science
Reviewer for 20+ high-impact academic journals such as Global Change Biology, Conservation Biology, Conservation Letters, Ecological Applications, Biological Conservation
grant reviewer for USA NSF, Canada NSERC, European Science Foundation, Fulbright, D.H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship
member of IUCN SSC Bear Working Group
board member of *Ohio Wildlife Management Association*
Current **member** of Scientific Advisory Board: *Freshwater Threat Assessment in Canada* (WWF Canada)
2017-19
2014-15

REFERENCES

Dr. Maria Uriarte, *Professor and Chair, Columbia University E3B*, mu2126@columbia.edu
Dr. Malcolm L. Hunter, *Professor Conservation Biology (Emeritus), University of Maine*, mhunter@maine.edu
Dr. Wendy Palen, *Professor Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University*, wpalen@sfu.ca
Dr. Robert Colvin, *Professor of Biological Sciences (Emeritus), Ohio University*, colvin@ohio.edu