

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**Kiersten K. Formoso**  
**Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow, Rutgers University**

Ecology, Evolution, & Natural Resources  
14 College Farm Road  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

k.formoso@rutgers.edu | (973) 459-9697  
www.formorphology.com | @Formorphology

---

**EDUCATION**

- Ph.D., Geological Sciences; University of Southern California 2018-2023
  - Graduate studies, Geosciences (no degree obtained); Virginia Tech 2016-2017
  - B.Sc., Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources | Minor, Music; Rutgers University 2012-2016
- 

**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP) 2018-2023
  - Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Fellowship for Graduate Student Travel 2022
  - Geological Society of America (GSA) Graduate Student Research Grant 2021
  - Paleontological Society Student Research Grant 2020
  - Evolving Earth Foundation Student Research Grant 2020
  - GSA Cordilleran Section Student Travel Grant 2019
  - Geological Society of America (GSA) Graduate Student Research Grant 2017
  - Jackson School of Geosciences Student Travel Grant 2017
  - Rutgers Aresty Undergraduate Research Fellowship 2015-2016
- 

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

**Formoso KK**, Cribb AT, Woolley CH, Beech J, Brophy S, Byrne P, Cassady VC, Godbold AL, Larina E, Maxeiner PP, Wu YH (2023). Contrasting terrestrial and marine ecospace dynamics after the end-Triassic mass extinction event. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

**Formoso KK**, Habib MB, & Vélez-Juarbe J (2023). The Role of Locomotory Ancestry on Secondarily Aquatic Transitions. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*.

Sereno PC, Myhrvold N., Henderson DM, Fish FE, Vidal D, Baumgart SL, Keillor, TM, **Formoso KK**, Conroy LL (2022). *Spinosaurus* is not an aquatic dinosaur. *eLife*.

Griffin CT, Stocker MR, Colleary C, Stefanic CM, Lessner EJ, Riegler M, **Formoso K**, Koeller K., Nesbitt SJ (2021). Assessing ontogenetic maturity in extinct saurian reptiles. *Biol Rev*.

**Formoso KK**, Nesbitt SJ, Stocker MR, Pritchard AC, Parker WG (2019). A long-necked tanystropheid from the Middle Triassic Moenkopi Formation (Anisian) provides insights into the ecology of and biogeography tanystropheids. *Paleontologica Electronica*.

**In Prep**

**Formoso KK**, Habib MB, Cieri R, Fish FE. Mosasaur caudal variation and burst performance: evolutionary and ecological insights from four reconstructions. Submitting to *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

---

**AWARDS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITION**

- Forbes 30 Under 30 2023
- Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Romer Prize Session Participant 2023
- Paleontological Society Student Poster Competition Winner 2022
- Paleontological Association's Best Lightning Talk Prize 2022
- USC Dornsife Inaugural Communicator of the Year (PhD student category) 2022
- Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) Steven Vogel Award 2022
- Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) Liem Award for Best Student Poster 2022
- Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) Wood Award 2021

- Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG) Winnifred Goldring Award 2020
- USC Paleosciences Research Consortium (PRC) Student Research Prize 2019
- SVP Poster selected for Colbert Prize Session which recognizes outstanding student posters 2017
- Received Departmental Senior Award for Outstanding Student in Evolution 2016

---

### **SELECT MEETING TALKS**

- ❖ Formoso, K. Correlations between degree of axial and appendicular change, derived swimming style, and ancestral terrestrial state in secondarily aquatic amniotes.
  - SECAD (Secondary Adaptation of Tetrapods to Life in Water) 2024, Liège, Belgium
- ❖ Formoso, K. Correlations between degree of axial and appendicular change, derived swimming style, and ancestral terrestrial state in secondarily aquatic amniotes.
  - Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, 2023, Cincinnati, Ohio
- ❖ Formoso, K., Lloyd, G., Bottjer, D. Appendicular and axial modular change reveals different routes taken by secondarily aquatic reptiles and mammals.
  - Paleontological Association Annual Meeting 2022, Cork, Ireland.
- ❖ Formoso, K. 2021. Potential constraint and release driven by ancestral terrestrial posture in land-to-sea transitions: Insights from forelimbs across four land-to-sea amniote clades.
  - Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting 2021, online.

---

### **SELECT INVITED PUBLIC TALKS AND SEMINARS**

- ❖ Keynote Talk: Science, Art, and the Fake Barrier in Between
  - Nevada Museum of Art, STEAM Conference, April 2025
- ❖ Inspiring the Impossible: Paleontology's Influence on Sci-Fi and Fantasy
  - Nevada Museum of Art, Public Talk, April 2025
- ❖ Going for a Swim: Influences of Terrestrial Ancestry on Land-to-Sea Transformations
  - Royal Tyrrell Museum, Speaker Series, April 2025
- ❖ Land Before Sea: Terrestrial Ancestry and Aquatic Morphology
  - Natural History Museum of Utah, DinoFest 2025
- ❖ The Way of Water: Functional controls of land to sea transformations
  - Museum of the Rockies, Dinosaurs and MOR 2024
- ❖ Assessing the role of ancestral terrestrial morphology on the land to sea transition in secondarily aquatic amniotes.
  - Montana State University, Departmental Seminar, 2022
- ❖ Exploring the locomotor controls of the land to sea transition across marine reptiles and mammals.
  - Burpee Museum's PaleoFest, 2021

---

### **SELECT OUTREACH, SERVICE, AND PUBLICITY**

- *Why Dinosaurs?* documentary featured scientist and premiere panelist 2024
- NHMLA's DinoFest featured speaker for Paleo Chats 2022
- Series consultant, BBC and Apple TV+'s Prehistoric Planet 2022
- Field Museum Black History Month Seminar Series Panelist 2022
- "How to make a science meme" SICB Science Communication Workshop 2022
- Spoke to a Cal State San Bernardino biology class, a Hispanic-Serving Institution 2022 about my career path.
- Represented USC Paleosciences and shared my research at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County's (NHMLA) annual "Dino Fest." 2021
- Article for *The Conversation*, Godzilla vs. Kong: A functional morphologist uses science to pick a winner. 2021

---

### **POSTDOCTORAL TEACHING**

- Vertebrate Zoology, 4 credits 2025
- Topics in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, 1 credit 2024