

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

Ecology, Evolution, & Natural Resources
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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 83rd 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

➤ <i>Why Dinosaurs?</i> 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 about my career path.	2022
➤ Represented USC Paleosciences and shared my research at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County's (NHMLA) annual "Dino Fest."	2021
➤ Article for <i>The Conversation</i> , 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