

# ALICIA PÉREZ-PORRO

[alicia@aliciaperezporro.com](mailto:alicia@aliciaperezporro.com) | [www.aliciaperezporro.com](http://www.aliciaperezporro.com)

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## SUMMARY

- Biologist (PhD) connecting **scientific research, gender equality and science diplomacy** for a sustainable planet.
- **Fifteen years of experience** in environmental sciences, leadership, and project management.
- **Four years of leadership roles in nonprofits** founding and transforming organizations, forming and leading teams, creating cross-sector partnerships, and influencing decision makers.
- **Fundraising experience** including playing key roles in securing \$350K+ with private sector companies and currently part of Homeward Bound's Fundraising Strategy team.
- **Passionate communicator and sought-after thought leader.** Able to communicate complex ideas to diverse audiences, and successful in leveraging partnerships and managing diverse partner and stakeholder networks to affect change.
- **Optimistic and realistic leader and manager with high personal integrity.** Cooperative and inclusive, constantly seeking hidden possibilities and win-win outcomes.
- **An aptitude for fostering diverse and inclusive environments, with a multilingual and multicultural approach.** Lived and/or worked in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Spain, and USA.
- **Special appreciation for multidisciplinary perspectives.**

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## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### Association for Spanish Scientists in the US (ECUSA)

USA/Spain

Professional association (1K+ members) promoting the role of science in society, contributing to Spanish science policy and diplomacy, and providing leadership and management training and opportunities to science professionals.

- **President**

2019-present

Lead the Board of Directors (14-person team). Identified the organization's key opportunities and co-created a strategy—now being executed—to increase organizational efficiency and effectiveness that includes overseeing a large restructuring of reporting lines, responsibilities, and external and internal engagement mechanisms. Responsible for building and maintaining relationships with NGOs, public officials, funders and other partners, growing ECUSA's impact on Spanish science policy, and representing ECUSA in national and international meetings and events.

- **Founding Chair – Commission for Women in STEM**

2016 – 2019

Founded and chaired the commission and coordinated a 10+ person team. Developed and led internal and external initiatives for equality in science, including discrimination, sexual harassment, maternity in academia, and work-life fit, including creating ECUSA's Equality Code of Conduct.

### Network of Spanish Researchers Abroad

Global

Umbrella organization representing the 18 national associations of Spanish scientists abroad (3.7K+ members, 18 countries) to unify the Spanish scientific diaspora, influence science diplomacy and policy both in Spain and internationally, and create global and multilateral collaborations.

- **President**

2019-present

Lead Board of Directors (9-person team) and General Assembly (19-person team). Designed and executing a new strategy to become the official intermediary between the Spanish Government and the Spanish scientist diaspora, and oversee the organization and responsible for institutional relationships and international representation.

### 500 Women Scientists

Global

NGO building an inclusive scientific community (20K+ supporters, 100+ countries) through training, advocacy, and diplomacy.

- **Leadership team**

2019-present

Invited to be part of the leadership team after co-publishing an op-ed in Scientific American. Part of a team responsible for the overall organization's operations, vision and fundraising strategy, and institutional collaborations.

### Homeward Bound Project (HB)

Global/Antarctica

Leadership development initiative for women with a science background to increase their impact on climate change policy and decision making.

- **Fundraising strategy team**

2018-2020

Part of a 5-person team responsible for fundraising strategy and execution. Milestones include:

- Secured \$300K from ACCIONA for project management and public relationships & communications.

- **Participant**

2017-2018

Created the strategy and led execution of the 5-person Spanish team, including creating institutional relationships and securing funding, including negotiating a €50K sponsorship with a global energy company.

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## SELECT FOR-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

### Bakery Group

Marketing, advertisement and design company accompanying brands, foundations and individuals to use the power of business to solve the social and environmental problems that affect us all.

- **Sustainability consultant**

2019 – present

Advisor to private sector stakeholders to take strategic actions towards a more sustainable world, from the science, science policy and science diplomacy perspective, with emphasis in:

- Climate change.
- Oceans.
- UN sustainable development goals (SDG): specially SDG 5 —gender equality—, SDG 13 —climate change—, and SDG 14 —life below water.

### Generación CODE

Global

Marketing and communication consulting firm working to narrow the gap between science and society.

- **Science Advisor**

2018 – present

Advisor and creator of scientific topics and content with an emphasis on gender equality in STEM.

- Scientific coordinator for an ongoing contract between ACCIONA and HB.
- In conversations with an international foundation to develop an ocean diplomacy workshop.
- In conversations with a global energy company to develop a science & climate diplomacy workshop.

### International Union for Conservation of Nature

Costa Rica

- **Marine and Coastal Situation for Central America Consultant**

2007 – 2008

- ‘Promoting marine conservation through world heritage in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor’: Compiled community and business sentiment regarding the marine corridor project and identified priority conservation issues in the Eastern Tropical Pacific’s Marine Corridor.
- ‘Coastal-marine situation of Mesoamerica for the Regional Office for Mesoamerica’: Analysis of coastal-marine situation for the Water Management Unit.

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## SELECT ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

### Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Washington, DC

- **Research associate (Dept. of Invertebrates Zoology)**

2015 – present

### Baruch College (CUNY)

New York, NY

- **Adjunct lecturer (Dept. of Natural Sciences)**

2018 - 2019

### Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

- **Visiting Scholar (Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, Dept. of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology)**

2009 – 2014

### Centre d'Estudis Avançats de Blanes

Blanes, Girona, Spain

- **PhD student (Marine Ecology Dept.)**

2008 – 2014

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## SELECT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA/MEETINGS

### ATTENDANCE

#### 25<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference – COP25 (Madrid, Spain)

2019

- Moderator of discussion panel ‘Mujeres líderes frente a la emergencia climática’

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Science Policy Symposium (Rockefeller University, New York NY)

2018

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting of Spanish Scientists in US (MIT, Cambridge MA)

2017

- Moderator of discussion panel ‘Mujer y espíritu emprendedor’

### ORGANIZING COMMITTEES

#### United Nations World Oceans Day (Friends of World Oceans Day, New York NY)

2019

- Committee organized and led by the Division of Oceans Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS, UN) to maximize the impact of World Oceans Day 2019, both at UN headquarters and around the globe. The theme for this year’s World Oceans Day was ‘Gender & Oceans’.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Meeting of Spanish Scientists in US. Georgetown University, Washington DC

2015

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology. Harvard University, Cambridge MA

2011

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## SELECT INVITED PRESENTATIONS

### Connections between SDG5 & SDG13: #women4climateaction

Science Diplomats Club, Office for Science & Technology, Embassy of France, Washington DC

December 2018

### My not so (un-)common science journey

National Institutes of Health, *career panel*

October 2018

### Diversity & Inclusion in STEM: numbers, challenges and solutions

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Washington DC

June 2018

### Sponges in a changing ocean

Conservation Biology & Psychology MA Course, Hunter College (CUNY)

November 2017

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## SELECT ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

**Pérez-Porro AR**, Navarro-Gómez D, Uriz MJ, Giribet G (2013) A NGS approach to the encrusting Mediterranean sponge *Crella elegans* (Porifera, Demospongidae, Poecilosclerida): transcriptome sequencing, characterization and overview of the gene expression along three life cycle stages. *Molecular Ecology Resources* 13:3, 494-509.

**Pérez-Porro AR**, González J, Uriz M (2012) Reproductive traits explain contrasting ecological features in sponges: the sympatric poecilosclerids *Hemimycale columella* and *Crella elegans* as examples. *Hydrobiologia* 687, 315-330.

Riesgo A, Andrade SC, Sharma P, Novo M, **Pérez-Porro AR**, Vahtera V, González VL, Kawauchi GY, Giribet G (2012) Comparative description of ten transcriptomes of newly sequenced invertebrates and efficiency estimation of genomic sampling in non-model taxa. *Frontiers in Zoology* 9, 33. [Highly accessed]

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## SELECT NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

**Alicia Pérez-Porro**, Johana L. Cabrera Medina, Zane Šime, et al. (2019) Science diplomats bring a gender perspective to science diplomacy. **Impakter** —<https://bit.ly/30h25v9>

**Alicia Pérez-Porro** (2018) When life gave me lemons, I made Antarctic lemonade. **AWIS Magazine**, Fall volume, 28-30.

**Alicia Pérez-Porro** & ‘500 Women Scientists NYC’ (2017) Why women drop out of science careers: It’s always been a big problem—here’s what we can do about it. **Scientific American**, Voices —<https://goo.gl/Hg9NsA>

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## SELECT SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

### Gender and Oceans

*Panelist*: UN World Oceans Day at The Explorers Club, New York, NY

June 2019

### You're the expert show

Live show: The Caveat (New York, NY) —<https://goo.gl/CJXkak>

January 2018

Podcast: <https://goo.gl/gUDixN>

### Sponges

*Invited Speaker*: Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony —<https://www.improbable.com/ig/24-7/> - 2017

September 2017

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## SELECT AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

### Aspen Ideas Festival

Aspen, CO

June 2019

- **Scholar**

The Aspen Ideas Festival is the nation's premier public gathering place for global leaders and across disciplines to engage in the ideas and issues that both shape and challenge world.

### Red Cross Spain Gold Medal

Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Award presented by the Queen of Spain for my work and efforts as part of the #ACCIONAteam advocating for climate and ocean action, and gender equality as a key component of both.

May 2018

### 92Y's Women inPower Fellowship Program

New York, NY

2018

- **Fellow**

A 12-month, cross-sector fellowship program for high-potential women who focus on social impact within their respective industries.

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## SELECT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Climate Change: Economics and Governance

London School of Economics and Political Science

June 2020

- *Executive course*

### Science Diplomacy & Leadership Workshop

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

Washington, DC

June 2018

- *Participant and speaker*

A 1-week immersion experience in the science diplomacy ecosystem for the next generation of boundary-spanning, globally-connected scientists and diplomats addressing societal challenges.

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## EDUCATION

### Doctor of Philosophy, Biodiversity

2014

- Six years of PhD research carried out at Harvard University

### Master of Science, Biodiversity

2010

University of Barcelona (Spain)

Bachelor of Science, Biology

2008

Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)

## LANGUAGES

**Spanish:** native speaker

**Catalan:** native speaker

**English:** fluent (C2)