

Kimberly A. Schoenberger CV

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EDUCATION

PhD Program, Biology

University of Southern California, Los Angeles CA

2022-present

BS, Biology & Paleobiology

University of Washington, Seattle WA

2022

AS, Biology

North Seattle College, Seattle WA

2020

AA, Broadcast Television and Communication

British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby BC, Canada

2015

CURRENT RESEARCH

University of Southern California

PhD Candidate, Marine & Environmental Biology

2022-present

Advisors: **Suzanne Edmands & Xiaoming Wang**

Responsibilities:

- Doctoral thesis research: Molecular and morphological adaptations of the Channel Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*)
- Teaching Assistantship:
 - BISC120, Introductory Biology (lab instruction)
 - BISC150, The Nature of Human Health and Disease (lab instruction)
- Guest Lecturer: ENST100, Introduction to Environmental Studies

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Graduate Student in-Residence, Vertebrate Paleontology

2022-present

Advisors: **Suzanne Edmands & Xiaoming Wang**

Responsibilities:

- Doctoral Thesis research (see above)
- Collections: Use and maintenance of museum collections, preparation of specimens, tissue cataloguing, imaging specimens for databases
- Outreach: Presenting at events (Dinofest), guest lecturing (La Brea Tar Pits)

Channel Islands National Park

Island fox trapping and monitoring

2024-present

Responsibilities: Seasonal field work on the Channel Islands including trap and release monitoring of foxes, vaccine preparation, biological sampling, and data collection

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Bioinformatics

HPC/cluster computing, QC/trimming (FastQC, Trimmomatic), read alignment (STAR), quantification (FeatureCounts), differential gene expression (DESeq2), cluster analysis (WGCNA), pathway analysis (Bioconductor, clusterProfiler), visualization (ggplot)

Lab	DNA and RNA extraction, museum preparation and processing of mammal specimens, clearing and staining, SEM, Micro-CT, Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy, Histology (resin and paraffin wax), GC-MS, PCR
Data Analysis	Bioinformatics, quantitative microscopy, segmentation and modeling, statistical analyses and visualization
Programs	Linux/Unix command-line, bash/shell scripting, R, PAST, Python, Amira-Avizo, 3D Slicer, Blender, Cinema 4D, Adobe Creative Cloud, ImageJ/Fiji, MS Office
Field	Live mammal trapping and monitoring, fossil quarry maintenance, paleontological prospecting, field identification, plaster cast preparation, live marine specimen collection, quadrat sampling, wildlife photography
Communication	Scientific manuscript writing, SOP creation, scientific illustration, team management and coordination, data management, technical writing, video production

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English and French, Conversant in Spanish

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

University of Washington

2021-2022

Undergraduate Researcher, Vertebrate Paleontology

Advisor: Christian Sidor

Responsibilities: 3D reconstruction and modeling of fossil materials, preparation of figures and anatomical description for publishable manuscript

Friday Harbor Laboratories

2021

Undergraduate research apprenticeship

Advisor: Adam P. Summers

Responsibilities: Biological imaging of various marine specimens using Scanning Electron Microscopy, Micro CT, Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy, and Histology.

Petrified Forest National Park

2021

Paleontological field work

Responsibilities: Seasonal field work in the Chinle Formation extracting Triassic archosaur fossils at varying sizes and preservation levels.

PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Publications

Schoenberger KA, Huttenlocker, A, Wang X, Edmands S (*in prep*). Slow-paced life history of Channel Island Foxes (*Urocyon littoralis*) may suggest underlying vulnerability to anthropogenic extinction

[in prep]

Schoenberger KA, Wang X, Edmands S (2025). Increased brain size of the dwarf Channel Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*) challenges “Island Syndrome” and suggests little evidence of domestication. PLoS One 20(8): e0328893.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0328893> **2025**

Presentations

Schoenberger KA (June 2026). “Gene expression and disease susceptibility of the genetically depauperate Channel Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*)” [[oral presentation](#)]. Society for Molecular Biology & Evolution, Copenhagen, Denmark. **2026**

Schoenberger KA, (April 2026). “Island Syndrome versus Domestication Syndrome: A Skeletal Exploration of the Channel Island Fox” [guest speaker presentation]. Research Rounds Seminar, Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, CA, USA. **2026**

Schoenberger KA (May 2025). “Collaborative transcriptomics: RNA seq of the Channel Island fox” [oral presentation]. Island Fox Conservation Working Group Meeting, Santa Barbara, CA, USA. **2025**

Schoenberger KA, Tewksbury L (January 2025). “Math & Paleontology: How math can help us understand fossils” [guest speaker presentation]. La Brea Tar Pits Educator Workshop, Los Angeles, CA, USA. **2025**

Schoenberger KA (July 2024). “Examining ‘Island Syndrome’ in the Channel Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*)” [oral presentation]. Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology, Montreal, QC, Canada. **2024**

Press/Media Appearances

Gray, C. (Producer). (2026). *Back From the Edge - The Story of the Channel Island Fox*. [Documentary Film]. **2026**

Gerbis, N. (2025, November-December). Island Syndrome Outfoxed. *American Scientist*, 113(6), 335. **2025**

Schoenberger, KA. (2025, September 5). Collaboration is the lifeblood of island fox research. *USC Dornsife News*.
<https://dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley/2025/09/05/collaboration-is-the-lifeblood-of-island-fox-research/> **2025**

Wachtel, I. (2025, August 20). Outsmart an island fox? Not so fast. *USC Dornsife News*.
<https://dornsife.usc.edu/news/stories/island-fox-brains-proportionally-larger-than-mainland-foxes/> **2025**

Royster, K. (2023, April 21). USC, Natural History Museum collaborate to ensure long-term survival of Channel Island fox. *USC Dornsife News*.
<https://dornsife.usc.edu/wrigley/2023/04/21/usc-natural-history-museum-collaboration-channel-island-fox-conservation-research/> **2023**

Photography

National Geographic, “*This fierce fish grows 20 new teeth each day*,” article by Elizabeth Anne Brown, photographs by Joel Sartore and **Kimberly Schoenberger**. **2021**

New York Times, “*This Fish Loses 20 Teeth Each Day, Then Grows Them All Back*,” **2021**
 article by Annie Roth, photographs by Getty and **Kimberly Schoenberger**.

AWARDS

Friends of the Island Fox Research Grant (2025)	\$7,000
<i>Awarded by Friends of the Island Fox</i>	
Wrigley Institute Graduate Fellowship (2025)	\$6,000
<i>Awarded by USC Wrigley Institute for Environment and Sustainability</i>	
Friends of the Island Fox Research Grant (2024)	\$6,500
<i>Awarded by Friends of the Island Fox</i>	
Women in Science and Engineering Graduate Student Top-off (2022-2024)	\$5,000/year
<i>Awarded by University of Southern California</i>	(2 years)
Dean's List	
<i>Awarded by University of Washington</i>	
Mary Gates Endowment	\$2,400
<i>Awarded by University of Washington, Friday Harbor Laboratories</i>	

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

STEMCELL Technologies, Visual Media Specialist **2016-2018**

Producer of biotechnology videos including cellular assay protocol procedures, product marketing videos, and researcher interviews.
Quantitative highlight: Scientific protocol and informational videos consistently viewed by 10K+ individuals.

KOMO Television, Producer **2018-2021**

Producer of commercial videos for a range of clients. Special projects included producing research and educational videos for various scientific institutions including Seattle Children’s, University of Washington and Washington State University.
Quantitative highlight: Produced medical television specials that cumulatively raised over \$1 million toward pediatric care.

Link to watch: [*Video Production Demo Reel*](#)

SOCIETIES AND VOLUNTEER

Women in Science and Engineering
 Society for the Study of Evolution
 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology