



# Rafael FIGUEROA BROLLO

**PhD Student (Contractual) – CNRS & MNHN**  
*Exploring human-wildlife dynamics in tropical contexts*

## PROFILE

### Conservation Anthropologist & Ethnoecologist

PhD Student (Contractual) specializing in the interactions between human communities and their natural environments, with a particular emphasis on human-wildlife dynamics in tropical biodiversity conservation contexts. My research examines the integration of local ecological knowledge into conservation strategies, while critically examining the socio-political and (post)colonial forces that shape them. I have conducted extensive field research across Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Thailand), Central America (El Salvador, Honduras) and Europe (France).

## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND



<https://paloc.fr/fr>

### Contractual PhD Student

*Specialization : Anthropology and Ethnoecology*  
**2024 – 2027 (in Paris, France & Nan, Thailand)**



**MUSÉE  
DE L'HOMME**

<https://www.mnhn.fr/fr>

### Master's Degree (Year 2) in Biodiversity, Ecology, and Evolution

*Specialization : Cultural and Biological Diversity*  
**2023 – 2024 (in Paris, France)**

**Key Courses :** Conservation Anthropology, Methods in Ethnoecology, Valuing Local Knowledge, Conservation Biology, Political Anthropology of Nature, Anthropology of Environmental Sciences, Primatology (anatomy, behavior, evolution, interactions, and conservation of non-human and human primates)

**Master's Thesis :** « Zoo Visits : Colonial Legacies, Conservation Programs, and Interspecies Encounters » – A critical analysis of a French zoo's engagement in conservation through an ethnographic study focusing on encounters between human and non-human primates.



Institut d'ethnologie  
Faculté des sciences sociales  
Université de Strasbourg

<https://ethnologie.unistra.fr>

### Bachelor's Degree (Year 3) in Ethnology & Anthropology

*Online Distance Learning*  
**2022 – 2023 (while living in Cambodia)**

**Key Courses :** Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Ethnology, Anthropology of Nature, Ethnographic Research Methodologies, Fieldwork Techniques, Visual Anthropology, Anthropology of Art, Approaches to Ethnoscience (Ethnozoology, Ethnobotany)



### Master's Degree in Development Studies

*Specialization : Local Development – Actors, Mobilizations, and Territories*  
**2020 – 2022 (in Paris, France)**

**Key Courses :** Sustainable Urbanization and Cities of the Global South, Environment and Sustainability, Nature and Society, Land Conflicts, Rural Studies, Poverty and Inequalities, Applied Sociology, Geography, Anthropology, History, and Economics in Development, Project Cycle Management (territorial diagnosis, project management, financial monitoring, and project evaluation)

**Master's Thesis :** « The Silence of the Jungle: Between Floristic-Faunal Disappearance and Human Exile » – Analysis of the territorial issues and tensions between human and non-human actors in the management of protected areas in Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia.



### Bachelor's Degree in Political Science

*Specialization : International Political Science*  
**2015 – 2018 (in Paris, France)**

**Key Courses :** Political Issues of Globalization, Geopolitics, Geography, Political Philosophy, Climate Challenges, Sociology and Contemporary Worlds, Anthropology of Development, Political Ideas and Controversies, Humanities and Politics

- Born on June 18, 1996 in Guatemala City (Guatemala)
- Nationality : Guatemalan & Italian
- Based in Paris, France & Nan, Thailand

## CONTACT

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- [linkedin.com/in/rafael-figueroa-brollo](https://linkedin.com/in/rafael-figueroa-brollo)

## SKILLS

- Microsoft Office : Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Design : Canva
- Video & Photo production : DaVinci Resolve, Pixelmator Pro
- Cartography & GIS : GPS, QGIS, Avenza Map
- Data Collection : Google Forms, KoBoToolbox
- Conservation Project Management : Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), Miradi, DigiKam
- Research : Qualitative research in anthropology applied to tropical biodiversity conservation contexts

## LANGUAGES

- Spanish - Native
- French - Bilingual (C2)
- English - Fluent (C1)
- Italian - Fluent (C1)
- Khmer (Cambodian) - Basic knowledge
- Thai - Basic knowledge

# PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE



Contractual PhD student  
(in Paris, France & Nan, Thailand)  
October 2024 – September 2027

- My research is funded by the **French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)**, and I am affiliated with the Joint Research Unit **Patrimoines Locaux, Environnement et Globalisation (PALOC)** at the **Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN)**. I am also member of the **International Research Laboratory HealthDEEP** in Thailand (CNRS, Mahidol University, Kasetsart University), where I contribute to the **Rewild4Health** project.

Personal page : <https://paloc.fr/fr/annuaire/rafael-figueroa-brollo-7033>

HealthDEEP page : <https://www.healthdeep.org/home>



**Éco-anthropologie (EA)**  
UMR 7206

<https://ecoanthropologie.fr/fr>

**Research Assistant**  
(in Paris, France)

February 2024 – July 2024

- Conducted an ethnographic study on visitor perceptions and attitudes toward Barbary macaques (*Macaca sylvanus*) and chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) in a zoo setting.
- Completed primatology training courses covering anatomy, behavior, evolution, and human-non-human primate interactions and conservation.
- Trained in and applied a range of human and social science research methods – including focal observations, ad-libitum recording, and semi-structured interviews – to analyze human-non-human relationships.



<https://www.wwf.org.kh>

**Biological Research Assistant**  
(in Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia)

November 2022 – May 2023

- Coordinated and supported teams of eco-guards/rangers within *Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary* (PPWS) and *Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary* (SWS) to conduct a fecal-DNA mark-recapture study of Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*).
- Supervised sample collection protocols, including filling datasheets, labeling, and storing ethanol-preserved fecal samples.
- Assessed habitat quality and availability of trees used by gibbons (*Nomascus gabriellae*) and macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) for feeding and sleeping, using transect line methods.
- Annotated camera-trap images from a 2022 wildlife diversity survey.

**Professional Anti-Poaching Volunteer**  
(in Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia)

May 2022 – November 2022

- Supported eco-guard/rangers teams during extended field missions in *Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary* (PPWS) and *Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary* (SWS).
- Supervised performance and use of mapping tools (GPS, SMART, Avenza Map) for tracking wildlife and recording field data.
- Contributed to luxury wood identification using an artificial intelligence program to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts between Cambodia and Vietnam.
- Gained knowledge on illegal wildlife trade and trafficking of endangered species in Southeast Asia.

## REFERENCE

### Nicolas LAINÉ

Anthropologist - Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

- email : [nicolas.laine@ird.fr](mailto:nicolas.laine@ird.fr)

### Serge MORAND

Ecologist - French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)

- email : [serge.morand@cnrs.fr](mailto:serge.morand@cnrs.fr)

## REFERENCE

### Audrey MAILLE

Senior Lecturer in Ethology (animal behaviour) - Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN)

- email : [audrey.maille@mnhn.fr](mailto:audrey.maille@mnhn.fr)

## REFERENCE

### Sothea BUN

Senior Officer - WWF-Cambodia

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- phone : +(855) 88 645 4945

## REFERENCE

### Veasna SOUT

Senior Officer - WWF-Cambodia

- email : [veasna.sout@wwf.org.kh](mailto:veasna.sout@wwf.org.kh)
- phone : +(855) 97 530 1404

## Co-development of a cooperative role-playing game on knowledge-sharing of agroforestry practices

(in Paris, France)

November 2022 – May 2023

Co-developed a participatory role-playing game to collect and share data on local knowledge and practices related to agrobiodiversity management in Madagascar, aiming to understand how farmers adapt their agricultural practices and strategies in response to environmental, economic, and demographic changes.

- Gathered information on the agroforestry context of the Vavatenina region (Madagascar) by reviewing and synthesizing various field studies (sociological, economic, and environmental) conducted by CIRAD and IRD researchers.
- Co-designed a tangible prototype of the game following the **ComMod approach** (<http://www.commod.org>).
- Co-produced a facilitator guide and user manual to ensure smooth implementation of the game sessions in the field.

<https://www.iucn.org/fr>[https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PA00TRMV.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00TRMV.pdf)

## Junior Consultant (in El Salvador & Honduras)

May 2018 – June 2019

The *Improved Coastal Watershed and Livelihoods* (ICWL) Project aimed to protect ecosystem services and biodiversity while promoting sustainable livelihoods for rural communities.

- Assisted in morphological studies and sampling of American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) populations in mangrove forests.
- Conducted interviews with various rural community members in El Salvador and Honduras, collaborating with monitoring and evaluation specialists to assess the impact of the ICWL Project.
- Developed a database of participants from various training workshops, including biological monitoring, crocodile conservation, protected area governance, and microfinance mechanisms.

## REFERENCE

### Sylvie CAPITANT

Senior Lecturer in Development Socio-Anthropology

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## REFERENCE

### Judith BEYELER

Chief of Party - IUCN

- email : [judith.beyeler@iucn.org](mailto:judith.beyeler@iucn.org) / [judith.beyeler@gmail.com](mailto:judith.beyeler@gmail.com)

### Milena BERROCAL VARGAS

Technical Officer - IUCN

- email : [milena.berrocal@iucn.org](mailto:milena.berrocal@iucn.org)

## OTHER SKILLS / ACTIVITIES

- **Conference Presentation** – 36th Conference of the **Francophone Society of Primatology (SFDP)**, Toulouse, France, (15-18 October 2024). **Special session : Crossed Perspectives between Primatology and Social Sciences** – « *The Role of Social Anthropology in Research Informed by Primate Ethology* » (Figueroa Brollo R., Lochin C., Garcia C., Maille A.) <https://mnhn.hal.science/mnhn-05029930>
- **Co-organizer** – Scientific Day of UMR PALOC, **Shared Theme 3 : Plurality and Asymmetry of Knowledge** <https://paloc.fr/fr/theme-partage-3-pluralite-et-asymetrie-des-savoirs-6033>
- **Presentation & Discussion** – 10 October 2024 : « *Elephant Marriages and Bunong Knowledge : An Example of Vernacular Ethology in Cambodia* » (Figueroa Brollo R.)
- **Fieldwork Skills** – Willingness and ability to travel extensively and conduct independent fieldwork in challenging environments; survival experience during extended stays in tropical forests.
- **Practical Skills** – Holder of a driver's license; experienced in driving motorcycles on difficult roads and terrain.