

Nicole Danaher-Garcia, PhD

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Education

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Ph. D., Integrative Biology

August 2020

Dissertation: "Social Bonds Among Atlantic Spotted Dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) around Bimini, The Bahamas"

Advisor: Richard Connor

Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, Duke University

B.S., Biology; Concentration: Marine Biology; Minor: Environmental Science

May 2011

Professional Experience/Employment

School of Health and Rehab Sciences, MGH Institute of Health Professions

• *Assistant Professor*

March 2022 – Present

Developed five "toolkit" courses for the Master of Healthcare Data Analytics program (started in Fall 2022). Curriculum includes basic descriptive statistics, data wrangling, linear regression, logistic regression and variants, fixed/random effects, matching, bootstrapping, time series analysis. Continues to co-teach quantitative methods courses in Health Professions Education programs. Supervises Masters of HPEd students in their scholarly projects, serves on HPEd PhD committees, and supports the Capstone courses in the Doctor of Health Sciences program.

• *Term Lecturer*

November 2020 – March 2022

Supported lead instructor in quantitative methods courses in the Health Professions Education doctoral and master's programs.

College of Arts, Sciences, and Education and Institute of Environment, Florida International University

• *Postdoctoral Associate*

January 2021 – March 2022

Conducted behavioral research in collaboration with the Dolphin Communication Project. Published two chapters of dissertation in peer-reviewed journals. Collaborated with others in the Heithaus laboratory through regular lab meetings to advise undergraduate and graduate students on current research projects.

Department of Biology and College of Nursing, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

• *Teaching Assistant*

September 2016 – May 2020

Assisted biology professors with laboratory component of undergraduate courses (see below).

Publications

Pittmann, R., **Danaher-Garcia, N.**, Rosu, C. (2025) Comparing two modalities of supervision: Speech-language pathology clinical educators' perceptions of clinical effectiveness in face-to-face vs. telesupervision during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology*, 1-12.

Grove, T.R., Lucas, A.T, Martin, M., Deckers, C.M., Mahmood, L.S., **Danaher-Garcia, N.**, Scerbo, M.W., Kardong-Edgren, S., Palaganas, J.C. (2025) Am I as Effective at Identifying Emotions as AI? A Comparative Study of Emotion Recognition. *Cureus Journals*, 2(1).

Kijpaisalratana, N., Badih el Ariss, A., Yuan, J., Shannon, K., Chen, D., Memon, R., Menon P., **Danaher-Garcia, N.**, Kivlehan, S., He, S. Leveraging Network Analysis for Global Connectivity in Emergency Medicine. *ConductScience Journal* 1(1):1-17.

Pittman, R., Thompson, A., **Danaher-Garcia, N.**, White, B.A. (2024) The impact of a professional development workshop on healthcare professionals' knowledge and readiness to use telehealth etiquette in virtual care. *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare*. 2024:0(0).

Pittman, R., Thompson, A., **Danaher-Garcia, N.**, White, B.A. (2024) Development and Validation of the Telehealth Etiquette Competency Checklist: A Delphi Study. *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare*. 2024:0(0).

Pittman, R., Thompson, A., **Danaher-Garcia, N.**, White, B.A. Where's the Etiquette? Telehealth Etiquette in Health Professions Education and Practice: A Scoping Review. *Submitted to Journal of Allied Health Science and Practice – accepted pending revisions, resubmitted Jan. 9, 2024*.

Jiang, L., Raza, A., Ariss, A-B., Chen, D., **Danaher-Garcia, N.**, Lee, J., He, S. (2024) Impact of Medical Technologies may be Predicted Using Constructed Graph Bibliometrics. *Scientific Reports*: 14(1):2419

Teele, S., Tremoulet, P., Laussen, P., **Danaher-Garcia, N.**, Salvin, J., White, B.A. (2023) Complex Decision Making in an Intensive Care Environment: Perceived Practice Versus Observed Reality. *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*:1-9.

Danaher-Garcia, N.A., Connor, R., Fay, G., Melillo Sweeting, K., Dudzinski, K.M. (2022) The Partial Merger of Two Dolphin Societies: Violating terrestrial mammal 'norms'. *Royal Society Open Science* 9(8): 211963.

Danaher-Garcia, N.A., Connor, R., Fay, G., Melillo Sweeting, K., Dudzinski, K.M. (2022) Using Social Network Analysis to Confirm the 'Gambit of the Group' Hypothesis for a Small Cetacean. *Behavioural Processes* 200: 104694.

Danaher-Garcia, N.A., Melillo Sweeting, K., Dudzinski, K.M. (2020) Social Structure of Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) off Bimini, The Bahamas (2003-2016): Alternate reasons for preferential association in delphinids. *acta ethologica* 23(1). 9-21.

Dudzinski, K. M., **Danaher-Garcia, N. A.** & Gregg, J. D. (2012) Pectoral Fin Contact Between Dolphin Dyads at Zoo Duisburg, with Comparison to Other Dolphin Study Populations. *Aquatic Mammals* 39(4). 335-343.

Teaching Experience

Graduate-level courses taught as instructor or co-instructor

- Data Analytics Toolkit I (DA620), MGHIHP, Fall 2022, Spring 2023
- Data Analytics Toolkit II (DA720/821), MGHIHP, Spring 2023, Fall 2023
- Data Analytics Toolkit III (DA821/822/823), MGHIHP, Summer 2023, 2024
- Advanced Statistical Modelling for Health Professions Education (HE902), MGHIHP, Spring 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- Statistics/Predictive Analytics for Health Professions Education (HE930), MGHIHP, Summer 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- Capstone for Doctor of Health Sciences: Discover (DHS891), MGHIHP, Fall 2025

Graduate-level courses co-taught as term lecturer

- Advanced Statistical Modelling for Health Professions Education (HE902), MGHIHP, Spring 2021
- Statistics/Predictive Analytics for Health Professions Education (HE930), MGHIHP, Summer 2021

Undergraduate-level courses taught as teaching assistant

- Anatomy and Physiology I (BIO221), UMass Dartmouth, Fall 2016, 2018 and 2019
- Anatomy and Physiology II (BIO222), UMass Dartmouth, Spring 2020
- Biology of Populations (BIO210), UMass Dartmouth, Spring 2017, 2018 and 2019
- Dolphin Behavior, Biology, and Research, Dolphin Communication Project (for Sacred Heart University, University of New Brunswick Saint John, Eastern Kentucky University, and Eckerd College), Summer 2014 – 2019, 2022

Research Experience

Dolphin Communication Project

Research Associate

March 2022 – present

- Collaborates and assists DCP director and Bimini research manager with project ideas, data analysis, and manuscript development of behavioural studies on captive bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) from the Roatán Institute for Marine Sciences, Roatán, Honduras and wild Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) from around Bimini, The Bahamas

- Assists Bimini research manager with maintenance of DCP's digital photo-identification catalog of Bimini Atlantic spotted dolphins

Research/Teaching Assistant

June 2012 – December 2020

- Supported DCP director and Bimini research manager with video data analysis of captive bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) from the Roatán Institute for Marine Sciences, Roatán, Honduras and wild Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) from around Bimini, The Bahamas
- Assisted Bimini research manager with maintenance of DCP's digital photo-identification catalog of Bimini Atlantic spotted dolphins
- (Summers 2014- 2019) Assisted lead researcher with study of Atlantic spotted (*Stenella frontalis*) and bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus*) dolphins around Bimini, Bahamas
- (Summers 2014- 2019) Helped lead researcher with university field courses, including teaching lectures, assembling student-collected data, and preparing meals
- (Summers 2014- 2019) Provided assistance during eco-tours, including acting as naturalist on-board to answer questions about Bimini, dolphin biology and animal behaviour

Supervisory Research Intern

June 2013 – August 2013

- Provided instruction to other research intern regarding proper video data analysis
- Supported DCP director with analysis of video/acoustic data collected from bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) housed at the Roatán Institute for Marine Sciences, Roatán, Honduras
- Assisted Bimini research manager with study of Atlantic spotted (*Stenella frontalis*) and bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus*) dolphins around Bimini, Bahamas
- Collected data using surface and underwater still photo camera from eco-tour vessels

Presentations

24th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals. 1 – 5 August, 2022. Palm Beach, FL. (Poster) Danaher-Garcia, N., Connor, R., Fay, G., Melillo-Sweeting, K. & Dudzinski, K.M. Tactile exchanges, while accounting for group composition, between Atlantic spotted dolphins around Bimini, The Bahamas.

Animal Behavior Conference. 2 – 5 August, 2021. Virtual. (Presentation) Danaher-Garcia, N., Connor, R., Fay, G., Melillo-Sweeting, K. & Dudzinski, K.M. The merger of two dolphin societies: violating terrestrial mammal 'norms.'

World Marine Mammal Conference. 9 – 12 December, 2019. Barcelona, Spain. (Poster) Danaher-Garcia, N., Melillo-Sweeting, K. & Dudzinski, K.M. Long term bonds: Social structure of Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) off Bimini, The Bahamas (2003- 2016).

22nd Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals. 22 – 27 October, 2017. (Poster)
Nova Scotia, Canada. Kaplan, J.D, Goodrich, S., Melillo-Sweeting, K, Danaher-Garcia, N, Reiss, D.
Behavioural Laterality in Foraging Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*).

Academic and Community Service

MGH Institute of Health Professions

- Doctoral Committee Member, Kathryn Parrish, Department of Health Professions Education
- Doctoral Committee Member, Heather Valenova Dayag, Department of Health Professions Education
- Doctoral Committee Member, Wuttipat Iammeechai, Department of Health Professions Education
- Doctoral Committee Member, Rachel Pittman, Department of Health Professions Education, Graduated May 2024
- Member, Faculty Senate, 2023-2026
- Member, Course and Curriculum Review Committee, 2023-2026
- Member, Faculty Senate Task Force on Teaching Effectiveness and Course Evaluation, 2023-2024

Additional Skills and Training

Data and Computer Skills

- Proficient in data analysis, data wrangling, predictive analytics, factor analysis, time series analysis, social network analysis in R/RStudio
- Experience in Geographic Information Systems in ArcGIS and QGIS
- Social network analysis in SocProg and UCINET
- Photo editing in Adobe Photoshop
- Behavioral sampling in BORIS

Languages

- Native: English and Spanish
- Intermediate: French and Italian
- Beginner: German

Honors, Awards, and Grants

- Teaching Assistantship, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (2016 – 2020)
- Research Grant, Department of Biology, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (2015, \$500; 2018, \$500)
- Rachel Carson Scholar, Duke University Marine Laboratory, Beaufort, NC (2010 - 2011)
- L.G. Balfour Foundation Scholarship, Bank of America (2007 - 2011)

Professional Associations and Certifications

- Member, Society for Marine Mammalogy, 2016 – present
- Member, American Cetacean Society, 2016 – present
- Member, Animal Behavior Society, 2020 – present
- Member, Comparative Cognition Society, 2021 – present
- Member, Association of Women in Science, 2021 – present
- Member, The Wildlife Society, 2025 – present
 - Biological Diversity Working Group
 - Climate Change & Wildlife Working Group
 - Coastal and Marine Wildlife Working Group
 - Spatial Ecology & Telemetry Working Group
- SCUBA (PADI)

Press Interviews

Morell, V. "Dolphins make peace and love—not war—when they encounter strangers." *Science Magazine*, 2 August, 2022. <https://www.science.org/content/article/dolphins-make-peace-and-love-not-war-when-they-encounter-strangers>

Wilke, C. "Dolphin strangers met in the Bahamas. Things went swimmingly." *The New York Times*, 6 August, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/06/science/dolphins-bahamas-mixing.html#:~:text=In%202013%2C%20a%20group%20of,of%20120%20Atlantic%20spotted%20dolphins.>

White, R. "Scientists have discovered two dolphin societies merged in rare alliance." 2 August, 2022. <https://www.newsweek.com/scientists-discover-two-dolphin-societies-merged-rare-alliance-1730069>

Delbecq, D. "Les dauphins ne rejettent pas les étrangers, ils les intègrent." *Le Temps*, 8 August, 2022. <https://www.letemps.ch/sciences/dauphins-ne-rejettent-etrangers-integrent>

Breaching Extinction Podcast: Merging for dolphin societies, 25 September, 2022.

Dolphin Pod Podcast, Episode 22: Dolphins are unexpectedly tolerant of outsiders, 1 November, 2022.