

Claire L. Thomas
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Education

- B.Sc. in Psychology, December 2009, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC); Minor in Sociology, GPA: 3.39/4.0
- B.Sc. in Earth Systems, Environment and Society, UIUC, December 2009; Concentration in Society and the Environment, GPA: 3.39/4.0; *Graduated with Distinction*
- M.Sc. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, UIUC, December 2011
Concentration in Fish and Wildlife Conservation & Aquatic Ecology; GPA: 3.9/4.0
Master's thesis: Examining a potential predator-prey interaction between crayfish and benthic fish in Central Illinois streams
- *Ph.D. in Sociology, Louisiana State University, August 2024, in progress*

Honors, Grants, and Fellowships

- Dean's List at UIUC: Spring 2007, Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009
- R. Weldon Larimore Grant recipient, 2010
- International Association of Astacology Travel Grant recipient, 2010
- NRES Educational Opportunity Travel Grant recipient, 2011
- Future Scholars Graduate Student Fellowship, 2025-2029

Relevant Work Experience

Student Project Manager, CRISP-Rice Project, January 2025-present

- Worked for Dr. Mark Schafer
- Conducted trainings for summer interview team
- Helped to create and manage multiple Qualtrics surveys
- Coordinated and conducted interviews with rice growers and collaborators on iPacers project

Teaching Assistant, Louisiana State University, Aug-Dec 2024

- Assisted in the online introduction to Statistics class for Sociology majors
- Held weekly office hours, demonstrating concepts and answering practice questions
- Assisted in grading for Sociology of Law and Sociological Theory, including essay and short-answer exams

Adjunct Professor, College of DuPage, June 2016- Dec 2017

- Taught biology courses at the college level, including lectures (both pre-made and ones that I organized)
- Created and graded assignments and exams, including classroom debates, poster and oral presentations
- Led classroom discussions and laboratory experiments
- Provided detailed feedback, created and utilized descriptive rubrics
- Mentored students who were interested in biology with after-class informal Q&As
- Courses taught: *Environmental Biology* (both regular and Adult Fast Track), *Introduction to Biological Principles I*

Adjunct Professor, Art Institute of Chicago, July 2016- Oct 2017

- Taught biology courses at the college level, including lectures (both pre-made and ones that I organized)
- Encouraged critical thinking in discussions and on group/personal assignments
- Courses taught: *Environmental Science*, *Anatomy and Physiology*, *Biological Design*, *Ethical issues in Science*

Program Manager, Cape Eleuthera Institute, June 2014-April 2016

- Created and managed the Sustainable Fisheries Program at the Cape Eleuthera Institute (CEI), Eleuthera, The Bahamas
- Coordinated and conducted deepwater SCUBA surveys and shallow water nursery surveys of local queen conch populations
- Supervised a team of 2-4 interns per semester who performed data collection and entry
- Supervised undergraduate students from Newcastle University (UK)
- Collaborated with the Bahamas National Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Bahamas Reef Environmental Education Foundation, Community Conch, and other NGO's, in partnerships for a nationwide Conch Conservation Campaign
- Gave presentations (poster and oral) at national and international conferences

Applied Scientific Research Teacher, The Island School, July 2012-April 2016

- Lead teacher for the semester-long science class at The Island School, centering on the scientific method, data collection and analysis, lectures (e.g., threats to the ocean and marine management), discussions, and full field days with the students
- Edited existing curriculum, created supplemental assignments that fit into curriculum, graded and provided feedback on several individual and group assignments, created and administered oral assessments

Communications Coordinator, Cape Eleuthera Institute, Jan 2013-April 2016

- Maintained the CEI blog
- Organized and published the CEI eNews every quarter, which involved collaborating with scientists on different teams, to elicit articles on relevant research
- Updated and edited content for the CEI website
- Provided edited content to the island-wide newspaper, The Eleutheran, aimed at educating and building relationships with the local island community

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, UIUC, SP 2011

- TA for Integrative Biology (IB) 362: Marine Biology
- Graded exams, gave lectures on several topics in marine biology (e.g., mangrove ecology and invasive species), organized and graded class discussion activities on relevant topics related to marine biology for 75+ students
- TA for IB 496: Special Course in Coral Reef Ecology
- Prepared students for end of semester trip to San Pedro, Belize, in May 2011, by giving lectures on pertinent background information in coral reef ecology and teaching students fish and invertebrate identification
- Supervised students while they conducted status surveys (snorkel) of reef fish and invertebrates at 20 sites at and around San Pedro, including Hole Chan Marine Park
- TA for IB 202: Anatomy and Physiology Lab
- Taught vertebrate anatomy and physiology labs, graded lab reports, created and graded quizzes and graded exams,
- Familiarized students with the operation of common laboratory equipment (e.g., light photospectrometer)

Presentations (select)

- Thomas, Claire, C.A. Taylor. 2010. "Effects of crayfish predation on benthic fish communities in Central Illinois streams." Poster presentation at 18th International Association of Astacology meeting, Colombia, MO.
- Thomas, Claire, C. A. Taylor. 2011. "Crayfish: Scavenger or deadly predator? Examining a potential predator-prey relationship between crayfish and benthic fish in aquatic food webs." at the 2011 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Des Moines, IA. Oral presentation
- Thomas, Claire. 12 December 2012. "Past and current queen conch research at CEI." Oral presentation at the 1st Cape Eleuthera Institute Research Symposium.
- Thomas, Claire, E. Cash, S. Auscavitch, A. Brooks. 8 March 2013. "The current status of queen conch populations in South Eleuthera, The Bahamas." Oral presentation at the 1st Bahamas National Trust Natural History Conference, Nassau, The Bahamas.
- Thomas, Claire, S. Auscavitch, A. Brooks, and A. Stoner. 2014. 7 November 2014. "Assessing essential queen conch habitat in South Eleuthera, The Bahamas: Recent research suggests urgent need for protection." Oral presentation at the 67th Gulf and Fisheries Caribbean Institute meeting in Bridgetown, Barbados.
- Thomas, Claire & C. Elvidge. 2016. 16 March 2016. "Would you sleep in a graveyard? Assessing queen conch's behavioral response to knocked shells." Oral presentation at the 3rd Bahamas National Trust Natural History Conference, Nassau, The Bahamas.
- Thomas, Claire & M. Schafer. 2025. "COVID-19, Science, and Parenting: A 5-Country Comparative Analysis." Oral presentation at 2025 Rural Sociological Society Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

- Thomas, Claire. 2026. "Keeping the Calm." Oral presentation at the Spring 2026 LSU Brown Bag Lunch Series.
- Thomas, Claire & M. Walker. 2026. "Keeping the Calm: Emotion Work and the Reproduction of Gendered Cognitive Labor." Oral presentation at the 2026 American Sociological Association conference in New York City, NY.

Publications and Proceedings

- Elvidge, C.K., C. Britain, P. Szekeres, **C. Thomas**, and S.J. Cooke. 2023. A field test of the "graveyard hypothesis" reveals avoidance of chemical but not visual cues in Bahamian queen conch (*Aliger gigas*). *Behavioural Processes* 210: 1-7.
- Sherman, K.D., A.D. Shultz, C.P. Dahlgren, **C. Thomas**, E. Brooks, A. Brooks, D.R. Brumbaugh, L. Gittens, and K. Murchie. 2018. Contemporary and emerging fisheries in The Bahamas- Conservation and management challenges, achievements, and future directions. *Fisheries Management and Ecology* 1: 1-13.
- **Thomas, C.L.**, S. Auscavitch, A. Brooks, and A. Stoner. 2016. Assessing essential queen conch habitat in South Eleuthera, The Bahamas: Recent research suggests urgent need for protection. *Proceedings of the 67th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute* 67: 344-347.
- **Thomas, C.L.**, and C.A. Taylor. 2013. Crayfish: Scavenger or deadly predator? Examining a potential predator-prey relationship between crayfish and benthic fish in aquatic food webs. *Freshwater Science* 32(4): 1309-1317.
- Welsh, D., M. Zhou, S. Mussman, L. Fields, **C. Thomas**, S. Pearish, S. Kilburn, J. Parker, L. Stein, J. Bartlett, C. Bertram, T. Bland, K. Laskowski, B. Mommer, X. Zhuang, and R. Fuller. 2013. Size and shape differences between stream and lake habitats in the blackstripe topminnow, *Fundulus notatus*. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 108: 784-789.

Relevant Coursework (PhD Courses*)

CPSC 440 Applied Statistical Methods I, A
STAT 100 Statistics, A+

SOC 220 Gender Studies in Social Science, A+
SOC 226 Political Sociology, A

*SOCL 7121 Classical Sociological Theory, A

*SOCL 7131 Contemporary Sociological Theory, A

*SOCL 7201 Research Methods in Sociology (Statistics), A+

*SOCL 7211 Methods of Social Investigation, A

*SOCL 7213 Qualitative Methods, A

*SOCL 7215 Community Sociology, A
*SOCL 7215 Social Stratification, A
*SOCL 7213 Categorical Data Analysis

PSYC 238: Abnormal Psych, A
PSYC 216: Child Psych, A
PSYC 363: Child Development Lab, A
PSYC 420: Theories of Psychotherapy, A-
PSYC 472: Environmental Psychology, B

EPS 310 Race and Cultural Diversity, A
*CMST 7912: Communication in High Stakes Episodes

Professional Affiliations

- Member of Rural Sociological Society 2025-2026
- Member of American Sociological Association, Member of Family Section, 2026-2027

References

- Dr. Mark Walker, Associate Professor of Sociology at Louisiana State University, Committee Chair for Dissertation
 - mwalk67@lsu.edu
- Dr. Mark Schafer, Associate Professor of Sociology at Louisiana State University, GA Supervisor
 - mschaf1@lsu.edu
- Dr. Tom Wooten, Assistant Professor of Sociology at LSU, PhD Committee Member