

# Nepsis García Lara

PhD Pre-Candidate

Coastal Ecology and Conservation Laboratory  
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB)  
University of Michigan

## INFORMATION

**e-mail:** nepsisgl@gmail.com

**Cellphone:** +1 (754) 423-9815

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nepsisgarcia/>

## EDUCATION

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### University of Michigan (U-M)

PhD Ecology and Evolutionary Biology GPA: 4.0

Ann Arbor, MI,  
United States  
August 2023 - Current

### Nova Southeastern University (NSU)

M.S. Marine Science, Marine Biology Concentration GPA: 3.6

Fort Lauderdale, FL,  
United States  
August 2023

### Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)

Bachelor Degree in Ecology and Environmental Management  
GPA: 3.4/4.0 Cum Laude

Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic  
September 2017

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Graduate Student Research Assistant

University of Michigan  
January 2024 - Current

### Graduate Student Instructor

University of Michigan  
August - December 2023

### Graduate Research Assistant (Part-time)

Dr. Figueiredo's Marine Larval Ecology and Recruitment Laboratory at NSU |  
January 2021 - August 2023

- Daily maintenance of recirculating aquariums with live coral
- Assess coral health and administer treatments as needed
- Conduct water quality assessments
- Monitor coral spawning and assist fertilization
- Rear and settle coral larvae
- Care for coral recruits and collect survival and growth data
- Resolve day-to-day lab-related issues
- Train and oversee volunteers, interns, and new lab members

### Research Coordinator

Dominican Association of Ecologists and Environmental Managers (ADEGA) | December 2020 - Current

- Represent the association's Directive research-wise
- Define milestones of the Research Coordination
- Creation of Newsletter
- Gather member's projects and publications

### Researcher (Paid Internship)

The Nature Conservancy & Dominican Foundation of Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR) | June 2020 - January 2021

- Design, conduct and submit a research project on the effect of crustose coralline algae *Hydrolithon boergesenii* condition and ocean warming on *Diploria labyrinthiformis* larval settlement

### Coral Restoration and Biodiversity Technician (Paid Internship)

Marine Innovation Center, Puntacana Group Foundation | August 2019 - January 2020

- Assist in the maintenance and daily care of corals on a land based farm
- Add different coral species and genotypes to the farm and make new microfragments from them
- Keep a periodic monitoring and follow-up on corals
- Produce and analyze scientific data to improve implementation
- Support coral gardening team in the field
- Monitor coral spawning in the field
- Assist identification and density data collection of coral recruits in offshore reef
- Lead tours about restoration efforts
- Operational and logistic support in the monitoring, care and release of marine turtles



### **Management and Operations Assistant**

Deep Green Foundation | September 2018 - May 2019

- Build and maintain coral nurseries
- Monitor and maintain mangrove reforestation project
- Lead, arrange logistics and educate volunteer groups
- Assist in the socialization of projects with fishermen
- Represent NGO in meetings, events and workshops
- Produce protocols for activities and projects
- Keep work materials and merchandise inventory
- Train and supervise field work assistants and volunteers
- Assist with project proposals

### **Service Learning Program Leader (Summer Program)**

Dominican Foundation of Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR) |  
June 2018 - September 2018

- Responsible of updating three different databases
- Responsible for the marine life and coastal restoration program implementation
- Train and supervise volunteers
- Write the marine service learning program manual

### **Unpaid Internship**

Dominican Foundation of Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR) | March 2018 - May 2018

- Support in monitoring and maintenance of coral nurseries
- Assist data analysis and report writing about coral reefs state
- Assist coral spawning of different hard coral species in the field
- Collect data for a masters research project on carbon dynamics and impacts in land-use conversion on mangroves
- Lead snorkel tours, coral reef presentations and data collections in Service Learning Program

### **Paid Internship**

Popular Foundation | October 2017 - January 2018

- Assist in producing of weekly, monthly and annual reports
- Follow up on allies
- Cross reference the organization with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

### **Research Assistant (Temporary, unpaid)**

Reef Check DR | March - June 2017

- Collect fish and benthic data in reef monitorings
- Write a scientific article about the state of reefs in the DR
- Accepted to present a poster of research project at the Annual GCFI conference in Mexico

## **LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY WORK**

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### **Coral Restoration Technician Volunteer**

Dominican Consortium of Coastal Restoration (CDRC) | February 2019 - March 2020

- Participate in massive coral transplant events named Coralmania

### **Coral Restoration Technician Volunteer**

Marine Innovation Center, Puntacana Group Foundation | May 2019

- Evaluate coral transplant sites

### **Cross-cultural Exchanges Team Member Volunteer**

AIESEC Dominican Republic | January 2017 - February 2018

- Present cross-cultural exchange opportunities to interested students
- Coordinate exchange experiences to Colombia
- Assist exchange participants with their application process offering support during, before and after their cross-cultural exchange
- Lead cultural workshops to prepare participants before going on an exchange
- Support foreign exchange participants to adapt to the Dominican culture and their new work environments

### **Fundraising and Social Research Team Member Volunteer**

TECHO Dominican Republic | May 2016 - February 2019

- Interview families that live in slums
- Upload survey data to database
- Lead and coordinate volunteer groups on surveys
- Proofread survey data in the field
- Coordinate and lead fundraising activities



## PUBLICATIONS

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- 1 Sellares-Blasco, R. I., **García, N.**, Villalpando, M. F., Cano, I., & Croquer, A. (2023). Effects of elevated temperatures and health status of the crustose coralline algae *Hydrolithon boergesenii* (Corallinales: Mastophoroideae) on the larval settlement of *Diploria labyrinthiformis* (Scleractinia: Faviinae). *Regional Studies in Marine Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2023.103138>
- 2 Moore, A. C., Calhoun, K., Wilkinson, C. E., Alford, E., Ellington, A., Estien, C. O., Fleury, G. S., **Garcia, N.**, Hicks, A., Mosley, C. & Vitale-Penniman, N. Queer Black voices in conservation. **In press.**












## EXTERNAL FUNDING

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2023	<b>Professional Development Grant NSU's PanSGA Student Government</b>	US\$1,400
2022	<b>Full Attendee Scholarship Reef Futures</b>	N/A
2020	<b>Research Project The Nature Conservancy</b>	US\$ 5,000
2019	<b>Coral Reef Ecology Course Scholarship Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS)</b>	US\$ 4,900

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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-  **Introduction to Underwater Photomosaics for Coral Reef Science and Restoration Monitoring (2023) University of Miami, Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean, St. Kitts and Nevis** *Arthur Gleason, ph.D*
-  **SE Florida Coral Restoration Hub Workshop: Coral Reproduction 2022. University of Miami, Secore International, Nova Southeastern University, The Florida Aquarium & Frost Science Museum (2022)** *Andrew Baker, ph.D., Jennifer Sneed, ph.D., Margaret Miller, ph.D., Joana Figueiredo, ph.D., Keri O'Neil, M.S., others.*
-  **Seaweed diversity: an Ecuadorian perspective (Tropical East Pacific). SIRENA Phycology (Online) Course. UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (2020)** *Olivier De Clerck, ph.D., Frederik Leliaert, ph.D., Adrian Marquez, ph.D.*
-  **Coral assisted fertilization and larval rearing training (2020) Dominican Foundation of Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR), Dominican Republic** *Yulissa Reyes, María Villalpando & Rita Sellares, M.S.*
-  **Experimental Design Online Course (2020) Dominican Republic** *Aldo Croquer, ph.D.*
-  **Coral Reef Ecology: Reef Response to Environmental Change Course (2019) Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS), Bermuda** *Samantha De Putron, ph.D.; Yvonne Sawall, ph.D.; Raphael Ritson-Williams, ph.D.; Gretchen Goodbody-Gringley, ph.D.*
-  **Consolidation of conceptual and legal aspects of marine protected areas in the Dominican Republic Workshop (2019) Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic**
-  **Training for the use and interpretation of Clima Pesca and the design of local adaptation measures for the fishing and aquaculture sector in the SICA region Workshop (2018) Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD), Dominican Republic** *CODOPESCA, OSPESCA & SICA*
-  **Coastal Wetlands: Ecology, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Workshop (2018) United Nations Development Program, Dominican Republic** *Ariel E. Lugo, ph.D.*
-  **AGRRA training in benthic communities Identification (2018) Dominican Foundation of Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR), Dominican Republic** *Rita Sellares, M.S*
-  **Design of Social Development Interventions to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Workshop (2017) Vice Presidency of the Dominican Republic and United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Dominican Republic** *Miriam Jimenez Sosa, ph.D.*



## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 1 Effects of elevated temperatures and health status of the crustose coralline algae *Hydrolithon boergesenii* on the larval settlement of *Diploria labyrinthiformis*. Oral presentation. Reef Futures 2022. Key Largo, FL, United States.
- 2 Desperate Larvae or Death Before Dishonor: Can Old Coral Larvae Replenish Degraded Reefs? Poster presentation. Reef Futures 2022. Key Largo, FL, United States.
- 3 Desperate Larva or Death Before Dishonor: Can Old Coral Larvae Replenish Degraded Reefs? Oral presentation. Benthic Ecology Meeting 2023. Miami, FL, United States.
- 4 Desperate Larva or Death Before Dishonor: Can Old Coral Larvae Replenish Degraded Reefs? Poster presentation. Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC) Scientific Meeting 2023. St. Kitts, St Kitts and Nevis.

## SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

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### Soft skills:

- Critical thinking
- Teamwork
- Problem-solving
- Adaptability
- Time management
- Interpersonal
- Reliability

### Hard skills:

- Scientific writing
- Data analysis
- Coral husbandry
- Water quality assessments
- General public scientific communication
- Outreach
- Team management (2-4 people)

- Coral rearing
- Benthos monitoring
- Settlement-inducing Caribbean CCA ID

### Programs and software:

- R Studio - Basic
- Image J - Intermediate
- CPCE - Basic
- Neptune's APEX Fusion - Basic
- Ecotech Mobius - Intermediate
- Coralvue Hydros - Intermediate
- Kajabi - Advanced
- Clickup - Advanced
- Canva - Advanced
- Microsoft Office - Advanced
- Strikingly - Advanced
- OS X - Advanced
- CellSens - Intermediate

### Certifications:

- PADI Advanced Open Water Diver

## MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

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Dominican Association of Ecologists and Environmental Managers (ADEGA)

Black Women in Ecology, Evolution and Marine Science (BWEEMS)

Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC)

International Coral Reef Society - Student & Early Career Chapter (ICRS-SECC)

## LANGUAGES

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**Spanish** Native

**English** Fluent (TOEFL iBT Score 93)

**American Sign Language (ASL)** Basic

