

Curriculum vitae

Robert C. Thigpen III

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Education: Appalachian State University, B.A. 2006

- Major: Anthropology, with concentration in Applied Anthropology
- Minor: Biology

Professional Affiliations:

Baruch Institute for Marine & Coastal Sciences

The Sargassum Podcast

Marine Conservation without Borders (MCB)

Professional Memberships:

Sociedad Mesoamericana para la Biología y la Conservación

Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute

Society of Caribbean Linguistics

Indigenous Ecological Knowledge Systems & Language Documentation Experience:

- Bahasa [ind]
- Burmese [mya]
- Duruma [dug]
- Garifuna [cab]
- Kiswahili [sw]
- Kriol [bjz]
- Maya [yua]
- Miskitu [cab]
- Mopán [mop]
- Q'etchi' [kek]
- Ulwa [ulw]
- Wayuunaiki [guc]

COVID-19 Emergency Response:

During April and May of 2020, I used Center for Disease Control (USA) information to develop COVID-19 precautions materials. These materials were then translated into 17 non-colonial languages from around the world. We added a [COVID-19 Multicultural Information Library](#) to our website and uploaded these open access COVID-19 eDocs. I also gave printable PDFs to these translators. Additionally, I uploaded several donated Indigenous language COVID-19 informational videos to our [YouTube Channel](#) and then created our [SARS-CoV-2 Multicultural Information Map](#) with easy access to all our open source COVID-19 content.

Current Positions:

The **Baruch Institute for Marine & Coastal Sciences** (research affiliate through the University of South Carolina) **June 2021-present** Georgetown, South Carolina. **The Baruch Institute** is located in the South Carolina low country, in the lands where I began learning the traditional ecological knowledge systems that would later guide me in developing out *biocultural curriculum*. **The Baruch Institute** and **MCB** have shared goals of developing best practices to protect coastal and marine ecosystems. I am affiliated with the **Baruch Institute** to fulfill these shared goals and hopefully we will be able to bring our project to the Carolinas. We hope to have bilingual editions in English and Spanish for most school systems and in Geechee [gul] and English to protect *the biocultural diversity* of the Gullah communities of the barrier islands of the US southeast coast.

The [Sargassum Podcast](#) (cohost) **November 2020-Present**. The **Sargassum Podcast** is set up to be a clearing house for reciprocal information and knowledge exchange between all stakeholder groups experiencing problematic sargassum beaching events in the greater Caribbean basin and the eastern Atlantic. Responsibilities: Schedule and perform interviews with cohosts. Build and update webpage.

[Marine Conservation without Borders](#), Principal Investigator **2015-Present** Florence, South Carolina

- Lived among the Indigenous peoples of East Africa and Mesoamerica beginning in the mid-1990s
- Strong advocate for science, ecosystems literacy and *biocultural diversity*.
- Developed methods to seamlessly combine Indigenous ecological knowledge systems with Western science to create *biocultural curriculum*, a next generation STEM curriculum that also documents the language our Indigenous sisters and brothers use to discuss the ecosystems that provide food security for their families.
- Negotiate research agreements with universities, Indigenous universities, Ministries of Education, Ministries of Indigenous Education and other related government and nongovernment stakeholders.
- Researched the ecological knowledge systems including fishing equipment of the Indigenous fishers of the western Caribbean; listened carefully to their needs, then developed a scientific writing style that seamlessly combined scientific knowledge with these Indigenous ecological knowledge systems of the greater Caribbean basin and beyond.
- Recruit content contributors.
- Began creating our marine and terrestrial ecosystem *biocultural curricula*.
- Recruited Indigenous peoples and taught them the art of *ethnotranslation*. For example, they had to translate these combined ecological knowledge systems into their language *and* their culture.
- Editor-in-Chief, Senior Subject Matter Expert (Science and Language) for all MCB publications
- Principal Investigator, Author, Photographer and Videographer.

Biology Publications:

Creed Jr., R.P. and Thigpen III, R.C. (2007) *Non-lethal methodology for stable isotope analysis of spiny lobsters (Panulirus argus)*. In: Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, 59, pp. 297-300. [Download](#)

Endangered Language Biocultural Diversity Publications:

Thigpen, R.; Cahun, H. P. (**IN PREP**) *U tsooyilo'ob Yucatán* (Treasures of the Yucatán *biocultural curriculum* for primary schools) Volume 1. Maya Edition. Marine Conservation without Borders, Florence, SC

Thigpen, R.; Cahun, H. P. (**IN PREP**) *Jump'éeł tsolt'aanil ichil ka'ap'éeł t'aano'ob yo'osal its'atil t'aano'ob ti'al u lu'umil Américas* (A Bilingual Dictionary of Scientific Terms and Descriptions of Flora & Fauna for the First Nations of the Americas) Volume 1. Maya Edition Marine Conservation without Borders, Florence, SC

Thigpen, Robby; Ico, Juan, Peck, Richard; (2021) *Okok Ha'il K'ak'naab'* (The Mangroves. Treasures of the Caribbean, Maya Mopán Edition). Marine Conservation without Borders, Florence, SC

Thigpen, Robert; Julian, L. K.; Salazar, Haidey M. B.; (2021) *Pauluh balna* (Las Manglares. *Tesoros del Caribe*, Edición Ulwa). Conservación Marina sin Fronteras, Florence, SC

*Thigpen, Robert C. and Pop, Elmer, F.; (2020) *Eb li che Mankl* (Las Manglares. *Tesoros del Caribe*, Edición Q'etchi'). Conservación Marina sin Fronteras, Florence, SC

*Thigpen, Robert and Ronas, Scott W.; (2019) *Laulu pâwi pliska nani ba* (Las Manglares. *Tesoros del Caribe*, Edición Miskitu). Ed. Laura Hobson Herelily. Conservación Marina sin Fronteras, Florence, SC

*Thigpen, Robert and Bermúdez, Elmer M. E. (2018) *Budunudagei* (Mangrove Ecosystems, Garifuna Edition). Marine Conservation without Borders. Florence, SC [Download](#)

*Thigpen, R.; Cahun, H. P.; *Chukte'ob* (Las Manglares, Edición Maya). Conservación Marina sin Fronteras, vol. 1 **2018**; Florence, SC [Download](#)

*Thigpen, Robert; Guariyu, Aminta P.; Munar, Alvaro M. M. *Tü wunu'ulia Junna münakat* (Las Manglares. Wayuunaiki Edition) Marine Conservation without Borders. **2018**. Florence, SC. [Download](#)

*Thigpen, Robert; Udz, Silvaana; Castillo, Celeste; Majil, Zaida; Castillo, Yaricel; (2018) *Di Mangro Dehn* (Mangrove Ecosystems Kriol Edition) Marine Conservation without Borders. **2018**; Florence, SC [Download](#)

*Thigpen, Robert; Wood, Scott R. (2019) *Laulu nani Pawi Pliska* (Ecosistemas de Manglar Miskitu [Honduras] Edición) Ed. Laura Hobson-Herilhy. Marine Conservation without Borders. **2019**; Florence, SC [Download](#)

*Stored for preservation and academic research at the [Archive of Indigenous Languages of Latin America](#) (AILLA) at UT Austin and at the [Kaipuleohone Digital Language Archive](#) at UH Mānoa.

Invited Lectures:

Thigpen, Robert; Elmer, Franziska; Fernández-Méndez, Mar; Guinovart, Catherine; Cahun, Hilario. *Innovative Science Communication and Biocultural STEM Education are Paramount to Closing the Circle*. World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden. **22.07.2021** [Access link](#): Access Passcode: zRQD*?8*

Thigpen, Robert C. *Growing the knowledge continuum: bridging scientific knowledge and local ecological knowledge systems through bilingual conservation science education*. 1st Global Coral Reef Week virtual conference. **06.07.2020** [View](#)

Thigpen, R. *Combinando Sistemas de Conocimiento Ecológicos Indígenas con Ciencias Occidentales para Crear Contextual Plan de Estudios de Biología de Conservación Bilingüe para las Comunidades Indígenas y Afrocaribeñas en América Latina*. I Congreso Hondureño de la Educación Intercultural Bilingüe. Desapartando el Derecho a una Educación con Identidad y Valores Culturales. Secretaría de Educación Honduras - Educación para Pueblos Indígenas y Afrohondureños. Tegucigalpa, Honduras **26 y 27 noviembre 2019**

Thigpen, R. *The Nexus of Marine Conservation Science Education and the Indigenous Fishing Communities of the Greater Caribbean Basin*. Francis Marion University Symposium, Florence, SC, **2018**.

Thigpen, R. *Water Flux in the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (Panulirus argus) a Fisheries Sustainability Concern*. Belize Fisheries Department Lobster Research Group. Belize City, Belize, September 26, **2008**.

Thigpen, R. *Marine Science is for all Belizeans*, 2nd Biannual Marine Science for Teachers Workshop, Hugh Parkey Foundation's Educational Outreach Program, Spanish Bay Conservation and Research Center, Spanish Lookout Caye, Belize, January 4–6, **2006**.

Presentations at professional conferences:

Thigpen, R; Guinovart, C; Cahun, H.P. *Accurate communication across all stakeholder groups is key to a resilient blue economy*. Panel: EXPECTED THE UNEXPECTED Impacts and social issues of Sargassum in pre and post-COVID times. 11th MARE *People and the Sea Conference*. Amsterdam, Netherlands. **28.07.2021**

Thigpen, R., King, T. D., Matamoros, G. *Combinando Sistemas de Conocimiento Ecológicos No-occidentales con Ciencias Occidentales para Crear Contextual Plan de Estudios de Biología de Conservación Bilingüe para las Comunidades Indígenas en Mesoamérica*. XXIV Congreso de la Sociedad Mesoamericana para La Biología y la Conservación. Antigua, Guatemala. **octubre 2019**.

Thigpen, R. *El Nexo de la Educación en Ciencias de Conservación Marina y las Comunidades Pesqueras*. XXIII Congreso De La Sociedad Mesoamericana para La Biología y la Conservación, Panamá City, Panamá. **octubre 2018**.

Thigpen, R.; Erazo, G. M. M.; López, C.E.O.; Thomson, D.E.; Devender, W. V.; King, T.D. *The Intersection of Mutualistic Lexicography, Creoles, Indigenous Languages and Conversation Science Education in the Greater Caribbean Basin*. Biennial Meeting of the Society of Caribbean Linguistics 22nd Biennial Conference, Heredia & Limón, Costa Rica, **August 2018**.

Thigpen, R. *¿Por qué enseñar Conservación Marina a Escuelas que Usan Lenguas Nativas en las Comunidades Pesqueras?* XXII Congreso De La Sociedad Mesoamericana para La Biología y la Conservación, San José, Costa Rica. **octubre 2017**.

Thigpen, R. *Flujo del agua en productos de la Langosta Espinosa del Caribe (Panulirus argus), una preocupación socioeconómica, un asunto de sostenibilidad pesquera*. XVII Congreso De La Sociedad Mesoamericana para La Biología y la Conservación, La Habana, Cuba. **septiembre 2016**.

Thigpen, R., Creed, R. *Technique for Non-lethal Stable Isotope Analysis of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (Panulirus argus) and Stone Crab (Menippe mercenaria)*, Association of Southeastern Biologist, USC, Columbia, SC, **2007**.

Thigpen, R.; Creed, R.P. *Measuring Ontogenic Shift in the Diet of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (Panulirus argus) from Puerulus Stage through Adult using Stable Isotope Analysis*. Association of Southeastern Biologists, USC, Columbia, SC, **2007**.

Thigpen, R.; Tuberty, S. R. *Belize: Common Practices and Sustainability Issues among Belizean Lobster Fishermen*. Belize National Marine Science Symposium, Belize City, Belize, **2006**.

Thigpen, R. *Belize: Evolution in Invertebrate Fishing Technologies*. State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research Symposium, NCSU Raleigh, NC, **2005**.

Thigpen, R.; Tuberty, S.R. *Sexual dimorphism in adolescent Panulirus argus*. Southern Appalachian Conference on Arthropod Biology, UNC- Asheville, Asheville, NC, **2005**.

Publications in Symposia Proceedings:

Thigpen, R. and Tuberty, S. R. *Belize: Common Practices and Sustainability Issues among Belizean Lobster Fishermen*. Proceedings of the 1st Belize National Marine Science Symposium, **2006**.

Creed, R. P. and **Thigpen**, R. *Non-lethal Methodology for Stable Isotope Analysis of Spiny Lobsters (Panulirus argus)*. Proceedings of the 59th annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, November **2006**.

Research Publicity:

*Universidad Intercultural Maya de Quintana Roo, José María Morelos: Se desarrollará proyecto maya para salvaguardar la cultura e idioma local. La UIMQROO y Conservación Marina Sin Fronteras pactan alianza para proyecto comunitario. El Proyecto [Múul tuukul yo'osal u kanaanil báak' pachil ichil maaya kajtalilo'ob](#) tiene como objetivo salvaguardar los derechos humanos, incluyendo la igualdad sobre el derecho de acceso a una educación sobre las ciencias y proporcionar nuevas oportunidades para que las generaciones más jóvenes permanezcan en su contexto y salvaguarden su cultura e idioma. 29 Junio, **2021***

Love TV, Belize: [The Morning Show](#). Ms. Myrna Manzanares of the Belize National Kriol Council and I discuss our collaborative work. 19 December **2019**.

King, Thomas, D. [A New Approach to Bilingual Marine Conservation Science Education | The Collaborative work of Caribbean Communities and Marine Conservation without Borders](#) *Langscape Magazine*, Volume 7, Issue 1

Channel 5 Belize TV: [Open Your Eyes](#) (morning show) 04 December **2006**.

References:

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