

VALERIO DONFRANCESCO

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Qualifications

- 2024 PhD in Geography**
University of Cambridge
- 2018 MSc in Conservation Science and Policy**
University of Exeter
- 2017 BSc in Animal Behaviour**
University of Exeter

Employment

- 2025 Teaching Fellow**
University of Aberdeen (Dept of Geography & Environment)
- 2021-2024 Teaching Associate**
University of Cambridge (Dept of Geography / Zoology)
- 2018-2019 Membership Development Officer**
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Peer-reviewed articles

- 2025 Donfrancesco, V.** “The radical edge of more-than-human political ecology: A clarification of scope and approach”. *Progress in Environmental Geography*, 4(4): 465-481
- 2025 Doney, E., Fry, T., Donfrancesco, V., Pettersson, H., Nijhawan, S., Clark, D., Driessen, C., Ampumuza, C. & Sandbrook, C.** “Reimagining habituation: The case for a reciprocal and contextual understanding”. *People and Nature*, 7(10): 2278-2290
- 2025 Donfrancesco, V. & Sandbrook, C.** “Agrarian change and predators’ mobilities: A more-than-human political ecology of wolf impacts”. *Environment and Planning E*, 8(5): 1763-1788
- 2025 Donfrancesco, V. & Sandbrook, C.** “From biopower to affirmative biopolitics: A (bio)political ecology of becoming with wolves”. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 50: e12744
- 2024 Donfrancesco, V.** “De- and re-peasantization through wolves: A more-than-human political ecology of agrarian change”. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 31(1): 586–603

- 2024 Donfrancesco, V.** “(Co)producing landscapes of coexistence: A historical political ecology of human-wolf relations in Italy”. *Geoforum*, 149: 103958
- 2023 Donfrancesco, V.** [+26 authors] & Cairns, K.M. “Understanding conflict among experts working on controversial species: a case study on the Australian dingo”. *Conservation Science and Practice*, 5, e12900
- 2022 Donfrancesco, V.** & Luque-Lora, R. “Managing hybridization beyond the natural-anthropogenic dichotomy”. *Conservation Biology*, 36, e13816
- 2021 Galluzzi, A., Donfrancesco, V., Mastrantonio, G., Sulli, C. & Ciucci, P.** “Cost of Coexisting with a Relict Large Carnivore Population: Impact of Apennine Brown Bears, 2005–2015”. *Animals*, 11, 1453
- 2020 Salvatori, V., Donfrancesco, V.** [+22 authors], & Ciucci, P. “European agreements for nature conservation need to explicitly address wolf-dog hybridisation”. *Biological Conservation*, 247, 108525
- 2019 Donfrancesco, V.** [+44 authors] & Mukherjee, N. “Unravelling the scientific debate on how to address wolf-dog hybridization in Europe”. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 7, 175

Invited book reviews

- 2025 Donfrancesco, V.** “Living with wolves: Affects, feelings and sentiments in human-wolf-coexistence”. *Conservation & Society*, 23(1): 37-38

Funding and awards

- 2023 Internship Grant**
Grand Challenges Cambridge [£4,655]
- 2022 Travel Grant Award**
Churchill College [£500]
- 2020 Cambridge PhD Scholarship (CAM-DTP)**
UKRI ESRC [£71,622]
- 2020 UCL PhD Scholarship (UBEL-DTP)**
UKRI ESRC [£79,605] [Declined]
- 2018 Dean’s Commendation** for *Best Overall Mark for MSc Conservation Science and Policy*
University of Exeter
- 2018 Dean’s Commendation** for *Best Research Project Mark for MSc Conservation Science and Policy*
University of Exeter

- 2017 Exeter Leaders Award** for extracurricular leadership
University of Exeter
- 2016 Exeter Award** for extracurricular contributions
University of Exeter
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Conference activity

- 2026 Donfrancesco, V.** “From ‘whether’ to ‘how’: Strategising more-than-human political ecologies”. POLLEN26 – Diverse Origins, Multiple Futures: The Stories of Political Ecology. Barcelona, Spain [Accepted talk, but could not attend]
- 2023 Donfrancesco, V.** “Transcending problematic dualisms in managing wolf-dog hybridisation”. Wolves Across Borders: International Conference. Stockholm, Sweden. [Talk]
- 2023 Donfrancesco, V., Salvatori, V. & Sandström, C.** “Towards an effective and socially just governance of human-wolf interactions”. Wolves Across Borders International Conference. Stockholm, Sweden. [Workshop]
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Public scholarship

- 2026 Donfrancesco, V.** “Capitalismo, il grande assente nel dibattito sul declassamento del lupo” [“Capitalism - the elephant in the room in the wolf downlisting debate”]. *Scienza in Rete*
- 2025 Donfrancesco, V. & Sandbrook, C.** “What does radical wildlife care look like?”. *Geography Directions* (RGS-IBG)
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Invited talks and lectures

- 2024 Donfrancesco, V.** “Welcome to political ecology”. Fitzwilliam College Geography Taster Programme, University of Cambridge
- 2024 Donfrancesco, V.** “Reflections on a more-than-human political ecology”. Vital Geographies Lightning Talks. University of Cambridge
- 2023 Donfrancesco, V.** “The wolf’s tale retold: How capitalism and more-than-human agencies coproduce societal relationships with wolves”. Political Ecology Seminar Series, University of Cambridge
- 2021 Donfrancesco, V.** “Where do we trace entanglements with wolves?”. Tracks, Traces, & Threads Workshop. Vital Geographies research cluster, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge

- 2020 Donfrancesco, V.** “What is ‘coexistence’ between people and large carnivores?”. Annual Conference of the Conservation Research Institute, David Attenborough Building, Cambridge
- 2018 Donfrancesco, V.** “A half-blood’s fate: Managing wolf x dog hybridisation in Europe”. FXU Science Festival, University of Exeter
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Webinars

- 2023** Hoffman, R., **Donfrancesco, V.** and Roe, D. 2023. “Launch of the Species Use Database”. IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group
- 2023** Hoffman, R., **Donfrancesco, V.** and Roe, D. 2023. “Introducing the Species Use Database – a new online resource to improve knowledge and understanding of how wild species are used globally”. Conservation Science Group, Conservation Research Institute, Cambridge
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Media cover and interviews

- 2020** EOS Wetenschap [Belgian science magazine]. “Kruisingen met honden bedreigen de wolf. Een ongewenst liefdeskind” (pp. 28-31) May. [Print]
- 2019** BBC Wildlife magazine. “How to keep dogs from wolves’ doors” Vol. 37 No. 9 (p. 55) August. [Print]
- 2019** Le Scienze [Italian edition of Scientific American]. “E il lupo europeo diventò un po’ cane”. June
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Research students (completed)

- 2025** Thompson, J. “What is a healthy ecosystem? Exploring stakeholder perspectives in Scotland”. Master’s dissertation, University of Aberdeen [Main supervisor]
- 2025** Heywood, A. “Wilder farming: Transhumant culture and ecological needs of the uplands in Morvern, Scotland”. Master’s dissertation, University of Aberdeen [Main supervisor]
- 2025** Kalejaiye, O. “The green skills employment challenge in North-East Scotland”. Master’s dissertation, University of Aberdeen [Main supervisor]
- 2025** McBain, E. “The differing perceptions of migrants as portrayed by UK newspapers and media outlets in the 21st century”. Undergraduate dissertation, University of Aberdeen [Main supervisor]

- 2025** Poolman, A. "A feminist granite city? Assessing current urban planning policies in Aberdeen". Undergraduate dissertation, University of Aberdeen [Main supervisor].
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Academic service

2020-present Peer reviewer

[28 verified peer reviews for 17 journals; Web of Science]

- Including for: *Capitalism Nature Socialism*; *Conservation Biology*; *Conservation Letters*; *Culture, Theory and Critique*; *Environment and Planning E*; *Gender, Place & Culture*; *Journal of Political Ecology*; *Oryx*; *People and Nature*; *Political Geography*; *Progress in Environmental Geography*; *Theory, Culture & Society*

2022-2023 Co-lead

Political Ecology Research Group, University of Cambridge

Consultancy

2023 Consultant

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

2018-2020 Consultant

ENhancing COexistence through SHaring (ENCOSH)