

# Nicholai M. HENSLEY

## NSF Postdoctoral Fellow – Neurobiology & Behavior – Cornell University



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### PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

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2020    **NSF Postdoctoral Fellow** | Neurobiology & Behavior | Cornell University  
Supervisor: Dr. Kerry L. Shaw

### EDUCATION

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2020    **Doctorate of Philosophy** | Ecology, Evolution, & Marine Biology | UC Santa Barbara  
“*Looking Under the Light Pulse: an integrative case study on the mating behaviors of Caribbean sea fireflies (Crustacea, Ostracoda, Cypridinidae)*”  
Committee: Drs. Todd H. Oakley (*chair*), Thomas L. Turner, Trevor J. Rivers

2018    **Masters of Arts** | Ecology, Evolution, & Marine Biology | UC Santa Barbara

2012    **Bachelors of Science** | Ecology, Behavior, & Evolution | UC Los Angeles  
Minor | Conservation Biology  
*Magna Cum Laude*, UCLA College Honors, Departmental Highest Honors

### RESEARCH GRANTS

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\$1,000	American Microscopical Society Student Research Fellowship, June 2020
\$60,000	NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology, March 2020 - 2023
\$5,000	NSF Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide, July 2019
\$1,500	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, May 2018
\$2,081	American Museum of Natural History Lerner Gray Memorial Fund, May 2018
\$1,600	UC Santa Barbara Department of Ecology, Evolution, & Marine Biology Block Grant, April 2018
\$700	Sigma Xi Grant-In-Aid-of-Research, January 2015
\$2,337	Society for the Study of Evolution Rosemary Grant Award for Graduate Student Research, May 2014

### FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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Oct 2020 - 2024	NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology, \$216,000
Jan - Apr 2020	NSF Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide, \$6,459.72
June 2019	UC Santa Barbara Academic Senate Doctoral Student Travel Award, \$1,350
June 2019	Animal Behavior Society Graduate Student Travel Grant, \$500 - declined
June 2019	Animal Behavior Society Diversity Travel Award, declined
May 2019	Worster Award for the development of graduate and undergraduate research, \$2,500
April 2019	Society of Molecular Biology and Evolution Young Investigator Award, \$350
May 2018	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Short Term Fellowship, \$3,000
Jun - Aug 2017	NSF East Asia & Pacific Summer Institute Fellowship, \$5,400
2015, '17, '18, '19	UC Santa Barbara Graduate Student Association Travel Award, \$200 ea.
2015 - 2018	NSF Graduate Student Research Fellowship, \$102,000
2014	NSF Graduate Student Research Fellowship Honorable Mention,
2013 - 2015	UC Santa Barbara Regents Special Fellowship, \$53,000
June 2012	UC Los Angeles 15th Annual Biology Research Symposium Undergraduate Poster Award,
June 2012	UC Los Angeles Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Special Faculty Award,
July 2011	NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates, \$4,000

## Journal Articles

1. Ellis, E. A., Goodheart, J. A., **Hensley, N. M.**, Gonzalez, V. L., Reda, N. J., Rivers, T. J., Morin, J. G., Torres, E., Gerrish, G. A. & Oakley, T. H. Transcriptome phylogenies support ancient evolutionary transitions in bioluminescence traits of cypridinid ostracods. *bioRxiv*. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.09.03.458903> (submitted).
2. Sung, J. Y., Harris, O. K., **Hensley, N. M.**, Chemero, A. P. & Morehouse, N. I. Beyond cognitive templates: re-examining template metaphors for animal cognition and navigation. *Integrative & Comparative Biology*. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icab040> (Apr. 2021).
3. Picciani de Souza, N., Kerlin, J. R., Jindrich, K., **Hensley, N. M.**, Gold, D. A. & Oakley, T. H. Light modulated cnidocyte discharge predates the origins of eyes in Cnidaria. *Ecology and Evolution*. doi:<https://doi.org/10.22541/au.159626523.36299944> (Mar. 2021).
4. **Hensley, N. M.**, Ellis, E. A., Leung, N. Y., Coupart, J., Mikhailovsky, A., Taketa, D. A., Tessler, M., Gruber, D. F., Mitani, Y., DeTomaso, A. W., Rivers, T. J., Gerrish, G. A., Torres, E. & Oakley, T. H. Selection, drift, and constraint in cypridinid luciferases and the diversification of bioluminescent signals in sea fireflies. *Molecular Ecology*. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.15673> (Oct. 2020).
5. **Hensley, N. M.**, Ellis, E. A., Gerrish, G. A., Torres, E., Frawley, J. P., Oakley, T. H. & Rivers, T. J. Phenotypic evolution shaped by current enzyme function in the bioluminescent courtship signals of sea fireflies. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* **286**, 20182621 (Jan. 2019).
6. Gold, D. A., Nakanishi, N., **Hensley, N. M.**, Hartenstein, V. & Jacobs, D. K. Cell tracking supports secondary gastrulation in the moon jellyfish *Aurelia*. *Development Genes and Evolution* **226**, 383–387. ISSN: 1432-041X (Nov. 2016).
7. Gold, D. A., Nakanishi, N., **Hensley, N. M.**, Cozzolino, K., Tabatabaee, M., Martin, M., Hartenstein, V. & Jacobs, D. K. Structural and Developmental Disparity in the Tentacles of the Moon Jellyfish *Aurelia* sp.1. *PLOS ONE* **10**, 1–12 (Aug. 2015).
8. **Hensley, N. M.**, Drury, J. P., Garland Jr., T. & Blumstein, D. T. Vivid birds do not initiate flight sooner despite their potential conspicuousness. *Current Zoology* **61**, 773–780 (May 2015).
9. **Hensley, N. M.**, Elmasri, O. L., Slaughter, E. I., Kappus, S. & Fong, P. Two species of *Halimeda*, a calcifying genus of tropical macroalgae, are robust to epiphytism by cyanobacteria. *Aquatic Ecology* **47**, 433–440. ISSN: 1573-5125 (Dec. 2013).
10. **Hensley, N. M.**, Cook, T. C., Lang, M., Petelle, M. B. & Blumstein, D. T. Personality and habitat segregation in giant sea anemones (*Condylactis gigantea*). *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* **426-427**, 1–4. ISSN: 0022-0981 (May 2012).

## Projects in Progress

1. **Hensley, N. M.**, Mami, K., Gerrish, G. A., Saha, R., Lew, J., Rivers, T. J., Mitani, Y. & Oakley, T. H. *Evolution of enzyme specificity predicts shifts in bioluminescent mating behaviors* (in prep).
2. **Hensley, N. M.**, van der Heide, W. & Shaw, K. L. *Acoustic signal interference and reproductive character displacement during community assembly of Hawaiian *Laupala* crickets* (in prep).

## Writings for Science Communication

1. **Hensley, N. M.** *Chuckie D's recipe for the classic BLT: a group of bisexual, labile, tomatos*. Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology. (2021).
2. **Hensley, N. M.** *The Fast and the Furious: dueling shrimp see fast!* Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology. (2021).
3. **Hensley, N. M.** *Larger than life experiments expose the machinery inside elephant trunks*. Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology. (2020).
4. **Hensley, N. M.** *The Devil Wears Prada: Birds Have Designer Cheats to Make The Bland Look Beautiful*. Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology. (2019).

## PRESENTATIONS

September 2021	Early Career Researcher Living Light, Virtual
August 2021	Animal Behavior Society, Virtual
June 2021	Evolution, Virtual

July 2019	Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution, Manchester (UK)
January 2019	Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Tampa (FL - USA)
February 2018	UC Santa Barbara EEMB Graduate Student Symposium, Santa Barbara (CA - USA)
August 2017	International Symposium on Ostracoda, Santa Barbara (CA - USA)
June 2017	Japan Advanced Institute for Science and Technology, Sapporo (Hokkaido - Japan)
February 2017	California State University, Los Angeles, Los Angeles (CA - USA)
January 2017	Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, New Orleans (CA - USA)
April 2016	HHMI Janelia Junior Scientist Workshop, Ashburn (Virginia - USA)
August 2015	Cypridinid Ostracod Workshop, Marin (CA - USA)
January 2015	Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, West Palm Beach (FL - USA)

## TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

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<b>GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANT</b> UC Santa Barbara EEMB 102: Macroevolution	APRIL - JUNE 2019, 2020
<b>GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANT</b> UC Santa Barbara EEMB 138: Ethology/Behavioral Ecology	JANUARY - MARCH 2015, 2019
<b>GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANT</b> UC Santa Barbara EEMB 116: Invertebrate Zoology II <span>Arthropods</span> <span>Annelids</span>	MAY - JUNE 2015
<b>GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANT</b> UC Santa Barbara EEMB 112: Invertebrate Zoology I <span>Non-Arthropods</span> <span>Marine Diversity</span>	SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2014, 2019
<b>TEACHING ASSISTANT</b> UC Los Angeles EEB 100L: Introduction to Ecology and Behavior Laboratory <span>Led student-designed projects</span>	MARCH - JUNE 2013
<b>TEACHING ASSISTANT</b> UC Los Angeles EEB 153: Ecological Responses to Environmental Variables	SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2012
<b>MENTOR FOR UNDERGRADUATES</b> Marisa Christopher (UC Santa Barbara), Harper Wood (UC Santa Barbara), Katherine Peterson (UC Santa Barbara), Brooke Webster (UC Santa Barbara), Mira Brynjegard-Bialik (UC Santa Barbara), Maria Pilar-Gonzales (California Alliance for Minority Participation), John Coupart (UC Santa Barbara), Joseph Russo (UC Santa Barbara), Michelle Martin (UC Los Angeles), Holly Fuong (UC Los Angeles), Miriam Tabatabaee (UC Los Angeles)	
<b>MENTOR FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS</b> Erin Youn, Camilla Martinez, Madison Pfau, Tobie Jessup, Jason Goodman, Chau Pham <span>Research Mentorship Program</span>	

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>REVIEWER</b> Journal of Crustacean Biology, PNAS (co-reviewed), Behavioral Ecology & Sociobiology	
<b>PARTICIPANT</b> Neurobiology: Mechanisms & Advanced Approaches, Marine Biological Lab in Woods Hole	JULY 2021
<b>PARTICIPANT</b> Cornell Professional Development: Building Mentorship Skills for Academic Careers	SPRING 2021
<b>WRITER</b> Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Public Affairs Committee Press Releases	JANUARY 2020, 2021
<b>WRITER</b> Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Public Affairs Committee Student Journalist	JANUARY 2019
<b>PARTICIPANT</b> Workshop on Molecular Evolution, Marine Biological Lab in Woods Hole	JULY 2018
<b>PARTICIPANT</b> Evolutionary Quantitative Genetics Workshop, Friday Harbor Lab	JUNE 2018
<b>PARTICIPANT</b> Cypridinid Ostracod Workshop	JULY 2015
<b>PARTICIPANT</b> 2nd Annual International Frozen Zoo Cell Culture Seminar at the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research	OCTOBER 2014

 SERVICE & OUTREACH

<b>JUNIOR ORGANIZER</b>	JANUARY 2020 - 2021
SICB 2021 Symposium: Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Animal Communication	
<b>PARTICIPANT</b>	JUNE 2020, JANUARY 2021
Skype a Scientist	
<b>FOUNDER AND ORGANIZER</b>	APRIL - JUNE 2019
UC Santa Barbara EEMB Professional Development Workshop <span>Preparing job materials through peer review</span>	
<b>PANELIST</b>	APRIL 2019
UC Santa Barbara Queer and Trans Graduate Student Union <span>For LGBTQIA* undergraduates on graduate school</span>	
<b>PANELIST</b>	JANUARY 2019
Western University panel on popular science writing (via skype)	
<b>GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE</b>	JANUARY 2019
UC Santa Barbara EEMB Faculty Search Committee	
<b>PARTICIPANT</b>	MAY 2018, AUGUST 2016
McKinley Elementary School Career Day	
<b>VICE PRESIDENT &amp; CO-FOUNDER</b>	APRIL 2018 - JANUARY 2019
OUTreach Seminar Series <span>Highlighting LGBTQIA* life scientists</span>	
<b>PANELIST</b>	FEBRUARY 2018
oSTEM Graduate Student Panel <span>For LGBTQIA* undergraduates on graduate school</span>	
<b>PARTICIPANT</b>	NOVEMBER 2017
UC Santa Barbara SciTrek <span>Teaching observational science modules to 3rd graders</span>	
<b>PANELIST</b>	OCTOBER 2017
La Colina Middle School science fair project consultant	
<b>LEAD ORGANIZER</b>	2015 - 2017
UC Santa Barbara EEMB Graduate Student Symposium <span>Co-organized with 3 others</span>	
<b>PANELIST</b>	SEPTEMBER 2017, OCTOBER 2016, MAY 2016
UC Santa Barbara EEMB Graduate Student Panel <span>Focused on NSF GRFP materials</span>	
<b>VOLUNTEER DOCENT</b>	MARCH 2014 - SEPTEMBER 2016
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Sea Center	

 FIELD WORK

May 2021	Cricket collection and abundance surveys, Big Island, Hawaii
January 2019	Ostracod collection, Florida Keys, Florida
October 2018	Ostracod behavior, Smithsonian Tropical Research Center Bocas del Toro, Panama
March 2018	Ostracod behavior, Hangman Caye, Belize
May 2017	Ostracod collection, Smithsonian Tropical Research Center Bocas del Toro, Panama
August 2016	Ostracod collection, University of Puerto Rico Isla Magueyes Field Station, Puerto Rico
July 2016	Ostracod collection, Roatan, Honduras
July 2016	Ostracod collection, Two Harbors, Catalina, California
January 2016	Ostracod collection, Smithsonian Field Station Carrie Bow Caye, Belize
July 2015	Ostracod collection, University of the West Indies Marine Lab Discovery Bay, Jamaica
January 2014	Ostracod collection, Smithsonian Field Station Carrie Bow Caye, Belize
January 2014	Ostracod collection, Two Harbors, Catalina, California
December 2013	Ostracod collection, Two Harbors, Catalina, California
October 2011	Cnidarian behavior and macroalgae community dynamics, Calabash Caye Field Station, Belize
October 2010	Fish behavior and parasitology, Bodega Bay Marine Lab, Bodega Bay, California