NILO MERINO RECALDE

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🌐 nilomr.github.io

PROFILE

I am a scientist and visual designer with a background in anthropology, biology, and visual arts, blending technical analysis with creative design. I specialize in developing open-source tools, managing large-scale, data-driven projects, and collaborating with multi-disciplinary teams, often under tight deadlines. My experience spans the curation, analysis, and visualization of complex datasets, coupled with over a decade of expertise in design software, infographics, and visual communication across media. I am passionate about building tools and data visualization

WORK EXPERIENCE

2024–Present
Postdoctoral Researcher
University of Oxford

I develop methods to study and visualise spatiotemporal variation in animal diversity, advise on research projects, teach statistics, machine learning, and programming.

2020–2024
Student Tutor & Student Supervision
University of Oxford

I supervised and marked programming projects, delivered courses on bioacoustics and programming, and taught statistics, version control, and high-performance computing to students and peers.

2012–2017
Second Unit Director | Cinematographer
Dubai Films LLC

Led and coordinated international film units (4-10 people) on location in Ukraine, Belarus, Romania, Mongolia, UK, Spain, Sweden, Norway, UAE, often with strict timelines and tight deadlines.

2011–2012
Camera and Jib Operator, Assistant Camera
Voyage of Time: IMAX (Malick, 2016)
US unit (California, Wyoming, Montana)

EDUCATION

PhD in Biology
University of Oxford, 2019–23

Developed tools to collect, analyse and visualise large data sets of bird songs, and studied how they vary across time and space

BSc in Anthropology
Durham University, 2016–19

Took part in projects studying cultural diversity in music and visual art

Bacc. in Visual Arts
IES MG Aragon, Spain, 2010–12

Studied illustration, painting, graphic design, video editing

SKILLS

Data Visualisation
Infographics, maps, interactive

Software Tools Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Figma, InDesign, Blender, QGIS

Data Analysis Statistical modelling, deep learning and network analysis of large geospatial, time-series, multimedia data sets.

Programming Python, R, bash, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Svelte, D3.js, TS/JS

Open Data and Transparency
Reproducible data analysis & visualisation pipelines, collaborative version control.

Communication Teaching, collaborating & presenting complex ideas to broad audiences

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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Merino Recalde, N., Estandia, A., Keen, S., Cole, E. F., & Sheldon, B. C. (2025). *The demographic drivers of cultural evolution in bird song*. Current Biology, 35 1-10.

Merino Recalde, N., Estandia, A., Pichot, L., Vansse, A., Cole, E. F., & Sheldon, B. C. (2024). *A densely sampled and richly annotated acoustic data set from a wild bird population*. Animal Behaviour, 211, 111-122

Merino Recalde, N. (2023). *pykanto: A Python library to accelerate research on wild bird song*. Methods in Ecology and Evolution, 14(8), 1994–2002.

WORKSHOPS AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Complex Systems Science Workshop, Santa Fe Institute, US (2020)
Participated in a 3-week workshop on complex systems science (global climate, organisms, the human brain), enhancing the ability to handle and visualise dynamic datasets from very different domains.

Spatially Explicit Eco-Evolutionary Simulations, University of Geneva, CH (2020)
Trained in spatial data modeling, key for developing accurate maps and data-driven content.

Complexity Science and Past Complex Systems, TORCH PastNet, University of Oxford, UK (2019)
Explored methods for analyzing complex datasets, supporting innovative storytelling approaches.

Perspectives on Neuroaesthetics, Vienna School in Cognition, UK (2018)
Studied visual perception and the biological mechanisms behind aesthetic experiences, of great relevance to crafting effective visualisations.

Picos de Europa Ice Caves Survey, PANGEA Research Group, ES (2016 – 2018)
Speleologist and photographer in a multidisciplinary team.

PORTFOLIO: nilomr.github.io/#data-viz

SELECTED TALKS

2021–24
Contributed talks on demography and cultural evolution in bird song at major conferences in Biology and Anthropology across Denmark, Canada, Czechia, Scotland, England.

Invited speaker at the Max Planck Instit. for Empirical Aesthetics & Cornell University.

LANGUAGES

Spanish Native

English Full professional proficiency

SELECTED AWARDS

EGI Graduate Scholarship – £26k (2022)

Oxford Biology Graduate Symposium – Best Poster (2022)

Clarendon Scholarship – £180k (2019)

Durham Undergraduate Research Scholarship – £2k (2018)

V Astillero Video Art Contest – First Prize (2012)

NHM Wildlife Photographer of the Year – Highly Commended (2008)

DC Young Photographer of the Year – Second Place (2007)

Spanish National Research Council Scientific Photography Contest (2006)