

Laura C Salazar Hofmann

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Relevant academic background

2023	PhD in Developmental Biology, SRUC/UoE*. Thesis: 'Exploring the hidden welfare problem of gastric ulceration in sows: Behaviour and saliva composition as possible methods of diagnosis'
2016	MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare with merit, UoE/SRUC. Dissertation: 'The effect of early socialization on social behaviour and performance in piglets (<i>Sus scrofa</i>) at a commercial farm'
2013	BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Science, University of Concepcion, Chile. Dissertation: 'Nutrient voluntary intake with different levels of forage inclusion in growing wild boars (<i>Sus scrofa</i>) at a semi-intensive production system'

Research experience

2024/25	Postdoc researcher, Management and Modelling section, Animal and Veterinary Sciences, AU*. Participation in two large-scale projects as part of an international and multidisciplinary consortium : Smp-FOOD-2022-PigStun 'Development of non-aversive stunning methods for pigs' for the economic analysis of alternative stunning methods working closely with stakeholders; and EUPAHW SOA9 Knowledge platform in the collection of existing animal welfare measures, methods, protocols and tools (Task 2), and co-coordination of assessment of candidate measures for routine and large-scale monitoring of animal welfare (Task 4)
2019/23	PhD Student, Animal Behaviour and Welfare Team, SRUC. Investigation of new methods of identifying pigs with gastric ulcers aiming for on-farm surveillance.
2018	Collaboration on a research project evaluating the reintroduction process of a juvenile spider monkey into its original enclosure after a period of medical isolation at the National Zoo of Chile
2017/18	Research technician, Animal Science department, Faculty of Agronomy and natural systems, PUC*, Chile. Participation in two projects : 'Palatability in pigs. The pleasure of consumption' involving the assessment of feeding behaviour to assess palatability with a newly developed measure and social learning in pigs, PI Dr Jaime Figueroa, and 'Assessment of ante-mortem inspection and condemnation in Chilean slaughter pigs to support the use of meat inspection as an animal health and welfare diagnostic tool' involving close organisation of logistics with the relevant people for the assessment of animal welfare outcomes both on-farm and at slaughter, PI Dr Dayane Teixeira
2016	MSc student, School of Veterinary Science, UAB*, Spain. Participation in three studies as part of 'Smarter pigs for better welfare and performance' involving close organisation of the logistics with farmers, behaviour assessment in pigs, PI Dr Pol Llonch
2012	Undergraduate student, Institute of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, UACH*, Chile. Participation in two projects : 'Forest fragmentation and risk of disease infection between domestic and wild carnivores in the rural interface in southern Chile' in field data collection and 'Mitigation of the conflict between livestock and wild predators: A strategy for reducing the socioeconomic impact of losses due to predation' in the pre-structured interviews of smallholders in the south of Chile, PI Dr Gerardo Acosta

*SRUC Scotland's Rural College
UoE University of Edinburgh
AU Aarhus University
PUC Pontifical Catholic University of Chile
UAB Autonomous University of Barcelona
UACH Austral University of Chile

Successful application to research funds

2022	‘Small Project and Travel Awards’, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
2019	‘Edgar Pye Research Trust Scholarships’, Society of Feed Technologist
2019	‘Becas Chile’ for International PhD programs, Chilean Government, study fees, research funds and stipend, 4.5 years
2015	‘Becas Chile’ for international MSc programs, Chilean Government, study fees, research funds and stipend, 1 year

Science communication to relevant scientific audience

Salazar et al. 2023.	Are hunger-related oral behaviours associated with gastric ulcers in pigs? Proceedings of the 56th Congress of the ISAE
Salazar et al. 2021.	Ad-lib fed finishing pigs perform oral behaviours usually associated with hunger in dry sows. In: Dwyer et al (Ed) Proceedings of the 54th Congress of the ISAE
Salazar et al. 2020.	Are hunger-related oral behaviours also caused by other factors in pigs?. In: ISAE Regional UK meeting
Salazar-Hofmann et al. 2017.	Efecto de la sociabilización temprana sobre parámetros productivos, agresiones y estrés postdestete en lechones en un plantel comercial [<i>Effect of early socialization on productive parameters, aggression, and post-weaning stress in piglets in a commercial herd</i>]. En: Allende et al (Ed). XLII Reunión Anual Sociedad Chilena de Producción Animal (SOCHIPA A.G.)
Salazar et al. 2017.	The effect of socialization before weaning on social behaviour and performance in piglets (<i>Sus scrofa</i>) at a commercial farm. In: Jensen et al (Ed). 51st Congress of the ISAE - Understanding animal behaviour. Aarhus: WAP
Salazar et al. 2013.	Consumo de nutrientes con diferentes niveles de incorporación de forraje en un sistema semi intensivo de jabalíes (<i>Sus scrofa</i>) en crecimiento [<i>Nutrient intake with different levels of forage incorporation in a semi-intensive system for growing wild boar (Sus scrofa)</i>]. III Congreso Nacional de Divulgación y Actualización Científica Medicina Veterinaria, Temuco, Chile

Science communication to relevant technical audience and others

2023	Invited speaker on pig welfare for Chilean pig farm ‘MaxAgro’, organized by Zoetis and Universidad de Concepción, Chile
2022	Invited speaker as awarded student: ‘Diagnosing the hidden problem of gastric ulcers in pigs: can behaviour or salivary metabolites help?’ In: Society of Feed Technologist Annual Pig Conference, Birmingham, UK
2021	Oral presentation of PhD study ‘A study of association between gastric ulcers and behaviour in sows’, Animal Welfare Group Seminars
2020	Invited speaker on welfare issues in the pig industry for animal welfare assessors organized by the Austral University of Chile
2017	Invited speaker on ‘How can stress be reduced in piglets after weaning?’ for Centro de Estudos Comparativos em Saúde e Bem-Estar, Brazil (Online)

Experience organising talks, seminars and conferences

2025 - present	Member of the organizing team for the Animal Welfare Group which involves devising and contacting past and new speakers, participate in the dissemination of the talks, moderate talks and publish content when appropriate
2020 - present	Organization of online talks with simultaneous translation into Spanish e.g. Dr Lauren Smith ‘Impact of free-roaming dog population management strategies’, Dr Beth Ventura ‘Communication of animal welfare’
2022	Co-organization of the SRUC Postgraduate student conference
2021	Co-organization of online Symposium ‘Día Mundial del Médico Veterinario’ [World Veterinary Day] on animal welfare, natural disasters and sustainability, 29th April

Contribution to technical written material

SMp-FOOD-2022-PigStun, Deliverable 4 Analyses and recommendations

European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare, SOA 9, Deliverable 9.2 Report about the evaluation of existing and implemented welfare assessment, including detailed categorization and description of measures and on the standards for data collection, analysis and interpretation

European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare, SOA 9, Deliverable for Task 4 (research stage)

Creation of educational material on animal sentience and ethics based upon talks organised by the Animal Welfare Commission for the Chilean College for Veterinarians (COLMEVET)

Reviewed articles

2024 SOURCE-WORK-ID: 4b35d5ae-293f-4d18-bc0f-037ebc67a0f4, Convening organization: Elsevier, Inc. (New York, US)

Other past and current relevant roles

2025 Seat at the **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion working group**, Animal and Veterinary sciences, Aarhus University

2025 Co-organizer of the Animal Welfare Group slack platform

2020 Seat at the Commission for Animal Welfare of the Chilean College of Veterinarians (COLMEVET); organization of relevant talks, feedback on law projects on animal welfare, press releases on topics and news relevant to animal welfare, participation in appropriate actions against animal cruelty cases

2022 Member of the Committee for the approval of the MRes Zoonoses and the Epidemiology of Animal Infectious Diseases programme by the University of Glasgow

2021 **Facilitating a Memorandum of understanding** between SRUC and Chilean farm company 'Agrosuper' to undertake future research in animal welfare

2015/16 Student representative for MSc program

Active memberships

2025 Co-founder of Chilean Association for Animal Welfare (SOCHEPA), Chilean College of Veterinarian (COLMEVET), British Society of Animal Science, and Animal Welfare Research Network, Chilean Society for Animal Production (SOCHIPA), International Society of Applied Ethology

Other skills

Languages Spanish (native), English (C1 level), German (B2 level)

Software Microsoft Office, Stats software (Minitab 17, Genstat 19, SPSS 28, and learning R)
