

*Curriculum Vitae*  
**THEODORA PINOU**  
**Western Connecticut State University**  
**Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences**  
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Revised: June 2025

**1. Professional Preparation**

New York University	Biology	BA, 1986
New York University	Biology	MS, 1988
New York University	Biology	PhD, 1993
Yale University	Pharmacology	1994 – 1995
Yale University	Ecology& Evolutionary Biology	1995 - 2000
CT Department of Higher Education		
Alternative Route to Certification,	Biology, (ED125)	2004

**2. Appointments**

- Biology Department Chairman & Full Professor, Western Connecticut State University, Department of Biology, 8/2020 – present.
- MS in Integrative Biological Diversity Program Coordinator, Western Connecticut State University, Department of Biology, 6/2019 – 2024.
- H. G. Dowling Herpetological Collection Faculty Curator, Western Connecticut State University, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, 6/2015 – present.
- Full Professor, Western Connecticut State University, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, 8/14 – present.
- Associate Professor, Western Connecticut State University, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, 8/09 –8/14.
- Assistant Professor, Western Connecticut State University, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, 8/04 – 8/09.

**3. Selected Publications/Patents (# Student Co-Authors, ## Teacher Co-Authors)**

**Pinou T.**, \*Manning B., Robinson N.J. 2025. Sea Turtles Bridge Mathematics and Science Instruction: Using Mathematical Concepts, Mapping, And Video Technology to Make sense of Animal Behavior. Science Scope 2024-May-SCOPE-R-2063.R3. *Accepted*

Robinson N.J., Lazo-Wasem E.A., Rojas L, Zardus J.D., **Pinou T.** 2025. Microdermatoglyphic patterns in scutes are highly conserved among sea turtle species. Herpetology Notes. 18:175-180.  
<https://www.biotaxa.org/hn/article/view/85845>.

Robinson N., Doñate-Ordoñez R., Chatzievangelou D., Brooks A.; Cuffley J.; Fields C.; Hoefer S.; **Pinou T.**, Mills S. 2024. Short-term effects of Attaching Animal-Borne devices on the Behavior of Juvenile Green Turtles. Ecology and Evolution. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ece3.70707>

#McMahon M., Reynolds H., **Pinou T.** 2022. Loggerhead sea turtle communities changed following the Gulf Deepwater Horizon oil spill. *Marine Turtle Newsletter (MTN)*.165(2022):1-6.

Monette M., \*Pires J., \*Lalier N., \*Brewster J., **Pinou T.** 2022. Migrating beyond the classroom: Enriching STEM education with family-based, self-directed learning. *Science and Children*. 60(1):59-63.

Robinson N., #Deguzman K., Bonacci-Sullivan L., DiGiovanni R., **Pinou T.** 2020. Do rehabilitated sea turtles resume typical migratory behaviors? Satellite tracking juvenile loggerhead, green, and kemp's ridley turtles in the northeastern USA. *Endangered Species Research* 43: 133-143, DOI.org/10.3354/esr01065. YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/vN69WeGC-Ds>

Robinson N.J., #Lazo-Wasem E., Butler B.O., Lazo-Wasem E.A., Zardus J.D., **Pinou, T.** 2019. Spatial distribution of epibionts on olive ridley sea turtles at Playa Ostional, Costa Rica. *PLoS ONE* 14(9): e0218838. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0218838>.

Majewska, R., Bosak,S., Frankovich, T.A., Ashworth, M.P., Sullivan, M.J., Robinson, N.J., Lazo-Wasem, E. A., **Pinou, T.**, Nel, R., Van de Vijver, B. 2019. Six new epibiotic *Proschkinia* (Bacillariophyta) species and new insights into the genus phylogeny. *The European Journal of Phycology*, 54(4):609-631. DOI: 10.1080/09670262.2019.1628307.

**Pinou, T.** , Domenech, F. , Lazo-Wasem, E., Majewska, R., Pfaller, J. B., Zardus, Robinson, N. J. 2019. Standardizing Sea Turtle Epibiont Sampling: Outcomes of the Epibiont Workshop at the 37<sup>th</sup> International Sea Turtle Symposium. *Marine Turtle Newsletter* 157:22-32.

**Pinou, T.**, Prunier, R., #Bresson, M., Padilla, I. E., Perez, JF.J., Trejo, A., DiGiovanni, R. A., N.J. Robinson. 2018. Repeated sampling adds to the genetic diversity of *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Eschscholtz 1829) olive ridley sea turtle. *Journal of Natural History* 52:2899 - 2917, DOI:10.1080/00222933.2018.1557755.

#### **4. Research Leadership**

##### **National Science Foundation (NSF)**

- Collaborative Research: Gluers, Grippers, and Gougiers: Host-adapted Diversification of Barnacles Epizootic with Marine Megafauna and their Turtlescape Genomics. (NSF) #2344083, \$448,731. Faculty Associate Pinou, 2024 -2027.

##### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

- Finding Our Way: Building a College Ready STEM Pipeline for At-Risk High School Youth Through Watershed Stewardship. #NA19NMF0080088 Award Amount \$306,200.00. PI-Pinou, 8/2019 – 10/23.

- Finding Our Way: An Experiential Watershed Learning Program for Middle School Children and their families: #NA16NMF0080003 Award Amount \$300,178.00. PI- Pinou, 4/2016 – 12/2019.

##### **Private and Corporate Sponsors**

-**Wiederhold Foundation Habitat, Land and Environmental Protection - \$\$20,500.** Effects of Urbanized Roadways on Northern Diamondback Terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin terrapin*). PI-Pinou, 2023

-**Praxair-Linde- \$5,000.** To support Graduate Student Research Training Fellowship. PI- Pinou, 01/20

-**Goldring Family Foundation, Award - \$10,000.00.** To support Terrapin Tracking program. Coordinator- Pinou, 05/19 -2020.

**-Praxair Corporation- \$7,500.00.** To support STEM College Readiness programing in middle school children and their families. PI – Pinou, 11/2018

## **5. Leadership and Professionalism: Synergistic Activities**

### **POSITIONS HELD**

- Curatorial Affiliate in Vertebrate Zoology, Yale University, Peabody Museum of Natural History, 12/04 – Present. (nominated and elected by museum curators).
- Connecticut Science Center Fellow, Connecticut Science Center, Hartford CT, 8/08 – 2012.
- Elected President, Sigma Xi WCSU Chapter, Danbury CT, 5/12 – 5/2018; 5/2020 - current.
- Elected Associate Director, Sigma Xi, Northeast Region, 9/17 – Current

### **SYMPOSIA WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED**

- 2021 Sigma Xi Northeast Region Research Conference, WCSU, Danbury, CT, 17 April (Virtual).
- 2020 Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH), Norfolk, Virginia. *Exemplary Practices in Herpetological Education*; July 20- 26. (Special Invitation).
- 2020 Northeast Natural History Conference, Stamford, CT. *Herpetology Ecology*; April 18-19. (Special Invitation).
- 2020 Science At Night, Danbury, CT. *What Do We Want From Our Lakes?* September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>st</sup>, November 30<sup>th</sup>. <https://www.wcsu.edu/biology-msbiodiversity/upcoming-events/event-recordings/>
- 2019 Science At Night, Danbury, CT. *What Do We Want From Our Lakes?* September 30<sup>th</sup>, October 21<sup>st</sup>, November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- 2020 Science At Night, Danbury, CT. *What Do We Want From Our Lakes?* September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>st</sup>, November 30<sup>th</sup>
- 2017 Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Las Vegas, NV. *Future Trends in Sea Turtle Epibiont Research*; April 15-20. (<http://internationalseaturtlesociety.org/workshops/>)

### **PODCASTS & MEDIA PRESENTATIONS**

[Documenting 40 years of sea turtle conservation, Teopa Turtle Camp, Costa Careyes, Mexico.;](#)  
September 13, 2023

[GOOD Morning Wilton – Letter to the Editor: Can Wilton Accept the Risk of Health Hazards from a New Artificial Turf Field?; March 6, 2023.](#)

[Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies Scientific Lecture Series: Discovering Biodiversity: Going Beyond the Limits of our Eyes; February 23, 2023.](#)

Academic Minute - *Teaching the Environment*; October 27, 2020.

(<https://www.insidehighered.com/audio/2020/10/27/teaching-environment>).

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/vN69WeGC-Ds> - *Do rehabilitated sea turtles resume typical migratory behaviors? Satellite tracking juvenile loggerhead, green, and kemp's ridley turtles in the northeastern USA.* 2020.

## **6. Commitment to Diversity and Inclusiveness**

I am the founder of the WCSU Biology Department STEM Outreach Program *Finding Our Way*: <https://www.wcsu.edu/stem/>. This program works closely with urban communities like Danbury Public Schools, and provides opportunities for STEM enrichment for students, teachers, and families.

## **7. Mentoring**

My funded programs include professional development opportunities for teachers and students (Undergraduates and graduate students). I regularly take my students to professional meetings, and publish with teachers and students.

## **8. Major Awards, fellowships, Invited Lectures, Honors**

2024 Nominated CSU Distinguished Professor by WCSU faculty (1of 3 nominations to President)

2024 WCSU Presidential Award.  
 2024 WCSU Summer Grants Workshop, Appointed Facilitator by Provost.  
 2024 Chancellor Appointed CSCU Teaching Faculty Representative, Connecticut Planning Commission for Higher Education.  
 2021 Nominated CSU Distinguished Professor by WCSU faculty (1 of 2 nominations to President)  
 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award, The National Society of Leadership and Success (WCSU chapter)  
 2008 Connecticut Science Center Fellow, Connecticut Science Center, Hartford CT  
 2010 Norton Mezvinsky Trustees Research Award (CSU BOR Faculty Research Award)  
 2010 WCSU Connecticut State University Board of Regents Research Award  
 2009 Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty, New England Resource Center for Higher Education, Nomination  
 2008 I4 Initiative, Connecticut Science Center Fellow

### **9. Major Career Contributions and Legacy**

I would like to be remembered most for my work on sea turtle biology that showed the importance of long-term longitudinal studies and repeated sampling necessary to accurately capture population level genetic diversity, and changes to diversity under changing environmental pressures on wildlife populations. Basically, that unprecedented human population growth, and the pressure that it places on wildlife populations and natural resources is impacting the environment faster than we think.