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**Education:**

Ph.D. in Zoology, University of California Berkeley, 1985  
BA in Biology, University of California Santa Cruz, 1979

**Professional Positions:**

2017-present: Distinguished Senior Scientist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies  
2004- 2017: Senior Scientist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies  
2001-4: Scientist, Institute of Ecosystem Studies  
1996: Visiting Scientist, Department of Integrative Biology, Univ. California,  
Berkeley  
1995-2000: Associate Scientist, Institute of Ecosystem Studies  
1995- present: Adjunct Professor and Scientist, Univ. of Connecticut  
1991- present: Associate Member of the Graduate Faculty in Ecology, Rutgers University  
1990-1995: Assistant Scientist, Institute of Ecosystem Studies

**Selected Professional Honors:**

2019: Elected Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
2018: Henry J. Oosting Memorial Lectureship, Duke University  
2017: Global Scholar, Harvard University, Planetary Health Alliance  
2017: EnviroDay Keynote Lecturer, University of Virginia  
2016: Edwin Way Teale Lecturer, University of Connecticut  
2015: George B. Saul Lecturer, Middlebury College  
2014: Elected Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science  
2014: Elected Fellow, Ecological Society of America  
2012: Keynote Speaker, Climate Change and Health Symposium, Brown University  
2009: C. Hart Merriam Award from the American Society of Mammalogists

**Research Interests and Activities:**

My research interests fall into the following general topics: Ecology of infectious diseases; Linking community ecology and epidemiology; Behavioral, population, and community ecology of mammals; Animal population dynamics; Landscape epidemiology.

### **Publications:**

#### *Published*

1. Ostfeld, R.S., and F. Keesing 2023. Does experimental reduction of blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) abundance reduce Lyme disease incidence? *Pathogens* 12(5):714. Doi: 10.3390/pathogens12050714.
2. Brunner, J., S. LaDeau, M. Killilea, E. Valentine, M. Schierer, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2023. Off-host survival of blacklegged ticks in eastern North America: a multistage, multiyear, multisite study. *Ecological Monographs* 2023;e1572. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecm.1572>.
3. Ostfeld, R.S., S. Mowry, .... and F. Keesing. 2023. Impacts over time of neighborhood-scale interventions to control ticks and tick-borne disease incidence. *Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases*. 23: 89-105.
4. Ostfeld, R.S., S. Adish, ... and F. Keesing. 2023. Effects of neighborhood-scale acaricidal treatments on infection prevalence of blacklegged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) with three zoonotic pathogens. *Pathogens* 12(2), 172.
5. Vannier, E., L. Richer, D. Dinh, D. Brisson, R.S. Ostfeld, and M. Gomes-Solecki. 2023. Deployment of a reservoir-targeted vaccine against *Borrelia burgdorferi* reduces the prevalence of *Babesia microti* coinfection in *Ixodes scapularis* ticks. *Journal of Infectious Diseases*. DOI: 10.1093/infdis/jiac462
6. Heske, E., R.S. Ostfeld, S. Ticul Álvarez-Castañeda, B. Fox, and W. Laurance. 2023. Obituary: Dr. William Z. Lidicker, Jr. (1932-2022). *Journal of Mammalogy*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jmammal/gyac109>
7. Mowry, S., J. Pendleton, F. Keesing, M. Teator, and R.S. Ostfeld 2022. Estimates of wildlife species richness, occupancy, and habitat preference in a residential landscape of New York State. *Urban Ecosystems*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-022-01318-4>
8. Ecke, F., B. Han, B. Hörnfeldt, H. Khalil, M. Magnusson, N. Singh, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2022. Population fluctuations and synanthropy explain transmission risk in rodent-borne zoonoses. *Nature Communications* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-35273-7>.
9. Keesing, F., S. Mowry, W. Bremer, S. Duerr, A.S. Evans, Jr., I.R. Fischhoff, A.F. Hinckley, S.A. Hook, F. Keating, J. Pendleton, A. Pfister, M. Teator, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2022. Effects of tick-control interventions on tick abundance, human encounters with ticks, and incidence of tickborne diseases in residential

- neighborhoods, New York, USA. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 28:957-966.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2805.211146>
10. Ostfeld, R.S., and F. Keesing. 2022. The ecology of infectious diseases: an homage to multi-factor perspectives. *Therya* 13: 39-44.
  11. Heske, E., R.S. Ostfeld, S. Alvarez-Casteñeda, B. Fox, and W. Laurance. 2022. Special issue in honor of Dr. William Z. Lidicker, Jr. *Therya* 13:1-4.
  12. Kumar, D., L. Downs, A. Adegoke, R.S. Ostfeld, M. Embers, and S. Karim. 2022. An exploratory study on the microbiome of northern and southern populations of *Ixodes scapularis* ticks predicts changes and unique bacterial interactions. *Pathogens* 11(130) DOI: [10.3390/pathogens11020130](https://doi.org/10.3390/pathogens11020130).
  13. Ostfeld, R.S. and F. Keesing. 2022. Biodiversity and human health. Reference Module in Life Sciences, Elsevier, <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-822562-2.00038-4>.
  14. Rubino, F., K. Oggenfuss, and R.S. Ostfeld 2021. Effects of physical impairments on fitness correlates of the white-footed mouse, *Peromyscus leucopus*. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. 288 (1962) DOI: [10.1098/rspb.2021.1942](https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2021.1942).
  15. Aristizabal-Henao, J., H. Brown, E. Griffin, R.S. Ostfeld, K. Oggenfuss, B. Parker, S. Wisely & J. Bowden. 2021. Ticks as novel sentinels to monitor environmental levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). *Environmental Science: Processes and Impacts* 23:1301-1306.
  16. Bobe, J., B. Jutras, ... R.S. Ostfeld ... et al (31 authors). 2021. Recent progress in Lyme disease and remaining challenges. *Frontiers in Medicine* <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmed.2021.666554>.
  17. Heaney, C., K. Moon, R.S. Ostfeld, J. Pollak, M. Poulsen, A. Hirsch, J. DeWalle, J. Aucott, and B. Schwartz. 2021. Relations of peri-domestic temperature and humidity in tick-life-cycle-relevant time periods with human Lyme disease risk in Pennsylvania, USA. *Science of the Total Environment* 795 (2021) 148697.
  18. Keesing, F., D. McHenry, M. Hersh, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2021. Spatial and temporal patterns of the emerging tick-borne pathogen *Borrelia miyamotoi* in blacklegged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) in New York. *Parasites & Vectors* DOI: [10.1186/s13071-020-04569-2](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-020-04569-2).
  19. Vila, M., A.M. Dunn, F. Essl, E. Gomez-Diaz, P.E. Hulme, J.M. Jeschke, M.A. Nunez, R.S. Ostfeld, A. Pauchard, A. Ricciardi, and B. Gallardo. 2021. Viewing emerging human infectious epidemics through the lens of invasion biology. *BioScience* 71:722-740.
  20. Keesing, F., and R.S. Ostfeld. 2021. Impacts of biodiversity and biodiversity loss on zoonotic diseases. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*

21. Keesing, R. and R.S. Ostfeld 2021. Dilution effects in disease ecology. *Ecology Letters* 24(2) DOI: 10.1111/ele.13875.
22. Liveris, D., M. Agüero-Rosenfeld, T. Daniels, S. Karpathy, C. Paddock, S. Adish, F. Keesing, R.S. Ostfeld, G. Wormser, I. Schwartz. 2021. A new genetic approach to distinguish strains of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* that appear not to cause human disease. *Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases*. 12: 101659.
23. Borgmann-Winter, B., K. Oggenfuss, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2021. Blacklegged tick population synchrony between oak forest and non-oak forest. *Ecological Entomology* <https://doi.org/10.1111/een.13019>.
24. Ostfeld, R.S. 2021. Ecology of Lyme disease. Chapter 12 in K. Weathers, D. Strayer, and G. Likens, *Fundamentals of Ecosystem Science*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Academic Press, London, UK.
25. Ostfeld, R.S. and F. Keesing. 2020. Species that can make us ill thrive in human habitats. *Nature* <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-020-02189-5> (News & Views article).
26. Ostfeld, R.S. and F. Keesing. 2020. Planetary health and infectious disease. Pages 141-164 in S.S. Myers and H. Frumkin, eds. *Planetary Health: Protecting nature to protect ourselves*. Island Press, Washington, DC, USA.
27. Magnusson, M., I.R. Fischhoff, F. Ecke, B. Hornfeldt, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2020. Effect of spatial scale and latitude on diversity-disease relationships. *Ecology* e02955.
28. Vandegrift, K.J., A. Kumar, H. Sharma, S. Murthy, L.D. Kramer, R.S. Ostfeld, P.J. Hudson, and A. Kapoor. 2020. Presence of segmented flavivirus infections in North America. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 26:1810-1817. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2608.190986>
29. Fischhoff, I. R., T. Huang, S. K. Hamilton, B. A. Han, S. L. LaDeau, R. S. Ostfeld, E. J. Rosi, and C. T. Solomon. 2020. Parasite and pathogen effects on ecosystem processes: A quantitative review. *Ecosphere* 11(5):e03057. 10.1002/ecs2.3057
30. Burtis, J., J.B. Yavitt, T. Fahey, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2019. Ticks as soil-dwelling arthropods: An intersection between disease and soil ecology. *Journal of Medical Entomology* 56:1555-1564.
31. Fischhoff, I.R., S.E. Bowden, F. Keesing, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2019. Systematic review and meta-analysis of tick-borne disease risk factors in residential yards, neighborhoods, and beyond. *BMC Infectious Diseases* 19:1-11.
32. Landesman, W.J., K. Mulder, B.F. Allan, L.A. Bashor, F. Keesing, K. LoGiudice, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2019. Potential effects of blood meal host on bacterial

- community composition in *Ixodes scapularis* nymphs. *Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases* 10:523-527.
33. Han, B.A. and R.S. Ostfeld. 2019. Topic modeling of major research themes in disease ecology of mammals. *Journal of Mammalogy* 100:1008-1018.
  34. Mowry, S., F. Keesing, I.R. Fischhoff, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2019. Predicting larval tick burden on white-footed mice with an artificial neural network. *Ecological Informatics* 52:150-158.
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  37. Fischhoff, I.R., F. Keesing, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2019. Risk factors for bites and diseases associated with blacklegged ticks: a meta-analysis. *American Journal of Epidemiology* <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwz130>.
  38. Dhawan, R., I.R. Fischhoff, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2018. Effects of weather variability on population dynamics of white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) and eastern chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*). *Journal of Mammalogy* 99:1436-1443.
  39. Emmering, Q.C., J.K. Kelly, R.S. Ostfeld, and K.A. Schmidt. 2018. Variation in coexisting birds to exploit spatial heterogeneity in small mammal activity. *Journal of Avian Biology* 2018: e01946 doi: 10.1111/jav.01946.
  40. Keesing, F., R.S. Ostfeld, S. Okanga, S. Hockett, B.R. Bayles, R. Chaplin-Kramer, L.P. Fredericks, T. Hedlund, V. Kowal, H. Tallis, C.M. Warui, S.A. Wood, and B.F. Allan. 2018. Consequences of integrating livestock and wildlife in an African savanna. *Nature Sustainability*. 1: 566-573.
  41. Ostfeld, R.S., T. Levi, F. Keesing, K. Oggenfuss, and C.D. Canham. 2018. Tick-borne disease risk in a forest food web. *Ecology* 99:1562-1573.
  42. Ostfeld, R.S., D. Brisson, K. Oggenfuss, J. Devine, M.Z. Levy, and F. Keesing. 2018. Effects of a zoonotic pathogen, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, on the behavior of a key reservoir host. *Ecology and Evolution* 8:4074-4083.
  43. Fischhoff, I.R., J. Burtis, F. Keesing, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2018. Tritrophic interactions between a fungal pathogen, and spider predator, and the blacklegged tick. *Ecology and Evolution* 2018: 1-11, DOI: 10.1002/ece3.4271.
  44. Keesing, F., and R.S. Ostfeld. 2018. The Tick Project: testing environmental methods of preventing tick-borne diseases. *Trends in Parasitology* 34: 447-450.

45. Allan, B.F., H. Tallis, R. Chaplin-Kramer, S. Hockett, G. Kowal, J. Musengezi, S. Okanga, R.S. Ostfeld, J. Schieltz, C. Warui, S.A. Wood, and F. Keesing. 2017. Can integrating wildlife and livestock enhance the delivery of ecosystem services in central Kenya? *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 15: 328-335.
46. Ostfeld, R.S. 2017. Biodiversity loss and the ecology of infectious diseases. *The Lancet Planetary Health* 1:e2-e3. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(17\)30010-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(17)30010-4).
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48. Fischhoff, I.R., F. Keesing, and R.S. Ostfeld 2017. The tick biocontrol agent *Metarhizium brunneum* (= *M. anisopliae*) (strain F52) does not reduce non-target arthropods. *PLOS ONE* 12: e0187675.
49. Robertson, B.A., R.S. Ostfeld, and F. Keesing 2017. Trojan females and Judas goats: Evolutionary traps as tools in wildlife management. *BioScience* 67:982-993.
50. Ostfeld, R.S. 2017. Zoonoses: infectious diseases transmissible between humans and animals, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. [Book review]. *Quarterly Review of Biology* 92:346-347.
51. Kelly, J.K., K.A. Schmidt, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2017. Co-existing ground-nesting passerines are not alike: rodents and conspecific abundance differentially affect nest survival in the ovenbird and the veery. *Wilson Bulletin* 129(1):112-121.
52. Vuong, H.B., G.S. Chiu, P.E. Smouse, D.M. Fonseca, D. Brisson, P.J. Morin, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2017. Influences of host community characteristics on *Borrelia burgdorferi* infection prevalence in blacklegged ticks. *PLoS ONE* 12:e0167810. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0167810.
53. Ostfeld, R.S. and F. Keesing. 2017. Is biodiversity bad for your health? *Ecosphere* 8(3):e01676. doi:10.1002/ecs2.1676.
54. Manore, C.A., R.S. Ostfeld, F.B. Agosto, H. Gaff, and S.L. LaDeau. 2017. Defining the risk of Zika and chikungunya virus transmission in human population centers of the eastern United States. *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases* 11:e0005255. doi:10.1371/journal.pntd.0005255.
55. Levi, T., F. Keesing, R.D. Holt, M. Barfield, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2016. Quantifying dilution and amplification in a community of hosts for tick-borne pathogens. *Ecological Applications* 26:484-498.
56. Granter, S.R., R.S. Ostfeld, and D.J. Milner, Jr. 2016. Where the wild things aren't. *American Journal of Clinical Pathology* 0:1-3. doi:10.1093/ajcp/aqw197.
57. Burtis, J., P. Sullivan, T. Levi, K. Oggenfuss, T. Fahey, and R.S. Ostfeld. 2016. The impact of temperature and precipitation on blacklegged tick activity and Lyme disease incidence in endemic and emerging regions. *Parasites & Vectors*

- 9:606-616.
58. Levi, T., A. Massey, R.D. Holt, F. Keesing, R.S. Ostfeld, and C.A. Peres. 2016. Does biodiversity protect humans against infectious disease?: comment. *Ecology* 97:536-546.
  59. Springer, Y.P., D. Hoekman, P.T.J. Johnson, P.A. Duffy, R.H. Kao, D.T. Barnett, B.F. Allan, B.R. Amman, C.M. Barker, R. Barrera, C.B. Beard, L. Beati, M. Begon, M.S. Blackmore, W.E. Bradshaw, D. Brisson, C.H. Calisher, J.E. Childs, M.A. Diuk-Wasser, R.J. Douglass, R.J. Eisen, D.H. Foley, J.E. Foley, H.D. Gaff, S.L. Gardner, H.S. Ginsberg, G.E. Glass, S.A. Hamer, M.H. Hayden, B. Hjelle, C.M. Holzapfel, S.A. Juliano, L.D. Kramer, A.J. Kuenzi, S.L. LaDeau, T.P. Livdahl, J.N. Mills, C.G. Moore, S. Morand, R.S. Nasci, N.H. Ogden, R.S. Ostfeld, R.R. Parmenter, J. Piesman, W.K. Reisen, H.M. Savage, D.E. Sonenshine, A. Swei, and M.J. Yabsley. 2016. Continental-scale surveillance of infectious agents: tick-, mosquito, and rodent-borne parasite sampling designs for NEON. *Ecosphere* 7(5):e01271.
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  61. Keesing, F. and R.S. Ostfeld. 2015. Is biodiversity good for your health? *Science* 349:235-236.
  62. Johnson, P.T.J., R.S. Ostfeld, and F. Keesing. 2015. Frontiers in research on biodiversity and disease. *Ecology Letters* 18:1119-1133.
  63. Ostfeld, R.S. and J.L. Brunner. 2015. Climate change and *Ixodes* tick-borne diseases of humans. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 370:20140051. doi:10.1098/rstb.2014.0051.
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  66. Estrada-Peña, A., J. de la Fuente, R.S. Ostfeld, and A. Cabezas-Cruz. 2015. Interactions between tick and transmitted pathogens evolved to minimize competition through nested and coherent networks. *Nature Scientific Reports* 5:10361. doi:10.1038/srep10361.

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