

ISAE New Investigator Award 2022

Dr **Maria Camila Ceballos Betancourt** was nominated by her former colleague Dr Ariel Marcel Tarazona Morales and mentor Dr Mateus Paranhos da Costa. In the words of her colleagues and the award committee, Dr Maria Camila Ceballos is an outstanding researcher and extensionist, showing a more robust breadth and trajectory for a new investigator with high co-author diversity.



She started her academic training in Animal Science at the National University of Colombia, where she demonstrated a vast interest in animal behaviour and welfare during her undergrad degree. After finishing, she worked as a researcher in one of Colombia's most recognized research groups on sustainable production systems, investigating cattle behaviour and welfare. To pursue her research interest, she travelled to Brazil to pursue an MSc at Sao Paulo State University (UNESP) in 2012. During her studies, she continued working in collaboration with her colleagues in Colombia, actively participating in their projects. She continued her path by doing a PhD at UNESP, focusing on human-cattle relationships and their effects on cattle welfare and behaviour. Seeking an international perspective, she secured an internship at the Animal Welfare Science Centre (University of Melbourne - Australia) by the end of her PhD. Dr Ceballos continued her research training as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, USA (2018 to 2020), focusing on assessing the behaviour and welfare of breeding sows. Then, in Sept 2020, she started as an Assistant Professor of Animal Welfare and Behavior at the University of Calgary, where she is now working.

She has achieved seven significant scholarships and awards, including attendance funds, programs, and scholarships. In the past five years, her scientific achievements and contributions include 24 peer-review journal publications, five book chapters, one book, 36 invited presentations, and 49 oral and poster presentations. In addition, she has secured various internal and external research funds in her actual position, including an NSERC Discovery grant, a very competitive fund in Canada.

In agreement with her colleagues, the award committee found that Dr Maria Camila Ceballos demonstrated more independence for funding, higher and impressive involvement in mentoring, and the ability to work across different species and countries, particularly those with potential political pressures. Therefore, Dr Maria Camila Ceballos was given the ISAE New Investigator Award based on their demonstrated mentorship experience, independent research with a diverse list of co-authors, and ability to work across different species and countries. All these characteristics showed scientific excellence and an exceptional aptitude for carrying out research in applied ethology early in her career.

For more information about Dr. Maria Camila Ceballos, please click [here](#).

