

Dr. Alexander Bond

By Connie Dean

[Dr. Alexander Bond](#) is a Canadian UK-based research scientist who identifies as LGBTQ+. Dr. Bond now works at the Natural History Museum in London, where he focuses on applied conservation and ecology. With a focus on marine birds and oceanic islands, Dr. Bond splits his time between the field and the lab as a means by which to better understand changes to the natural world. This entails both human impact and natural environmental change. At the Natural history Museum - which has been open since 1881 – Dr. Bond is the Senior Bird Curator within the Department of life sciences.



Photo from Dr. Bond's website:
alexanderbond.org

Dr. Bond has produced over 170 papers since 2005, with a cumulative 3878 citations; 840 of these in were from 2020 alone. In his most recent publications, Dr. Bond focuses on how human behaviour and human waste has impacted marine life and remote islands. One such 2017 paper that received 240 citations is entitled 'Exceptional and rapid accumulation of anthropogenic debris on one of the world's most remote and pristine islands' (Lavers & Bond, 2017). Dr. Bond and his co-author Dr. Jennifer Lavers focus on the environmental impacts of plastics, which in recent decades have become ubiquitous in the marine environment. The world's most remote islands, previously untouched by human life, are now home to the highest density of plastic debris. Dr. Bond and Dr. Lavers go on to suggest that these previously untouched islands that are relatively close to oceanic plastic accumulation zones act as 'sinks' (Lavers & Bond, 2017). This means that the plastics waste created by humans accumulates in these areas, hence the high density of beach-washed plastic debris. For this particular study, Dr. Bond focused on an uninhabited island located in the South Pacific named Henderson Island. Their results showed that around 37.7 million debris items (weighing around 17.6 tonnes!) were present on the beaches of Henderson, with an average of 26.8 new items per metre accumulating every single day (Lavers & Bond, 2017). Needless to say, Bond goes on to speak of the immeasurable negative impact such plastic waste will have on the biodiversity of such islands, which will only worsen as human consumption and plastic use increases.

Beyond his research, Dr. Bond has been a stage actor and improviser for over 15 years, and regularly gives talks at academic institutions, ranging from high schools to universities. Additionally, Dr. Bond is a keen activist for diversity in STEM, particularly for the queer-identifying community.

Reference

Lavers, Jennifer L., and Alexander L. Bond. "Exceptional and rapid accumulation of anthropogenic debris on one of the world's most remote and pristine islands." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 114.23 (2017): 6052-6055.