
Food For Thought: Ramón Soto-Crespo and Alison Bell

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Date Thu 2026-04-02 8:01 AM

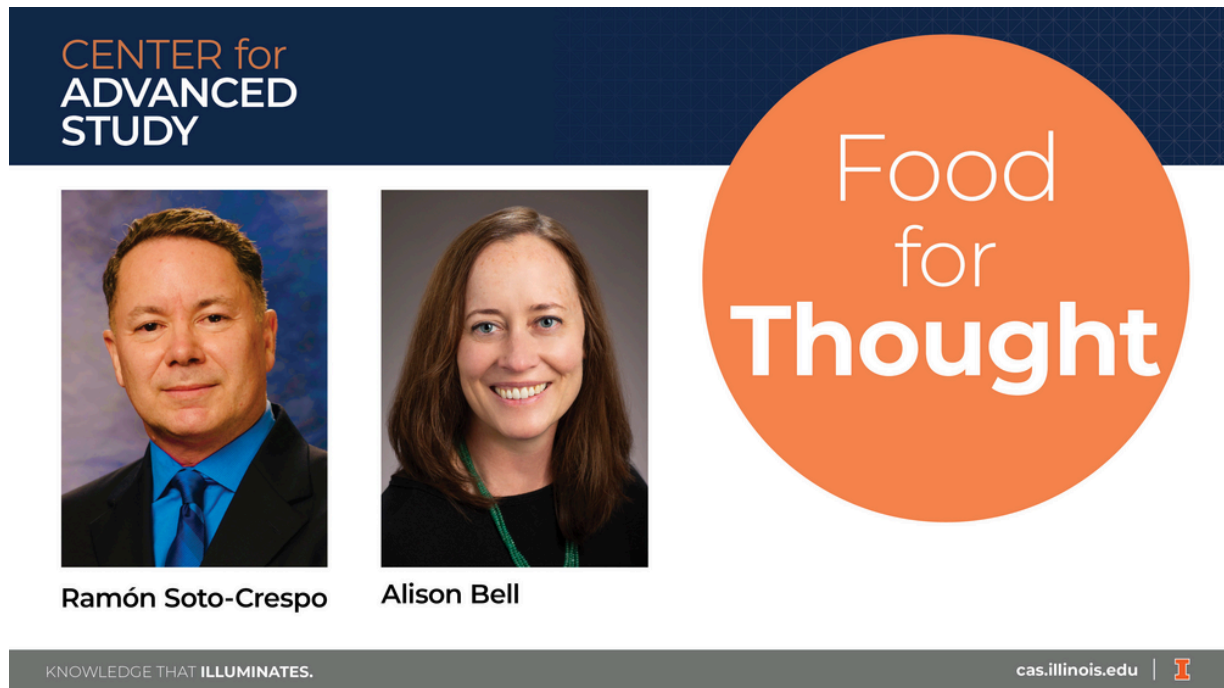
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[Food For Thought: Ramón Soto-Crespo and Alison Bell](#)

A promotional banner for the 'Food for Thought' event. It features a dark blue header with the text 'CENTER for ADVANCED STUDY' in white and orange. Below the header are two headshots: Ramón Soto-Crespo on the left and Alison Bell on the right. To the right of the headshots is a large orange circle containing the text 'Food for Thought' in white. At the bottom of the banner, there is a dark grey bar with the text 'KNOWLEDGE THAT ILLUMINATES.' on the left and 'cas.illinois.edu | I' on the right.

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STUDY



Ramón Soto-Crespo



Alison Bell

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Thought

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**Thursday, April 16, 2026 | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Levis Faculty Center,
Room 208**

11:00am-11:45am: Ramón E. Soto-Crespo, *Can the Bejuco Speak? The Origin of Puerto Rico's Ecological Literature*

In this talk, Professor Soto-Crespo discusses Enrique Laguerre's literary works *The Blaze* (1935) and *Montoya's Plantation* (1941), as key roots of ecological thought in Puerto Rico. Laguerre's ecological viewpoint offers a way to understand the connection between humans (sugarcane workers) and non-human entities (soil, weeds, rivers) within a landscape of harsh exploitation. His writing implies a sense of communion with the *bejuco*, a herbaceous, weed-like vine that Professor Soto-Crespo takes to represent the non-human.

Noon-12:45pm: Alison Bell, *The Evolution of Family Life in a Small Fish*

There is tremendous diversity in family life among animals, but little is known about how differences in family life arise over the course of evolution. In this talk, Professor Bell will present insights that her lab is starting to get into the proximate basis of evolutionary divergence in family life in three-spine stickleback fish. By studying the recent evolutionary loss of paternal care, we are learning about coordinated changes at multiple levels of biological organization and in mothers, fathers and offspring.

Ramón E. Soto-Crespo | [website](#)
CAS Associate 2024-25, English

Alison Bell | [website](#)
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