

Caitlynn Filla

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Education

University of Florida Gainesville, FL

September 2020 - Present

PhD Anthropology

Focus: Lemur microbiomes, primate behavioral ecology, the effects of ecotourism on antimicrobial resistance, conservation biology and applied conservation in Madagascar

Advisor: Dr. Kim Valenta

University of Wisconsin Madison, WI

August 2014 - August 2016

MS Anthropology

GPA: 3.54

Focus: Primate behavioral ecology, evolution, and conservation with a concentration in understanding the nutritional ecology of various lemur species.

Advisor: Dr. Karen Strier

Relevant Course Work: Biostatistics (2 semesters), Data Analysis with R, Data Collection and Analytical Tools for Field Primatology, Primate Conservation, Primate Behavioral Ecology, Quantitative Statistics for Anthropology, Plant Physiology

North Carolina State University Raleigh, NC

August 2010 - May 2014

BS Zoology

GPA: 3.98

Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Dean's List, NCSU College of Agricultural and Life Science Honors Program

Focus: animal behavior, evolutionary ecology, conservation approaches

Honors Capstone Project: Individual Specialization in *Gambusia affinis*

Relevant Course Work: Evolutionary Ecology, Captive Animal Biology, Animal Behavior, Academic Writing for Research, Behavioral Endocrinology, Cellular and Molecular Biology

BA Anthropology

GPA: 3.98

Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Dean's List, University Honors Program

Focus: primate behavior and physiology, cultural barriers to conservation

Relevant Course Work: Anthropological Theory, Environmental Anthropology, Peoples and Cultures of Africa

Research and Teaching

Associate Research Specialist

April 2017 - November 2018

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Neuroscience

- Under little to no supervision, tasked with maintaining the lab administratively, designing and carrying out both small and large-scale collaborative experiments, organizing and analyzing data when applicable, assisting in writing and editing scientific papers for publication, and when required, involved in coordinating surgeries and specialized care for non-human primate subjects. Also involved in hiring and training new staff and mentoring undergraduate students.
- In collaboration with the WNPRC, work to ensure compliance with AAALAC, IACUC, USDA, NIH, and DEA regulations.
- Work daily with the lab's Rhesus macaque population to train them in the performance of oculomotor-based cognitive tasks while participating in awake, behaving experiments during PET/MR scanning.

Animal Research Technician

August 2016 - April 2017

Wisconsin National Primate Research Center

- Worked performing husbandry on resident macaque species involving nonhuman primate handling and care techniques, utilizing standard safety practices and precautions, and recognizing nonhuman primate behavior considered symptomatic of an illness or injury, preparing and administering treatments, and creating and providing enrichment for the primates under my care.

Instructor: Limnology

June 2015 - July 2016

University of Wisconsin-Madison PEOPLE Program

- Served as the primary instructor teaching limnology to middle school students during a three-week summer course. Included planning all lessons, field trips, and additional activities while shepherding students towards the production of a final project to be presented at the program's symposium. Required both traditional lecture-style teaching and more informal interactive approaches.

Teaching Assistant

January 2015 - June 2016

University of Wisconsin-Madison

- Instructed courses in both biology and anthropology. Served as the instructor for discussion and laboratory sections of up to 20 students each. In charge of planning and coordinating the lessons and topics for each section as well as serving as the students' primary help resource and mentor for their semester-long research project. Required traditional lecture-style teaching as well as hands-on activities and interactive group discussions.

Field Research Intern and Technician Assistant

May 2012 - July 2014

Duke University Lemur Center

- Conducted long-term behavioral data collection and analysis on free ranging lemur groups at the Duke Lemur Center using standard primatology research practices. Focused on understanding intragroup social dynamics and thermoregulatory behaviors. Additionally, assisted staff technicians in the everyday tasks necessary to care for the lemurs residing at the Duke Lemur Center including cleaning, feeding, and enrichment.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

January 2011 - May 2014

Langerhans Lab, NC State University

- Conducted an independent research project examining individual diet specialization in *Gambusia affinis* in collaboration with one of the lab post-docs along with aiding in other projects going on in the lab as needed. Data collection included both field and laboratory work. Furthermore, participated in weekly lab meetings discussing recent research in the field of evolutionary ecology.

Biological Anthropology Research Assistant

March 2011 - April 2012

North Carolina State University

- Worked with a doctoral student to convert raw primate behavioral field notes into Excel format for analysis and helped conduct some basic analysis of trends for behavioral time use and diet composition.

Publications and Presentations

Behzadnezhad, B., Andreae, J., Hurley, S. A., Filla, C., Mueller, E., Collick, B. D., ... Mcmillan, A. B. (2019). Subject-Specific, Non-Invasive Helmet-Restraint RF Coil for Awake, Non-Human Primate MR Imaging. *IEEE Journal of Electromagnetics, RF and Microwaves in Medicine and Biology*, 3(3), 177-183. doi: 10.1109/jerm.2019.2903721

Birn, R. M., Converse, A. K., Rajala, A. Z., Alexander, A. L., Block, W. F., Mcmillan, A. B., Christensen, B., Filla, C., ... Populin, L. C. (2018). Changes in Endogenous Dopamine Induced by Methylphenidate Predict Functional Connectivity in Nonhuman Primates. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, 39(8), 1436–1444. doi: 10.1523/jneurosci.2513-18.2018

NCSU Undergraduate Research Symposium

North Carolina State University

- 2012: Individual Diet Specialization in *Gambusia affinis*
- 2013: Recommendations Regarding the Use of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals in Animal Production Agriculture

Awards

Graduate School Funding Award (\$31,000/year)
University of Florida Graduate School

August 2020-August 2024

Elizabeth Eddy Endowment Summer Research Grant (\$2,000)
University of Florida Department of Anthropology

Summer 2021

Activities and Volunteer Experience

Conservation Volunteer
Oakland Zoo

January 2019- July 2020

- Work at the Beads for Chimps conservation station to interpret the Oakland Zoo's conservation initiatives to zoo guests of all ages and help them understand what actions they can take in their everyday lives to contribute to animal conservation.

Zoology Club
North Carolina State University

August 2010- May 2014

- Participated in club meetings, fundraisers, and special volunteer events engaging with local members of the community who are actively involved in zoology related fields.

Anthropology Club
North Carolina State University

January 2011-May 2014

- Participated in interdisciplinary discussions of current issues in anthropology across all subfields, special volunteer events, and club trips to explore anthropology off-campus.

Varsity Track and Field
North Carolina State University

September 2010-May 2014

Skills

- Care and feeding of captive primates including meal preparation, assisting in routine veterinary examinations, identifying behavioral problems, and some behavioral training.
- Experience using several statistical programs including SAS, R, and SPSS as well as Microsoft Excel. Some familiarity with GIS, Adobe Photoshop, and MATLAB.

- Experience independently constructing and executing lesson plans for a variety of course types for a range of ages and skill levels. Includes laboratory, discussion, and lecture class formats.
- Skilled in primate behavioral training using positive reinforcement and clicker training techniques.
- Routine lab management required such as inventory, purchasing, personnel management, organizing meetings, scheduling, protocol maintenance, SOPs, and safety records.
- Experience setting-up computer systems and troubleshooting hardware and software issues as they occur.
- Certified radiation worker, MRI safety clearance