

# Maria Creighton

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## » Education

<b>Duke University</b>   PhD Biology Student	<i>08/2021 – Present</i>
<b>McGill University</b>   MSc Biology	<i>01/2018 – 04/2021</i>
<b>Carleton University</b>   BSc Environmental Science, Minor in Biology	<i>09/2013 – 04/2017</i>

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## » Fellowships, Scholarships, Grants and Awards

<b>02/2026</b>	International Society for Behavioural Ecology travel award (\$1,600 USD)
<b>02/2026</b>	Myra & William Waldo Boone Fellowship (\$32,830 USD) + tuition and fees
<b>02/2026</b>	Duke Dissertation Research Travel Award: International (\$4,000 USD)
<b>01/2026</b>	Leakey Foundation Research Grant (\$19,000 USD)
<b>08/2025</b>	Duke Biology Grant-in-Aid of Research (\$1,000 USD)
<b>03/2025</b>	ABS Student Research Grant (\$2,000 USD)
<b>02/2025</b>	Jo Rae Wright Fellowship for Outstanding Women in Science (\$5,000 USD)
<b>02/2024</b>	Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research (\$4,180 USD)
<b>01/2024</b>	Duke Office of Global Affairs Travel Award (\$2,000 USD)
<b>09/2023-09/2026</b>	NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship; declined to instead take NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship (\$73,660 USD) internationally
<b>06/2022</b>	Animal Behavior Society Student Travel Grant (\$500 USD)
<b>06/2022</b>	TriCEM Graduate Student Award (\$9,500 USD)
<b>04/2022</b>	Duke Biology Grant-in-Aid of Research (\$1,000 USD)
<b>02/2022</b>	Duke Dissertation Research Travel Award: International (\$3,000 USD)
<b>09/2018-09/2020</b>	BESS Fellowship (\$13,700 USD + \$2,500 USD travel expenses)
<b>04/2018</b>	Best Talk at the Conservation, Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Retreat
<b>01/2018-12/2019</b>	McGill Biology Master's Award (\$8,000 USD)
<b>01/2018</b>	McGill Department of Biology Entrance Award (\$2,000 USD)
<b>03/2017</b>	Carleton Faculty of Science Research Day Award for top poster presentation
<b>09/2013-04/2017</b>	Carleton University undergraduate scholarships (Total: \$4,000 USD)

**Total: \$186,470 USD**

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## » Refereed Publications (\* denotes co-first authors; <sup>φ</sup> undergrad mentee)

Southworth, C.A., Winans, J.C., Gordon, J.B., Learn, N.H., Wilber, W.A., Andreadis, C., ... & Tung, J. 2026. Demographic, behavioral, and ecological data from a long-term field study of wild baboons in Amboseli, Kenya. *Scientific Data*, 13: 311.

Creighton, M.J.A., Lerch, B.A., Lange, E.C., Silk, J.B., Archie, E.A., Tung, J. & Alberts, S.C. 2025. Re-evaluating the relationship between female social bonds and infant survival in wild baboons. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 122: e2417378122.

Creighton, M.J.A. & Nunn, C.L. 2023. Explaining the primate extinction crisis: predictors of extinction risk and active threats. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 20231441.

Creighton, M.J.A., Lou, A.Q. <sup>φ</sup>, Reader, S.M. & Mooers, A.Ø. 2022. Predictors of taxonomic splitting and its role in primate conservation. *Animal Conservation*, 26: 355-364.

Madliger, C.L. ‡, Creighton, M.J.A. ‡, Raby, G.D., Bennett, J.R., Birnie-Gauvin, K., Lennox, R.J. & Cooke, S.J. 2022. Physiology as a tool for at-risk animal recovery planning: an analysis of Canadian recovery strategies with global recommendations. *Conservation Science and Practice*, 4: e12701.

Creighton, M.J.A., Greenberg, D.A., Reader, S.M. & Mooers, A.Ø. 2021. The role of behavioral flexibility in primate diversification. *Animal Behavior*, 180: 269-290. (Editor's Choice)

Creighton, M.J.A. & Bennett, J.R. 2019. Taxonomic biases persist from listing to management for Canadian species at risk. *Écoscience*, 26: 315-321.

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## » Non-Refereed Publications (‡ denotes co-first authors; ¶ undergrad mentee)

Creighton, M.J.A., Fan, O. ¶, Warutere, J.K., Tung, J., Archie, E.A., & Alberts, S.C. 2025. Group social conditions and environment predict foraging behavior in wild baboons. *bioRxiv*, 2025-11.

Pillco Huarcaya, R. ‡, Creighton, M.J.A. ‡, Lopez Morales, M., Connor, D., Flatt, E. & Whitworth, A. 2020. Foods eaten by the Endangered Geoffroy's spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*). Chicago Field Museum, Field Guide.

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## » Internship and Volunteer Experience

**Volunteer** | *Independent Animal Rescue* | Durham, USA 09/2025 – Present  
Responsible for feeding and monitoring feral cat colonies and helping to facilitate cat adoption events

**Volunteer** | *Fauna Foundation* | Chambly, Canada 09/2018 – 12/2020  
Designed and implemented daily enrichment activities to enhance the welfare of chimpanzees at the sanctuary

**Field Intern** | *Osa Conservation* | Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica 05/2019 – 07/2019  
Developed a field guide documenting 79 plant species consumed by Geoffroy's spider monkeys, contributing to conservation research efforts

**Field Intern** | *Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute* | BCI, Panama 02/2018 – 04/2018  
Conducted behavioral and ecological data collection using radio telemetry, focal sampling, and surveys

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## » Teaching

**Evolutionary Medicine Summer Institute** | NC State University 05/2025  
*Guest Instructor*

**EVANTH 490S: Social Determinants of Health** | Duke University 11/2024  
*Guest Lecturer (11/06/2024)*

Lecture: "Maternal social bonds and infant survival in baboons"

**BIOL 329: Principles of Animal Physiology** | Duke University 08/2022 – 12/2022  
*Teaching Assistant (180hrs)*

**OLLI 3372: Why be Social?** | Duke University 01/2022 – 04/2022  
*Instructor*

**BIOL 112: Cell and Molecular Biology** | McGill University 01/2021 – 04/2021  
*Teaching Assistant (180hrs)*

**BIOL 111: Principles: Organismal Biology** | McGill University 09/2020 – 12/2020  
*Teaching Assistant (180hrs)*

**BIOL 112: Cell and Molecular Biology** | McGill University 01/2020 – 04/2020  
*Teaching Assistant (180hrs)*

<b>BIOL 111: Principles: Organismal Biology</b>   McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	<i>09/2019 – 12/2019</i>
<b>ANTH 203: Human Evolution</b>   McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	<i>01/2019 – 04/2019</i>
<b>ANTH 311: Primate Behavior and Ecology</b>   McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs); Guest Lecturer (11/10/2018)</i> Lecture: “ <i>Primates: foraging, predation, and sociality</i> ”	<i>09/2018 – 12/2018</i>

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## » Mentoring

<b>Strategic Education Research Partnership Mentor</b> Supervising a high school student in collecting and analyzing data on gibbon communication to present at the NYC Terra STEM Fair	<i>04/2025 – 12/2025</i>
<b>Muser Mentor</b>   Duke University Supervised an undergraduate student analyzing long-term baboon foraging data, guiding data analysis and interpretation	<i>09/2022 – 04/2023</i>
<b>Student Supervision</b>   McGill University Oversaw two undergraduates in conducting literature reviews and co-supervised a master’s student on a directed study	<i>09/2019 – 09/2020</i>

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## » Professional Services

### Committees and Associations

Duke Biology Graduate Student Committee   Faculty/Grad Student Liaison <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend and take detailed notes at monthly faculty meetings to relay important departmental information back to the student body</li> </ul>	<i>09/2025 – Present</i>
American Society of Primatologists DEIA committee   Committee Member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In charge of drafting an abstract and spearheading planning for the annual conference workshop on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in primatology</li> </ul>	<i>01/2025 – Present</i>
McGill Post-Graduate Students’ Society Environment   Committee Member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed social media and organized conservation-focused events, enhancing student engagement and promoting sustainability within the graduate community</li> </ul>	<i>05/2018 – 04/2021</i>
Carleton Environmental Science Student Association   President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Led a team of 10 executives in organizing campus-wide green initiatives and social events, strengthening the environmental culture at Carleton University</li> </ul>	<i>09/2015 – 04/2016</i>
Carleton Environmental Science Student Association   Vice-President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinated departmental events and sustainability initiatives, fostering environmental awareness and collaboration across the student body</li> </ul>	<i>09/2014 – 04/2015</i>

### Selected Conference Participation and Organization

Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists   Session Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chaired a two-hour session on social behavior, guiding discussions and ensuring smooth session flow among researchers and attendees</li> </ul>	<i>09/2024</i>
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Animal Behavior Society Conference | ABS Ally 09/2022

- Completed diversity, equity, and inclusion training and provided key support for attendees

Animal Behavior Society Conference | Session Chair 09/2022

- Led a two-hour session on social behavior, facilitating engaging discussions and managing logistics to ensure an impactful experience for presenters and participants

### Memberships

American Society of Primatologists | Student Member 02/2024 – Present  
Sigma Xi | Member 09/2023 – Present  
Animal Behavior Society | Student Member 02/2020 – Present  
Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science | Student Member 01/2018 – 12/2020

### Peer Review of Manuscripts

International Journal of Primatology, American Journal of Primatology, Discover Conservation, In&Vertebrates, Animal Conservation, and Animal Behavior

### Grant Reviewer

Leakey Foundation and the Animal Behavior Society

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## » Selected Presentations and Posters (\* denotes presenter; <sup>o</sup> undergrad mentee)

- 10/2024** Creighton, M.J.A.\*  
**Seminar** (Invited): “*Social behavior and survival in wild primates*”  
Department of Biology | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
- 09/2024** Creighton, M.J.A.\*, Lerch, B.A., Lange, E.C., Tung, J., Archie, E.A., & Alberts, S.C.  
**Oral Presentation:** “*Maternal social bonds are not associated with enhanced infant survival in Amboseli baboons*”  
Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists | Riviera Maya, Mexico
- 07/2024** Creighton, M.J.A.\*, Lerch, B.A., Lange, E.C., Tung, J., Archie, E.A., & Alberts, S.C.  
**Oral Presentation:** “*Maternal social bonds are not associated with enhanced infant survival in Amboseli baboons*”  
Evolution | Montreal, Canada
- 07/2023** Fan, O.\*<sup>o</sup>, Creighton, M.J.A., Tung, J., Archie, E.A. & Alberts, S.C.  
**Poster:** “*Social predictors of baboon foraging efficiency*”  
Animal Behavior Society Conference | Virtual poster
- 09/2022** Creighton, M.J.A.\*, Lange, E.C., Tung, J., Archie, E.A., Altmann, J. & Alberts, S.C.  
**Oral Presentation:** “*Social and environmental influences on baboon offspring survival*”  
Animal Behavior Society Conference | San Jose, Costa Rica
- 08/2020** Creighton, M.J.A.\*, Greenberg, D.A., Reader, S.M. & Mooers, A.Ø.  
**Oral Presentation:** “*Does behavioral plasticity promote primate diversification?*”  
Animal Behavior Society Conference | Virtual presentation
- 11/2019** Creighton, M.J.A.\*, Mooers, A.Ø. & Reader, S.M.  
**Oral Presentation:** “*Taxonomic inflation and its role in primate conservation.*”  
Société Québécoise pour l’Étude Biologique de Comportement (SQEBC) 44th Annual Conference | Montreal, Canada
- 04/2018** Creighton, M.J.A.\* & Reader, S.M.  
**Oral Presentation:** “*Determinants of diversification in primates: testing the behavioral drive hypothesis.*”

- Conservation, Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Retreat | Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Canada
- 04/2017** Creighton, M.J.A.\*, Low, A. & Wong, A.  
**Poster Presentation:** *“Mating systems and the evolution of primate reproduction tract proteins: rethinking the methodological approach.”*
- Carleton University Faculty of Science Research Day | Ottawa, Canada
- 02/2016** Boushey, I.\*, Cormier, E.\*, Creighton, M.J.A.\* & Harper, M.\*  
**Oral Presentation:** *“A study of the invasive plant species in the National Capital Region and their management.”*
- Carleton University Fourth Annual Community Engagement Event | Ottawa, Canada
- 12/2015** Boushey, I.\*, Cormier, E.\*, Creighton, M.J.A.\* & Harper, M.\*  
**Oral Presentation (Invited):** *“A study of the invasive plant species in the National Capital Region and their management.”*
- Annual Invasive Species Information Session | Ottawa, Canada