

Maria Creighton

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» Education

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

» Fellowships, Scholarships, Grants and Awards

05/2026	P.E.O. Scholar Award (\$25,000 USD)
02/2026	International Society for Behavioural Ecology travel award (\$1,600 USD)
02/2026	Myra & William Waldo Boone Fellowship (\$32,830 USD) + tuition and fees
02/2026	Duke Dissertation Research Travel Award: International (\$4,000 USD)
01/2026	Leakey Foundation Research Grant (\$19,000 USD)
08/2025	Duke Biology Grant-in-Aid of Research (\$1,000 USD)
03/2025	ABS Student Research Grant (\$2,000 USD)
02/2025	Jo Rae Wright Fellowship for Outstanding Women in Science (\$5,000 USD)
02/2024	Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research (\$4,180 USD)
01/2024	Duke Office of Global Affairs Travel Award (\$2,000 USD)
09/2023-09/2026	NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship (\$87,000 USD)
06/2022	Animal Behavior Society Student Travel Grant (\$500 USD)
06/2022	TriCEM Graduate Student Award (\$9,500 USD)
04/2022	Duke Biology Grant-in-Aid of Research (\$1,000 USD)
02/2022	Duke Dissertation Research Travel Award: International (\$3,000 USD)
09/2018-09/2020	BESS Fellowship (\$13,700 USD + \$2,500 USD travel expenses)
04/2018	Best Talk at the Conservation, Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Retreat
01/2018-12/2019	McGill Biology Master's Award (\$8,000 USD)
01/2018	McGill Department of Biology Entrance Award (\$2,000 USD)
03/2017	Carleton Faculty of Science Research Day Award for top poster presentation
09/2013-04/2017	Carleton University undergraduate scholarships (Total: \$4,000 USD)

Total: \$202,810 USD

» Refereed Publications (* denotes co-first authors; ° undergrad mentee)

- [7] Southworth, C.A., Winans, J.C., Gordon, J.B., Learn, N.H., Wilber, W.A., Andreadis, C., ... **Creighton, M.J.A.** ... & Tung, J. 2026. Demographic, behavioral, and ecological data from a long-term field study of wild baboons in Amboseli, Kenya. *Scientific Data*, 13: 311.
- [6] **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 sociality and infant survival in wild baboons. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 122: e2417378122.
- [5] **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.
- [4] **Creighton, M.J.A.**, Lou, A.Q. °, Reader, S.M. & Mooers, A.Ø. 2022. Predictors of

taxonomic splitting and its role in primate conservation. *Animal Conservation*, 26: 355-364.

- [3] 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.
- [2] **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.
- [1] **Creighton, M.J.A.** & Bennett, J.R. 2019. Taxonomic biases persist from listing to management for Canadian species at risk. *Écoscience*, 26: 315-321.

» Submitted Publications (‡ denotes co-first authors; ¶ undergrad mentee)

- [3] **Creighton, M.J.A.** *In review*. Species-level variation in primate social behavior is correlated with climate extremes and variability. *Ecology Letters*.
- [2] Lerch, B.A. ‡, **Creighton, M.J.A.** ‡, Warutere, J.K., Tung, J., Archie, E.A., & Alberts, S.C. *In revision*. Activity budgets, social behavior, and fitness outcomes associated with a baboon group fusion. *International Journal of Primatology*.
- [1] **Creighton, M.J.A.**, Fan, O. ¶, Warutere, J.K., Tung, J., Archie, E.A., & Alberts, S.C. *In revision*. Group social conditions and environment predict foraging behavior in wild baboons. *Ethology*.

» Other Publications (‡ denotes co-first authors)

- [1] 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.

» Internship and Volunteer Experience

Volunteer <i>Independent Animal Rescue</i> Durham, USA	09/2025 – Present
Responsible for feeding and monitoring feral cat colonies and helping to facilitate cat adoption events	
Volunteer <i>Fauna Foundation</i> Chambly, Canada	09/2018 – 12/2020
Designed and implemented daily enrichment activities to enhance the welfare of chimpanzees at the sanctuary	
Field Intern <i>Osa Conservation</i> 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 <i>Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute</i> BCI, Panama	02/2018 – 04/2018
Conducted behavioral and ecological data collection using radio telemetry, focal sampling, and surveys	

» Teaching

Evolutionary Medicine Summer Institute NC State University	05/2025
<i>Guest Lecturer (05/22/2025)</i>	
Lecture: "Introduction to Bayesian priors"	
EVANTH 490S: Social Determinants of Health Duke University	11/2024
<i>Guest Lecturer (11/06/2024)</i>	
Lecture: "Maternal social bonds and infant survival in baboons"	

BIOL 329: Principles of Animal Physiology Duke University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	08/2022 – 12/2022
OLLI 3372: Why be Social? Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Duke <i>Instructor</i>	01/2022 – 04/2022
BIOL 112: Cell and Molecular Biology McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	01/2021 – 04/2021
BIOL 111: Principles: Organismal Biology McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	09/2020 – 12/2020
BIOL 112: Cell and Molecular Biology McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	01/2020 – 04/2020
BIOL 111: Principles: Organismal Biology McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	09/2019 – 12/2019
ANTH 203: Human Evolution McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	01/2019 – 04/2019
ANTH 311: Primate Behavior and Ecology McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs); Guest Lecturer (11/10/2018)</i> Lecture: “ <i>Primates: foraging, predation, and sociality</i> ”	09/2018 – 12/2018

» Mentoring

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

» Professional Services

Committees and Associations

Duke Biology Graduate Student Committee Faculty/Grad Student Liaison	09/2025 – 05/2026
Attended and took detailed notes at monthly faculty meetings to relay important departmental information back to the student body	
American Society of Primatologists DEIA committee Committee Member	01/2025 – Present
In charge of drafting an abstract and spearheading planning for the annual conference workshop on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in primatology	
McGill Post-Graduate Students’ Society Environment Committee Member	05/2018 – 04/2021
Managed social media and organized conservation-focused events, enhancing student engagement and promoting sustainability within the graduate community	
Carleton Environmental Science Student Association President	09/2015 – 04/2016
Led a team of 10 executives in organizing campus-wide green initiatives and social events, strengthening the environmental culture at Carleton University	

Carleton Environmental Science Student Association | Vice-President 09/2014 – 04/2015

- Coordinated departmental events and sustainability initiatives, fostering environmental awareness and collaboration across the student body

Selected Conference Participation and Organization

Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists | Session Chair 06/2026

- Chaired a two-hour session on primate conservation, guiding discussions and ensuring smooth session flow among researchers and attendees

Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists | Session Chair 09/2024

- Chaired a two-hour session on social behavior, guiding discussions and ensuring smooth session flow among researchers and attendees

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

» Selected Presentations and Posters (* denotes presenter; [¶] undergrad mentee)

07/2026 **Creighton, M.J.A.***, Tung, J., Archie, E.A., & Alberts, S.C.

Oral Presentation: “*Social influences on female feeding competition in wild baboons*”

International Society for Behavioral Ecology Congress | Turin, Italy

07/2026 Lerch, B.A.*, **Creighton, M.J.A.,** & Alberts, S.C.

Oral Presentation: “*The evolution of male-male tolerance and its implications for female social behavior*”

International Society for Behavioral Ecology Congress | Turin, Italy

06/2026 **Creighton, M.J.A.***

Oral Presentation: “*Social behavior and survival in wild primates*”

Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists | Arlington, USA

04/2026 **Creighton, M.J.A.***

Invited Seminar: “*Primate sociality, fitness, and environmental context*”

Department of Primate Behavior and Evolution | Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany

10/2024 **Creighton, M.J.A.***

Invited Seminar: “*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.*[‡], **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