

Maria Creighton

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» Education

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

» 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 Canada Graduate Scholarship; declined to instead take NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship (\$87,000 USD) internationally
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; ^o 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. [¶], 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)

- Lerch, B.A. [‡], Creighton, M.J.A. [‡], Warutere, J.K., Tung, J., Archie, E.A., & Alberts, S.C. 2026. Activity budgets, social behavior, and fitness outcomes associated with a baboon group fusion. *bioRxiv*, 2026-04.
- 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?** | Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Duke 01/2022 – 04/2022
Instructor

BIOL 112: Cell and Molecular Biology McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	<i>01/2021 – 04/2021</i>
BIOL 111: Principles: Organismal Biology McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	<i>09/2020 – 12/2020</i>
BIOL 112: Cell and Molecular Biology McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	<i>01/2020 – 04/2020</i>
BIOL 111: Principles: Organismal Biology McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	<i>09/2019 – 12/2019</i>
ANTH 203: Human Evolution McGill University <i>Teaching Assistant (180hrs)</i>	<i>01/2019 – 04/2019</i>
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> ”	<i>09/2018 – 12/2018</i>

» Mentoring

Strategic Education Research Partnership Mentor 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>
Muser Mentor Duke University Supervised an undergraduate student analyzing long-term baboon foraging data, guiding data analysis and interpretation	<i>09/2022 – 04/2023</i>
Student Supervision 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>

» Professional Services

Committees and Associations

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

Selected Conference Participation and Organization

- 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; ^φ 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.*^φ, 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