

Maria Creighton

Department of Biology, Duke University, 130 Science Drive, Durham, North Carolina, 27708, USA

maria.creighton@duke.edu • <https://www.mariacreighton.com/>

» 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

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 (\$77,235 USD); declined to instead take NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship (\$46,340 USD) internationally
06/2022	Animal Behavior Society Student Travel Grant (\$500 USD)
06/2022	TriCEM Graduate Student Award (\$7,500 USD + \$2,000 USD funding for undergraduate mentees)
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	Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Sustainability Fellowship (\$13,700 USD + \$2,500 USD travel expenses)
04/2018	Best Talk Award at the McGill 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	Three undergraduate scholarships awarded based on academic performance by Carleton University (Total: \$4,000 USD)

» Refereed Publications (‡ denotes co-first authors; § underlined mentee)

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.

» Non-Refereed Publications (‡ denotes co-first authors)

Southworth, C.A., Winans, J.C., Gordon, J.B., Learn, N.H., Wilber, W.A., Andreadis, C., ... & Tung, J. (2025). Demographic, behavioral, and ecological data from a long-term field study of wild baboons in Amboseli, Kenya. *bioRxiv*, 2025-10.

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 | 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

» 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)

BIOL 111: Principles: Organismal Biology | McGill University 09/2019 – 12/2019
Teaching Assistant (180hrs)

ANTH 203: Human Evolution | McGill University 01/2019 – 04/2019
Teaching Assistant (180hrs)

ANTH 311: Primate Behavior and Ecology | McGill University 09/2018 – 12/2018
Teaching Assistant (180hrs); Guest Lecturer (11/10/2018)
Lecture: “*Primates: foraging, predation, and sociality*”

» Mentoring

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

» Professional Services

Committees and Associations

Duke Biology Graduate Student Committee Faculty/Grad Student Liaison	<i>09/2025 – Present</i>
• Attend and take detailed notes at monthly faculty meetings to relay important departmental information back to the student body	
American Society of Primatologists DEIA committee Committee Member	<i>01/2025 – Present</i>
• 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	<i>05/2018 – 04/2021</i>
• Managed social media and organized conservation-focused events, enhancing student engagement and promoting sustainability within the graduate community	
Carleton Environmental Science Student Association President	<i>09/2015 – 04/2016</i>
• 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	<i>09/2014 – 04/2015</i>
• 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	<i>09/2024</i>
• 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	<i>09/2022</i>
• Completed diversity, equity, and inclusion training and provided key support for attendees	
Animal Behavior Society Conference Session Chair	<i>09/2022</i>
• 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

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

10/2024	<u>Creighton, M.J.A.</u> *
	Seminar (Invited): <i>“Social behavior and survival in wild primates”</i>
	Department of Biology University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
09/2024	<u>Creighton, M.J.A.</u> *, Lerch, B.A., Lange, E.C., Tung, J., Archie, E.A., & Alberts, S.C.
	Oral Presentation: <i>“Maternal social bonds are not associated with enhanced infant survival in Amboseli baboons”</i>
	Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists Riviera Maya, Mexico
07/2024	<u>Creighton, M.J.A.</u> *, Lerch, B.A., Lange, E.C., Tung, J., Archie, E.A., & Alberts, S.C.
	Oral Presentation: <i>“Maternal social bonds are not associated with enhanced infant survival in Amboseli baboons”</i>
	Evolution Montreal, Canada
07/2023	Fan, O.*◊, <u>Creighton, M.J.A.</u> , Tung, J., Archie, E.A. & Alberts, S.C.
	Poster: <i>“Social predictors of baboon foraging efficiency”</i>
	Animal Behavior Society Conference Virtual poster
09/2022	<u>Creighton, M.J.A.</u> *, Lange, E.C., Tung, J., Archie, E.A., Altmann, J. & Alberts, S.C.
	Oral Presentation: <i>“Social and environmental influences on baboon offspring survival”</i>
	Animal Behavior Society Conference San Jose, Costa Rica
08/2020	<u>Creighton, M.J.A.</u> *, Greenberg, D.A., Reader, S.M. & Mooers, A.Ø.
	Oral Presentation: <i>“Does behavioral plasticity promote primate diversification?”</i>
	Animal Behavior Society Conference Virtual presentation
11/2019	<u>Creighton, M.J.A.</u> *, Mooers, A.Ø. & Reader, S.M.
	Oral Presentation: <i>“Taxonomic inflation and its role in primate conservation.”</i>
	Société Québécoise pour l’Étude Biologique de Comportement (SQEBC) 44th Annual Conference Montreal, Canada
04/2018	<u>Creighton, M.J.A.</u> * & Reader, S.M.
	Oral Presentation: <i>“Determinants of diversification in primates: testing the behavioral drive hypothesis.”</i>
	Conservation, Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Retreat Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Canada
04/2017	<u>Creighton, M.J.A.</u> *, Low, A. & Wong, A.
	Poster Presentation: <i>“Mating systems and the evolution of primate reproduction tract proteins: rethinking the methodological approach.”</i>
	Carleton University Faculty of Science Research Day Ottawa, Canada
02/2016	Boushey, I.*, Cormier, E.*., <u>Creighton, M.J.A.</u> * & Harper, M.*
	Oral Presentation: <i>“A study of the invasive plant species in the National Capital Region and their management.”</i>

12/2015

Carleton University Fourth Annual Community Engagement Event | Ottawa, Canada

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