

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	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 Behavioral 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: \$227,810 USD + tuition and fees

» Research Articles (‡ denotes co-first authors; ¶ undergrad mentee)

10 publications including 9 first-author, co-first-author, or solo publications

- [10] **Creighton, M.J.A.** *In review*. Species-level variation in primate social behavior is correlated with climate extremes and variability. *Ecology Letters*. (Preprint published on bioRxiv)
- [9] 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*. (Preprint published on bioRxiv)

- [8] **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*. (Preprint published on bioRxiv)
- [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 Behaviour*, 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.

» Other Publications (‡ denotes co-first authors)

1 publication including 1 co-first author publication

- [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*) (Version 1) [Field Guide]. Chicago Field Museum, 1245.

» Teaching

Evolutionary Medicine Summer Institute NC State University	05/2025
Guest Lecturer (05/22/2025)	
Lecture: "Introduction to Bayesian priors"	
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	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 <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 one high school student in collecting and analyzing data on gibbon communication to present at the New York City Terra STEM Fair	04/2025 – 12/2025
Muser Mentor Duke University Supervised one undergraduate student analyzing long-term baboon foraging data, and mentored them in co-authoring their first manuscript	09/2022 – 04/2023
Student Supervision McGill University Oversaw two undergraduate volunteers in conducting literature reviews to document species-level variation in primate research effort and mentored one of them in co-authoring a manuscript using these data	09/2019 – 09/2020

» Internship and Volunteer Experience

Volunteer <i>Independent Animal Rescue</i> Durham, USA Responsible for feeding and monitoring feral cat colonies, supporting trap-neuter-return initiatives, and facilitating cat adoption events	09/2025 – Present
Volunteer <i>Fauna Foundation</i> Chambly, Canada Designed and implemented daily enrichment activities to enhance the welfare of chimpanzees living at the sanctuary	09/2018 – 12/2020
Field Intern <i>Osa Conservation</i> Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica Developed a field guide documenting 79 plant species consumed by Geoffroy’s spider monkeys that is informing reforestation efforts	05/2019 – 07/2019
Field Intern <i>Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute</i> BCI, Panama Conducted behavioral data collection using radio telemetry and focal sampling to determine leader-follower dynamics of spider monkeys and capuchins	02/2018 – 04/2018

» Professional Services

Committees and Associations

American Society of Primatologists DEIA committee Member In charge of spearheading planning for the annual conference workshops on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in primatology	01/2025 – Present
Duke Biology Graduate Student Committee Faculty/Grad Student Liaison Attended and took detailed notes at monthly faculty meetings to relay important departmental information back to graduate students	09/2025 – 05/2026
McGill Post-Graduate Students’ Society Environment Committee Member Managed social media and organized conservation-focused events, promoting sustainability within the graduate community	05/2018 – 04/2021

Carleton Environmental Science Student Association | President 09/2015 – 04/2016

- Led a team of 10 executives in organizing campus-wide green initiatives strengthening the environmental culture at Carleton

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

- Coordinated departmental events and sustainability initiatives, fostering environmental awareness among 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 to ensure an impactful experience for participants

Current Memberships

American Society of Primatologists | Student Member 02/2024 – Present

Sigma Xi | Member 09/2023 – Present

Animal Behavior Society | Student Member 02/2020 – Present

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; º 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 du 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 Annual Community Engagement Event | Ottawa, Canada
- 12/2015** Boushey, I.*, Cormier, E.*, **Creighton, M.J.A.*** & Harper, M.*
Invited Presentation: “*A study of the invasive plant species in the National Capital Region and their management.*”
 Annual Invasive Species Information Session | Ottawa, Canada