

## Marcela Eugenia Benítez, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Psychology  
 Center of Behavioral Neuroscience & Language Research Center  
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### EDUCATION

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| 2016 | Joint Ph.D., Biological Anthropology & Biopsychology,<br>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI<br><i>Dissertation advisors:</i> Drs. Jacinta Beehner & Thore Bergman. |
| 2012 | M.A. Biological Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.                                                                                                  |
| 2007 | B.S. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University, New Haven, CT.                                                                                                |

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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| 2017 – <i>present</i> | Co-Director, Capuchins at Taboga Research Project, University of Michigan, Liberia, Costa Rica                                                                                    |
| 2016 – <i>present</i> | <b>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</b> , Department of Psychology, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA (Supervisors: Drs. Sarah Brosnan & Margaret Crofoot)                        |
| 2014 – 2016           | Co-Director, Biological Anthropology Graduate Student Group, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI                                                                                |
| 2013 – 2015           | Ph.D. Laboratory Research, Core Assay Facility, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (Supervisor: Dr. Jacinta Beehner)                                                           |
| 2010 – 2013           | Ph.D. Research, Departments of Anthropology and Psychology, University of Michigan & Simien Mountains National Park, Ethiopia (Supervisors: Drs. Jacinta Beehner & Thore Bergman) |
| 2009 – 2010           | Research Assistant, University of Pennsylvania & Estancia Guaycolec, Argentina (Supervisor: Dr. Eduardo Fernandez-Duque)                                                          |
| 2007 – 2009           | Laboratory Manager, Department of Psychology, Yale University, New Haven, CT (Supervisor: Dr. Laurie Santos)                                                                      |
| 2007 – 2009           | Laboratory Research, Department of Anthropology, Yale University, New Haven, CT (Supervisors: Drs. Stephanie Anestis & Richard Bribiescas)                                        |

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Behavioral endocrinology, biological anthropology, animal behavior, communication, cooperation, decision-making, evolution of social behavior, sexual selection, signaling, social cognition, primatology

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

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### EXTERNAL FUNDING

<i>pending</i>	National Science Foundation (1919305, Role: Co-PI). How between-group competition impacts within-group cooperation (\$798,467)
<i>pending</i>	National Science Foundation Biological Anthropology Research Grant (BCS-1849145, Role: Co-PI). Social monitoring in wild capuchins (\$269,266).
<i>pending</i>	National Science Foundation Biological Anthropology Research Grant (BCS-1849145, Role: Co-PI). Social monitoring in wild capuchins (\$269,266).
2017 – 2019	National Science Foundation (SMA- 1714923, Role: PI) Postdoctoral Fellowship. Hormones, social dynamics, and variation in responses to inequity (\$138,000).
2016 – 2021	National Science Foundation (SMA- 1620391, Role: Co-PI) Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science Research (IBSS) Competition: Inequity Aversion, Individual Decision-making and the Emergence of Collective Behavior (\$999,997).
2012 – 2015	National Science Foundation (BCS-1340911, Role: Co-PI) Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: Are gelada loud calls sexually selected signals? (\$19,890).
2012 – 2015	The Leakey Foundation (Role: PI) Are gelada loud calls sexually selected signals? (\$13,440).
2010 – 2014	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (tuition & stipend)
2012	Institute for International Education (IIE) Fulbright Student Fellowship, Simien Mountain National Park, Ethiopia ( <i>Award declined</i> ).
2006	National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Research Fellowship, Cape Coast, Ghana.

### INTERNAL FUNDING

<i>pending</i>	Georgia State University- Brains & Behavior Seed Grant (\$29,000).
2016 – 2017	Georgia State University- Brains & Behavior Seed Grant (\$28,498).
2009 – 2015	University of Michigan - Rackham Merit Fellowship (tuition & stipend).
2013	University of Michigan - Rackham Research Grant (\$3,000).
2011	University of Michigan - Rackham Research Grant (\$1,500).
2011	University of Michigan - African Studies Center Research Grant (\$1,500).
2011	University of Michigan - International Institute Individual Grant (\$1,400).
2010	University of Michigan - African Initiative Research Grant (\$4,400).
2010	University of Michigan - Dept. of Anthropology Travel Grant (\$2,000).

**AWARDS**

- 2017 Animal Behavior Society – Warder Clyde Allee Competition Honorable Mention
- 2016 University of Michigan – Milford H. Wolpoff Graduate Student Writing Award
- 2014 University of Michigan – Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Understanding the Social Mind: Primate Cognitive Evolution (Role: Instructor)
- 2014 University of Michigan – Pat Gurin Distinguished Lecture Award
- 2013 University of Michigan – Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Introduction to Biological Anthropology (Role: TA)

**PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS**

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- Benítez ME**, Sosnowki MJ, Tomeo OB, Brosnan SF. Testing the challenge hypothesis in male capuchins: Hormonal, physical, and behavioral changes to novel females (*in prep*).
- Leverett KL, **Benítez ME**, Brosnan SF. Measuring affective responses to inequity in captive chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), orangutans (*Pongo abelii*) and capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella*) (*in prep*).
- Benítez ME**, Bergman TJ, Beehner JC. The function and costs of gelada male vocal displays. *Hormones & Behavior* (*in prep*).
- Benítez ME\***, Sosnowski MJ\*, Tomeo OB, Brosnan SF (2018). Urinary oxytocin in capuchin monkeys: Validation and the effects of social behaviors. *American Journal of Primatology*, e22877.
- Benítez ME**, Pappano DJ, Bergman TJ, Beehner JC (2017). Evidence of mutual assessment in a wild primate. *Scientific Reports*, 7, 2952.
- Benítez ME**, Le Roux A, Fischer J, Beehner JC, Bergman TJ (2016). Acoustic properties of gelada loud calls advertise male quality. *International Journal of Primatology*, 37, 568-585.

**BOOK CHAPTERS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

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- Fragaszy D, **Benítez ME**, Brosnan SF. Biology and Behavior of Capuchin Monkeys. In K Coleman, J Shapiro (eds.): *Behavioral Biology of Laboratory Animals*. CRC Press (*in prep*).
- Benítez ME**, Brosnan SF. The evolutionary roots of social comparisons. In J Suls, CL Collins, L Wheeler (eds.): *Social Comparison in Judgment and Behavior*. Oxford University Press (*in press*).
- Benítez ME** (2016). Sizing-up strangers: Sexual selection and vocal signals in gelada males (Doctoral Dissertation). Retrieved from Deep Blue database. (Accession No. 0000-0001-7425-9507).

**PRESENTATIONS & TALKS**

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**INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS**

- 2018 University of Michigan, *Animal Behavior Lab Meeting*
- 2018 University of Georgia, *Primate Cognition and Behavior Lab Meeting*
- 2018 Georgia State University, *Lana Conference*

- 2017 American Association of Physical Anthropologist, Signals in Evolutionary and Ecological Context Invited Symposium
- 2017 Georgia State University, *Primate Evolution & Behavior* (Psych 8541)
- 2016 Georgia State University, *Hard Data Café Seminar Series*
- 2014 University of Michigan, *Sex Differences in Brain, Behavior, and Disease* (Psych 437).
- 2014 University of Michigan, *Pat Gurin Distinguished Lecture Series*
- 2013 University of Michigan, *Sexual Selection in Primates* (Anthrbio 297).
- 2012 Yale University, *Comparative Cognition Seminar Series*

### CONFERENCE TALKS & PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

\*denotes mentored graduate students and \*\*undergraduate students

#### Podium Presentations

- Benítez ME**, Sosnowski MJ, Tomeo OB, Brosnan SF (2019). Urinary oxytocin in capuchin monkeys: validation and the influence of social behavior. American Association of Physical Anthropologist meetings, Cleveland (March 2019).
- Benítez ME** (2019). Hormones, cooperation, and conflict in capuchins. South Eastern Evolution and Human Behavior Meetings, Atlanta (March 2019)
- Sosnowski MJ\*, **Benítez ME**, Tomeo OB, Brosnan SF (2018). The role of oxytocin in affiliative social behavior in tufted capuchin monkeys (*Cebus [Sapajus] apella*). Annual Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists, San Antonio (August 2018).
- Sosnowski MJ\*, **Benítez ME**, Tomeo OB, Brosnan SF (2018). Oxytocin, affiliation, and social bonds in tufted capuchin monkeys (*Cebus [Sapajus] apella*). Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society, Milwaukee (August 2018)
- Benítez ME** (2017). Rival assessment strategies in gelada males. Lana Conference. Georgia State University, Atlanta (October 2017).
- Benítez ME** (2017). Sizing up strangers: Social knowledge and signals in gelada males. PRIM8S First Annual Conference. Atlanta (March 2017).
- Benítez ME**, Bergman TJ, Beehner JC (2017). Evidence for mutual assessment in a wild primate. Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society, Toronto, Canada (June 2017). *Warder Clyde Allee Competition Honorable Mention*.
- Benítez ME**, Bergman TJ, Beehner JC (2017). Sizing up strangers: sexual selection and vocal signals in male geladas (*Theropithecus gelada*). American Association of Physical Anthropology Annual Meetings, New Orleans (April 2017).
- Benítez ME**, Bergman TJ, Beehner JC (2015). Testosterone mediates loud call production in gelada males. American Association of Physical Anthropology Annual Meetings, 156 (S83):60-61, St. Louis (April 2015).
- Benítez ME**, Beehner JC, Bergman TJ (2014). Gelada males attend to acoustic differences in loud calls. Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society, New Jersey (August 2014).

### Poster Presentations

- Truscott CG\*\*, Benítez ME, Brosnan SF (2018). Social Behavior of wild white-faced capuchin monkeys (*Cebus capucinus*) at Capuchins de Taboga. Psychology Undergraduate Research Symposium, Georgia State University, Atlanta (October 2018)
- Truscott CG\*\*, Benítez ME, Brosnan SF (2018). Comparing social behavior and hormones of wild white-faced capuchins (*Cebus capuchins*) at Capuchins de Taboga. Psychology Undergraduate Research Symposium, Georgia State University, . Georgia State University Undergraduate Research Conference, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA (July 2018).
- Sosnowski MJ\*, Benítez ME, Tomeo OB, Brosnan SF (2018). Oxytocin changes with affiliative social behavior in tufted capuchin monkeys (*Cebus [Sapajus] apella*). Brains & Behavior Retreat, Georgia State University, Atlanta (May 2018).
- Benítez ME, Sosnowski MJ, Tomeo OB, Brosnan SF (2018). Testing the Challenge Hypothesis in male capuchin monkeys: hormonal, physical, and behavioral responses to novel females. American Association of Physical Anthropologist meetings, Austin (April 2018).
- Saldaña, JM\*\*, Sosnowski, MJ, Tomeo OB, Benítez ME, & Brosnan SF (2018). Biological validation of testosterone assay in tufted capuchin monkeys. GT(2) Research Symposium, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA (April 2018).
- Saldaña, JM\*\*, Sosnowski, MJ, Tomeo OB, Benítez ME, & Brosnan SF (2018). Biological validation of testosterone assay in tufted capuchin monkeys. Georgia State University Undergraduate Research Conference, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA (April 2018).
- Saldaña, JM\*\*, Sosnowski, MJ, Tomeo OB, Benítez ME, & Brosnan SF (2018). Validation of testosterone assay in tufted capuchin monkeys. Atlanta Neuroscience Symposium, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA (March 2018).
- Leverett, KL, Benítez ME, Brosnan SF (2017). Measuring Affective Responses to Inequity in Captive Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), Orangutans (*Pongo abelii*) and Capuchin Monkeys (*Cebus apella*). Annual Meeting of the American Society of Primatologist Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. (August 2017).
- Tomeo OB\*, Benítez ME, Sosnowski MJ, Tone E, Brosnan SF (2017). The relationship between self-directed anxiety behaviors and cortisol in socially-housed capuchin monkeys (*Cebus [Sapajus] apella*). Annual Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists. Washington D.C (August 2017).
- Sosnowski MJ\*, Benítez ME, Tomeo OB, Brosnan SF (2017). Exposure to novel females increases testosterone levels in socially-housed male capuchin monkeys. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists, Washington D.C. (August 2017).
- Benítez ME, Beehner JC, Bergman TJ (2016). Multimodal signaling in geladas (*Theropithecus gelada*): chest redness reflects frequency of vocal displays in harem-holding gelada males. Annual Meeting of the International Primatological Society, Chicago (August 2016)
- Benítez ME, Le Roux A, Beehner JC, Bergman TJ (2012). Acoustic properties of gelada loud calls may advertise male quality. Annual Meeting of the International Primatological Society, Cancun, Mexico (August 2012).
- Leimgruber KL, Ward AF, Benítez ME, Widness J, Norton MI, Olson KR, Gray K, Santos LR (2012). Do capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella*) pay it forward: the role of social context in prosocial behavior. Annual Meeting of the International Primatological Society Annual Meeting, Cancun, Mexico (August 2012).

**Benítez ME, Anestis SF, Santos LR, Bribiescas RG, Beehner JC (2011).** A non-invasive method for collecting salivary testosterone in socially house captive monkeys. American Association of Physical Anthropology Annual Meetings, S52: 87-88, Minneapolis (April 2011).

Lu A, **Benítez ME, Beehner JC (2011).** Quantifying urinary C-peptides in wild geladas (*Theropithecus gelada*). American Association of Physical Anthropology Annual Meetings, S52:20, Minneapolis (April 2011).

**Benítez ME, Anestis SF, Santos LR, Bribiescas RG (2009).** Non-invasive salivary collection techniques in captive brown capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella*). Annual Meeting of the International Primatological Society. Edinburgh, Scotland (August 2009).

**Benítez ME, Anestis SF, Santos LR, Bribiescas RG (2008).** Methods for collecting salivary cortisol from unrestrained, adult, captive brown capuchin monkeys. American Association of Physical Anthropology Meetings, 135(S46):67, Columbus (April 2008).

### DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

- 2016 Hard Data Café Seminar Series, Department of Psychology, GSU.
- 2016 Integrative Behavioral Ecology Talks, Department of Psychology, U of M.
- 2014 Four Field Graduate Student Talks, Department of Anthropology, U of M.
- 2012 Four Field Graduate Student Talks, Department of Anthropology, U of M.

### OUTREACH AND PUBLIC TALKS

- 2019 Meet a Scientist, Atlanta Science Festival, Atlanta, GA
- 2019 500 Women Scientist Pod Member, Atlanta, GA
- 2018 Comportamiento y Cognición Social de los Monos Capuchinos, Universidad Técnica Nacional, Liberia, Costa Rica
- 2017 Communication & Social Cognition in Capuchins, Universidad Técnica Nacional, Liberia, Costa Rica
- 2016 Science Communication Fellowship Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2016 Natural History Museum Scientist Spotlight, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2016 Natural History Museum Fun Friday Nights, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2016 Flame Challenge: What is sound, gelada monkey rap video for kids
- 2014 Kamp Kurat Science Education Workshop, Kamp Kurat Celebrates Ethiopia Camp, Michigan.
- 2012 Ethiopian Wildlife Exhibition Festivals, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### TEACHING & MENTORING

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#### COURSE INSTRUCTOR

- 2014 Understanding the Social Mind: Primate Cognitive Evolution. Anthrbio 297, University of Michigan, Spring 2014. *Outstanding Instructor Award.*

**GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR (TA)**

- 2016 Introduction to Biological Anthropology. Anthrbio 201, University of Michigan, Winter 2016 (Instructor: Dr. John Mitani)
- 2012 Introduction to Biological Anthropology. Anthrbio 161, University of Michigan, Fall 2012 (Instructor: Dr. Laura MacLatchy). *Outstanding TA Award*.
- 2011 Evolution and Nutrition. Anthrbio 364, University of Michigan, Winter 2011, (Instructor: Dr. Roberto Frisancho)
- 2010 Introduction to Biological Anthropology. Anthrbio 161, University of Michigan, Fall 2010 (Instructor: Dr. Laura MacLatchy)

**MENTORING & ADVISING**

- 2018 – *present* Jenae Sanders, Psychology Undergraduate Research Program, Georgia State University
- 2016 – *present* Olivia Tomeo, Graduate Student, Master Committee Member, Georgia State University
- 2016 – *present* Megan Sosnowski, Graduate Student, Hormone collection and analysis, Georgia State University
- 2016 – *present* Jhonatan Saldena, Psychology Undergraduate Research Program, Georgia State University
- 2016 – *present* Caleb Truscott, Psychology Undergraduate Research Program, Georgia State University
- 2015 – 2016 Elaine Kim, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, University of Michigan
- 2014 – 2015 Younjin Kang, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, *Multimodal Signaling in Gelada Males*, University of Michigan
- 2014 – 2015 Sara Shamaskin, Undergraduate Research Volunteer, Acoustic analysis of gelada loud calls, University of Michigan
- 2014 – 2015 Kara Kingma, Honors Thesis, *Gelada Males Attend to Acoustic Differences in Loud Calls*, University of Michigan
- 2014 – 2015 Nathan Chesterman, Undergraduate Research Volunteer, Acoustic analysis of gelada loud calls, University of Michigan
- 2012 – 2014 Megan Gomery, Field Assistant, Data collection and vocalization recordings on gelada males in the Simien Mountains National Park, Ethiopia

**SELECTED SERVICE**

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- 2019– *present* Member, 500 Women Scientists Atlanta Pod
- 2019 – *present* Grant reviewer for the Leakey Foundation
- 2017 – *present* Co-Director UTN Proyecto Mono, Liberia, Costa Rica

2017 – present	Master Thesis Committee Member, Olivia Tomeo, Graduate Students, Georgia State University
2017 – present	Reviewer for <i>American Journal of Primatology</i>
2016	Reviewer for journal <i>Zoo Biology</i>
2014 – 2016	Co-Director, Biological Anthropology Graduate Student group, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
2012 – 2016	Board of Directors, Save the Simiens, Simien Mountains National Park, Ethiopia.
2015	Panel, Graduate Student Recruitment Panel, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
2015	Gelada Lab Representative, Lab Introductions and Recruitment Talks, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2014	Reviewer for the journal <i>Primates</i>
2013	Recommender, Tenure Committee for Dr. Sari van Anders, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2013	Recommender, Tenure Committee for Dr. Thore Bergman, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2010 – 2011	Faculty Meeting Representative, Michigan Anthropology Graduate Student Association, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
2010 – 2011	Biological Anthropology Representative, Michigan Anthropology Graduate Student Association, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
2010 – 2011	Member, Michigan Anthropology Diversity Initiative, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

## **SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE**

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Science Daily, [“Wild Monkeys Use Loud Calls to Assess Relative Strength of Rivals”](#)

NPR All Things Considered, [“What a Chatty Monkey May Tell Us About Learning to Talk”](#)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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2014 – present	The Animal Behavior Society
2009 – present	The International Primate Society
2008 – present	The American Association of Physical Anthropologists

## **LANGUAGES**

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English (native), Spanish (native), Italian (proficient), Amharic (beginner)



**REFERENCES**

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**Dr. Sarah Brosnan**

Georgia State University  
Department of Psychology  
P.O. Box 5010  
Atlanta, GA 30302  
Email: sbrosnan@gsu.edu

**Dr. Jacinta Beehner**

Departments of Anthropology and Psychology,  
University of Michigan  
530 Church St.,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109  
Email: [jbeehner@umich.edu](mailto:jbeehner@umich.edu)

**Dr. Thore Bergman**

Departments of Psychology and Ecology &  
Evolutionary Biology,  
University of Michigan  
530 Church St.,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109  
Email: thore@umich.edu