

Marcela Eugenia Benítez

Department of Psychology
 Georgia State University •
 Language Research Center • 101 West Hall
 Atlanta, GA 30302-5010 • USA
 Email • mbenitez@gsu.edu
 Website • marcelabenitez.weebly.com

EDUCATION

2016	Joint Ph.D., Biological Anthropology & Biopsychology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI <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

2016 – <i>present</i>	Postdoctoral Research Fellow , 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)
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)
2009-2010	Research Assistant, University of Pennsylvania & Estancia Guaycolec, Argentina (Supervisor: Dr. Eduardo Fernandez-Duque)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social cognition, decision-making, signaling, evolution of social behavior, sexual selection, behavioral endocrinology, primatology, communication

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

EXTERNAL FUNDING

- 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 (*Award declined*).
- 2006 National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Research Fellowship, Cape Coast, Ghana.

INTERNAL FUNDING

- 2016 – 2017 Georgia State University- Brains & Behavior Seed Grant (Role: Co-PI) Understanding how social factors and hormonal signatures relate to variation in response to violated expectations in social groups (\$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

- 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

Benítez ME, Pappano DJ, Bergman TJ, Beehner JC. Evidence of mutual assessment in a wild primate. *Nature Communications* (Submitted, September 2016)

Benítez ME, Le Roux A, Fischer J, Beehner JC, Bergman TJ. Acoustic properties of gelada loud calls advertise male quality. *International Journal of Primatology* (Accepted, September 2016).

BOOK CHAPTERS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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 prep)

PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

- 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

- 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. International Primatological Society Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois.
- Benítez ME**, Le Roux A, Beehner JC, Bergman TJ (2012). Acoustic properties of gelada loud calls may advertise male quality. International Primatological Society Annual Meeting. Cancun, Mexico.
- 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.
- Benítez ME**, Beehner JC, Bergman TJ (2014). Gelada Males Attend to Acoustic Differences in Loud Calls. Animal Behavior Society Meetings. Princeton, New Jersey.
- Benítez ME**, Le Roux A, Beehner JC, Bergman TJ (2012). Acoustic properties of gelada loud calls may advertise male quality. International Primatological Society Annual Meeting. Cancun, Mexico.
- 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. International Primatological Society Annual Meeting. Cancun, Mexico.
- Benítez ME**, Anestis SF, Santos LR, Bribiescas RG, Beehner JC (2011). A non-invasive method for collecting salivary testosterone in socially housed captive monkeys. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 52: 87-88.
- Lu A, **Benítez ME**, Beehner JC (2011). Quantifying urinary C-peptides in wild geladas (*Theropithecus gelada*). *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. 52:20.

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

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

DEPARTMENTAL TALKS (University of Michigan)

- 2016 Integrative Behavioral Ecology Talks, Department of Psychology.
- 2014 Four Field Graduate Student Talks, Department of Anthropology.
- 2012 Four Field Graduate Student Talks, Department of Anthropology.

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC TALKS

- 2016-present 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

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

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

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)
- 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

- 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
- 2008 – 2009 Tenley Mochizuki, Honors Thesis, *Salivary Testosterone and Dominance in Capuchins*, Yale University

SELECTED SERVICE

- 2016 Reviewer for journal *Zoo Biology*
- 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 *Primates*
- 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

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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

LANGUAGES

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

REFERENCES

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

Dr. Thore Bergman

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