

Lauren M. Wiseman-Jones

Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Anthropology

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EDUCATION

2022 – Present: WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Department of Anthropology

PhD in Biological Anthropology

2020 – 2022: WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Department of Anthropology

Biological Anthropology MA

(GPA 4.0)

2017 – 2018: IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

Department of Life Sciences

Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation MRes.

(Distinction)

2011 – 2015: CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

School of Biosciences

Zoology BSc.

(First Class Honors)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

September 2023 – DISSERTATION FIELDWORK, THE DIANE FOSSEY GORILLA FUND

July 2024: *Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda*

To investigate the role that flexible physiological and behavioural mechanisms might play in the survival of mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*), I examined the behavioural and physiological responses (changes in activity budgets, ranging patterns, social strategies, physiological stress, and energy balance) of gorillas to multifactorial social and anthropogenic stressors (encounters between social units and illegal human activities such as snares). Along with two research assistants, I conducted fieldwork in Volcanoes National Park to collect data and biological samples from eight gorilla social groups. For behavioural data collection, we used instantaneous scan sampling using the *Animal Observer* application on iPads, while ranging data were recorded using GPS. Additionally, we collected faecal samples and performed cortisol enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISAs) in the laboratory at the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Fossey Fund. I also trained the research assistants in data collection, data cleaning, and laboratory hormonal analyses.

September 2022 – VISITING GRADUATE STUDENT, THE PRIMATE BEHAVIOUR LABORATORY

December 2022: *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA*

For my PhD research, I am collaborating with the Primate Behaviour Laboratory, directed by Dr. Stacy Rosenbaum, to conduct mountain gorilla

hormone analyses. During the 2022 Fall Semester I learnt techniques including glucocorticoid and testosterone ELISAs, and laboratory and field-based hormone extraction methods. We are also validating an ELISA to measure thyroid hormone concentrations from gorilla faecal samples.

June – August 2022:

VISITING RESEARCHER, THE DIAN FOSSEY GORILLA FUND

Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda

I conducted a PhD pilot study to assess how mountain gorilla energy balance and physiological stress vary in relation to different ranging patterns and activity budgets. This project involved behavioural data collection using focal sampling and group scans, faecal sample collection, and validating methods to accurately measure gorilla ranging patterns (such as daily travel distances) using GPS and GIS technologies.

**September 2020 –
December 2020:**

REPRODUCTIVE ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOURAL ENDOCRINOLOGY LABORATORY

Washington University in St. Louis, MO, USA

I assisted with nonhuman primate hormone analysis techniques under the supervision of my advisor, Dr. Krista Milich. My experience included radioimmunoassays to measure C-peptide and testosterone concentrations and ELISAs to measure oxytocin concentrations in nonhuman primate samples. The samples included urine and faecal samples from spider (*Ateles belzebuth*) and woolly monkeys (*Lagothrix poeppigii*) at Tiputini Biodiversity Station, Ecuador.

**April 2019 –
October 2019**

LOANGO GORILLA PROJECT (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology)

Loango National Park, Gabon

As a research assistant, I collected western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) behavioural and ranging data. I also assisted with the habituation project and was a guide for visiting tourists.

**January 2017 –
July 2017:**

TIPUTINI BIODIVERSITY STATION (Proyecto Primates)

Yasuní National Park, Ecuador

I was a research assistant for a project assessing male cooperation and the physiological correlates of intra- and intergroup relations among Atelines. I primarily collected behavioural data, ranging data, and faecal and urine samples from different groups of woolly monkeys. I processed these samples in the field laboratory at Tiputini and assisted in analysing the hormone concentrations at the Reproductive Ecology and Behavioral Endocrinology Lab at Washington University in St. Louis.

**November 2015 –
August 2016:**

LUIKOTALE BONOBO PROJECT (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology)

Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of the Congo

I worked as a research assistant for a project investigating the food sharing behaviour of bonobos (*Pan paniscus*). I collected behavioural data, ranging data, and urine samples for hormonal analyses.

**September 2014 –
December 2014:**

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY OTTER PROJECT (Cardiff University)

Cardiff, United Kingdom

I was a volunteer assistant and researcher for this project and assisted during otter post-mortems.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

- September 2020 – Present:** **PhD DISSERTATION**
Washington University in St. Louis, MO, USA
Research Topic: The physiological and behavioural responses of Virunga mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) to social and anthropogenic stressors in Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda.
 Advisor: Dr. Krista M. Milich
- April 2018 – August 2018:** **POSTGRADUATE MASTER’S THESIS**
Imperial College London, UK, and Makerere University Biological Field Station, Kibale National Park, Uganda
Project Title: Understanding the drivers of tolerance towards crop raiding species to facilitate human-wildlife coexistence in communities surrounding Kibale National Park, Uganda.
 Advisors: Dr. Andrew T. Knight and Dr. Ruth Kansky
- November 2017 – March 2018:** **POSTGRADUATE MASTER’S THESIS**
Imperial College London and Tring Natural History Museum, UK
Project Title: Using fluctuating asymmetry as a proxy measurement for stress in Brazilian bird species across their distribution ranges.
 Advisor: Dr. Cristina Banks-Leite
- September 2014 – March 2015:** **UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATION**
Cardiff University, UK
Project Title: The transmission potential and change in distribution of two Opisthorchiid digeneans in the European otter (*Lutra lutra*) in Britain.
 Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth A. Chadwick
- September 2013 – July 2014:** **UNDERGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING YEAR**
Cardiff University and Moyo Conservation Project, South Africa
Project Title: The influence of game farm fences on the movement and behaviour of wildlife in Limpopo, South Africa, and assessing impact mitigation strategies.
 Advisors: Dr. Michael W. Bruford and Dr. Ian Gaigher
- June 2013 – July 2013:** **FIELD COURSE RESEARCH PROJECT**
Cardiff University and Danau Girang Field Centre, Malaysia
Project Title: Investigating parasite load in the faeces of long tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*), along the Kinabatangan River, Sabah.
 Advisors: Dr. Michael W. Bruford and Dr. Benoit Goossens

PUBLICATIONS

Book Reviews

- Wiseman-Jones, L.** (2021). Spatial Analysis in Field Primatology: Applying GIS At Varying Scales. *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*. DOI: 10.1002/ajpa.24401.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Published Abstracts

Wiseman-Jones, L.M., Ishimwe, D., Eckardt, W., Stoinski, T.S., Milich, K. M (2025). Changes in mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) activity budgets in response to social and anthropogenic stressors. *American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABAs)*. The 94th Annual Meeting of the AABAs, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Wiseman-Jones, L.M., Ishimwe, D., Eckardt, W., Stoinski, T.S., Milich, K. M (2024). Flexible changes in mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) ranging patterns in response to social and anthropogenic stressors in Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda. *American Society of Primatologists (ASP)*. The 46th Meeting of ASP 2024, Riviera Maya, Mexico.

Milich, K. M., **Wiseman-Jones, L. M.,** Wolf, E., Kugonza, M., Sobral, G. (2024) Variation in the ranging behaviors, polyspecific associations, and predator-prey dynamics of red colobus monkeys in anthropogenically-modified landscapes. *American Journal of Primatology (ASP)*. The 46th Meeting of ASP 2024, Riviera Maya, Mexico.

Sobral, G., **Wiseman-Jones, L. M.,** Miller, N., Sacco, A., Milich, K. M. (2022). Presence of Chimpanzees Influence Red Colobus Ranging Behavior. *American Journal of Primatology*.

Milich, K. M., Sorbello, K., McCarten, J., **Wiseman-Jones, L.,** Busobozi, R., & Kugonza, M. (2019). Conservation to Coexist: Participatory Action Research for Wildlife Conservation, Economic Development, and Biological Anthropology Research. *American Journal Of Physical Anthropology*, 168, 165-166.

Presentations Without Published Abstracts

Wiseman-Jones, L., Eckardt, W., Stoinski, T. S., Milich, K. M. (2022). Validating methods to estimate Virunga mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) daily travel distances in Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda. *Midwest Primate Interest Group*. The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Invited Talks

Wiseman-Jones, L., Flexible changes in mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) ranging patterns and activity budgets in response to social and anthropogenic stressors. *Biological Anthropology Journal Club*. Washington University in St. Louis, November 13th, 2024.

Wiseman-Jones, L., The physiological and behavioural responses of mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) to social and anthropogenic stressors. *Science Café*. The Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, January 9th, 2024.

Wiseman-Jones, L., The physiological and behavioural responses of Virunga mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) to social and anthropogenic stressors. *Biological Anthropology Meeting (BAM)*. The University of Michigan, November 9th, 2022.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lectures

March 2023: Anthropology 3660: Primate Ecology, Biology, and Behavior
 Topic: "Primate intergroup encounters"
 Instructor: Dr. Krista Milich, *Washington University in St. Louis*

November 2024: Anthropology 3660: Primate Ecology, Biology, and Behavior
 Topic: "Changes in social dynamics among mountain gorillas, a primate conservation success story"
 Instructor: Dr. Krista Milich, *Washington University in St. Louis*

Mentored Teaching Experiences

September – December 2024: Assistant in Instruction for Anthropology 3876: Darwin & Doctors: Evolutionary Medicine and Health
 Instructor: Dr. Emily Wroblewski, *Washington University in St. Louis*

January – May 2023: Assistant in Instruction for Anthropology 4591: Human Functional Morphology
 Instructor: Dr. Thomas Cody Prang, *Washington University in St. Louis*

January – May 2022: Assistant in Instruction for Anthropology 3283: Introduction to Global Health
 Instructor: Dr. Theresa Gildner, *Washington University in St. Louis*

September – December 2021: Assistant in Instruction for Anthropology 150A: Introduction to Human Evolution
 Instructor: Dr. David Strait, *Washington University in St. Louis*

Professional Teaching Courses

February – December 2022: Exploring Practices in the Classroom Programme
 Centre for Teaching and Learning, *Washington University in St. Louis*

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

2023 – 2026: The Leakey Foundation Research Grant (\$19,913)

2023 – 2026: International Primatological Society Research Grant (\$1,500) and Conservation Through Community Involvement (CCI) Grant (\$500)

2023 – 2024: Lewis and Clark Fund Grant for Exploration and Field Research (\$5,000)

2023 – 2024: Primate Society of Great Britain Research Grant (£1,247)

2023 – 2024: Sigma Xi Grants in Aid of Research (\$1,000)

2022 – 2023: American Society of Primatologists Small Research Grant (\$1,500)

Internal (Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL))

2024 – 2025: WUSTL Conference Travel Fund (\$1,000)

2023 – 2024: WUSTL Conference Travel Fund (\$1,000)

2023 – 2024: Rich Smith Travel Fund (\$3,000)

2023 – 2024: WUSTL Summer Dissertation Research Travel Fund (\$1,000)

2022 – 2023: WUSTL Summer Dissertation Research Travel Fund (\$1,000)

2020 – 2026: University Fellowship, Washington University in St. Louis (\$28,000 - \$35,000)

Other Scholarships and Awards

2014: W. M. Tattersall Exhibition, *Cardiff University, UK* (£250)

2013: HJB Charitable Trust Scholarship, *Danau Girang Field Centre, Malaysia* (£1,500)

2009 – 2011: Full Science Scholarship to Lucton School, UK (£29,000)

APPLIED COURSES

- 2022:** Environmental Studies 581: Advanced GIS
Department of Environmental Studies, *Washington University in St. Louis*
- 2021:** Foundations in Public Health S55 MPH 5003: Biostatistics
Master of Public Health, *Washington University in St. Louis Brown School*
- 2021:** Anthropology 373: Introduction to GIS for Anthropologists
Department of Anthropology, *Washington University in St. Louis*
- 2017:** Biological Computing and Statistics in R
Department of Life Sciences, *Imperial College London*
- 2017:** Spatial Analysis and GIS
Department of Life Sciences, *Imperial College London*
- 2014:** Using R Statistical Software
School of Biosciences, *Cardiff University*
- 2014:** Methods in ArcGIS and QGIS
School of Biosciences, *Cardiff University*

OUTREACH

2024: COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT BISATE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Bisate, Northern Province, Rwanda

For World Environment Day 2024, I collaborated with the community development team at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund to engage with the Environmental Club members at Bisate Secondary School. Inspired by that year's World Environment Day theme "*land restoration, desertification and drought resilience*," I gave a presentation on my dissertation research with mountain gorillas and methods of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling to the cohort. To reinforce the importance of reducing waste and promoting a sustainable environment, we designed and produced reusable water bottles (supported by my International Primatological Society CCI grant), which we distributed to each student. We also led discussions on actionable methods to reduce waste, practical land conservation strategies, and the pivotal roles young leaders can play in conservation efforts. To put our discussions into practice, we organised a hands-on session where students collected plastic waste around the school and learnt effective sorting and disposal methods.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Memberships and Affiliations

American Association of Biological Anthropologists
American Society of Primatologists
International Primatological Society
International Society of Wildlife Endocrinology
Primate Society of Great Britain

Ad Hoc Reviewer (Journals)

Ecology and Evolution