

Julien Di Giovanni

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EDUCATION

PhD Washington University in St. Louis - Biological Anthropology 2023 - Present

Dissertation - *The cultural evolution of technology in chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes)*

Supervised by Dr. C. Sanz

MSc University of Exeter - Evolutionary and Behavioral Ecology 2020 - 2021

Distinctions

Master Thesis - *Urban gulls show physiological and behavioural responses to human vocalisations*

Supervised by Dr. N. Boogert

BSc Bucknell University (Exchange Year) 2019 - 2020

Fall and Spring Dean's List

BSc University of Tours - Life Sciences 2017 - 2020

Mention Très Bien (Distinctions)

PUBLICATIONS & POSTERS

Published

Di Giovanni, J., Funkhouser, J., Sanz, C., & Musgrave, S. 2025. Evolution of animal tool use and cumulative culture. In: Choe JC (ed) *Encyclopedia of animal behavior (3rd edition)*. Elsevier, Academic Press, Amsterdam. doi: 10.1016/B978-0-443-29068-8.00097-0

Di Giovanni, J., Fawcett, T.W., Templeton, C.N., Raghav, S. & Boogert, N.J. 2022. Urban gulls show similar thermographic and behavioral responses to human shouting and conspecific alarm calls. *Front. Ecol. Evol.* 10:891985. doi: 10.3389/fevo.2022.891985

In Prep

Di Giovanni, J., Koni, D., Morgan, D., Gaudin, G., & Sanz, C. *In prep.* Cultural optimization drives raw material selectivity for efficient tools in wild chimpanzees. Target: *Current Biology*

Poster

Di Giovanni, J., Koni, D., Morgan, D., Gaudin, G., & Sanz, C. September 19 2025. Cultural optimization drives raw material selectivity for efficient tools in chimpanzees. *American Society of Primatologists*

Di Giovanni, J., Koni, D., Morgan, D., Gaudin, G., & Sanz, C. October 26 2024. Raw material selectivity as a form of cultural optimization in Central chimpanzees. *Midwest Primate Interest Group*

GRANTS

International Primatological Society (\$1,494.57)	2025
Conference Travel Funds (\$1,800) - <i>Washington University</i>	2024-2025
Summer Travel Funds (\$2,000) - <i>Washington University</i>	2024-2025
Richard Smith Travel Funds (\$3,900) - <i>Washington University</i>	2024-2025

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Scholarships

Funding for Future Career Development (£1,000) - <i>University of Exeter</i>	2021
Full-tuition scholarship for two semesters (\$66,094) - <i>Bucknell University</i>	2019

Awards

Dean's Commendation for Exceptional Performance - <i>University of Exeter</i>	2021
Dean's List (Fall and Spring) - <i>Bucknell University</i>	2019 - 2020

FIELD & LAB EXPERIENCE

Moyen-Bafing Chimpanzee Project (Guinea), supervised by Dr. C. Hobaiter (University of St Andrews), Dr. L. Samuni, and Dr. E. Wessling (Harvard University)	May 2022 - Jan. 2023
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Field research assistant: Habituation of wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*), collection of data on chimpanzee behavior and ecology, camera trapping, monitoring of the park ecosystem, botanical ID, recce

Kalahari Meerkat Project (South Africa), University of Cambridge & University of Zurich	Dec. 2021 - Apr. 2022
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Field research assistant: Collection of behavioral data (*ad libitum*, scan and focal sampling) of wild meerkats (*Suricata suricatta*), fecal sampling, habituation, sound recording and logging, radio-tracking, handling and weighing, game surveying

University of Oxford & University of Exeter	June 2021 - Nov. 2021
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Research assistant for material culture in wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*).
Supervised by Dr. K. Hockings and Dr. J. Bessa

FriendOrigins Project, CRAB, University of Exeter	Sept. 2021 - Nov. 2021
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Lab volunteer working on social interaction in long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*).
Supervised by Prof. L. Brent and Dr. De Moor

University of Exeter, Cornwall, UK	May 2021 - July 2021
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Summer field courses: small mammal trapping, camera trapping, bird call ID, insect trapping and ID, bat surveying and acoustic ID

University of Orléans, Laboratoire de Biologie des Ligneux et des Grandes Cultures	May 2013
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Intern learning laboratory skills / Supervised by Dr. V. Altemayer

OUTREACH

Public outreach

- St. Louis Science Center SciFest: The SciFeast Expo (Fall 2024)
- St. Louis Science Center SciFest: The Great Outdoors Expo (Spring 2024)
- St. Louis Science Center SciFest: The Engineering Expo (Spring 2024)
- Primate Awareness Day at St. Louis Zoo (Fall 2023 / Fall 2024)

Presentations

- Goualougo Triangle Ape Project, Republic of Congo: La culture cumulative des chimpanzés d'Afrique centrale (*Pan t. troglodytes*) (Summer 2024)

TEACHING

The Myth of Race (Instructor: Dr. Rose Hores): teaching assistant (Spring 2025)

Introduction to Human Evolution (Instructor: Dr. D. Strait): teaching assistant (Fall 2024 - Fall 2025)

SKILLS

Research

Use of scientific method, experimental design and writing of scientific research paper

Application of statistical inferential methods to test hypotheses (LM, GLM, LMM, GLMM, BAMM)

Knowledge of programming languages (R, Bash, Minitab) to analyze large datasets

Knowledge of complex and basic software (QGIS, ArcGIS, MapSource, SQL, Geneious, Audacity, CyberTracker, FLIR Tools, GIMP, Regressi, Excel)

Fieldwork

Habituation of chimpanzees and meerkats, camera trapping, small mammal handling (meerkat), working in a remote and challenging environment for 12+ hours, botanical ID, habitat plot, GPS use, radio-tracking

Communication

French (native) - English (fluent, TOEFL iBT 111/120) - Spanish (CEFR: level B1)

Designing and teaching a 3 hours, multi-module, active learning class on Behavioral Ecology