

Goirik Gupta
PhD Candidate
Developmental and Evolutionary Psychology Program
University of California, Santa Barbara
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Educational Qualification

Ph.D., Candidate: 2019 - expected May 2026
Program in Developmental and Evolutionary Psychology
Advisor: Dr. James Roney
University of California, Santa Barbara

Masters: 2013-2016
MS Biological Sciences
Evolutionary and Organismal Biology Unit (EOBU)
Advisor: Vijay Kumar Sharma
Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)
Bangalore, India

Undergraduate Study: 2010-2013
BSc Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology
(*Gold medallist, First class with distinction*)
Department of Zoology, Loyola College
Chennai, India

Professional Experience

Research internship 2017 - 2018
Biopsychology Laboratory,
Department of Psychology and Institute of Excellence, University of Mysore, India
Advisor: Prof. Mewa Singh

JNCASR Summer Research Fellow May-July 2012
Human Molecular Genetics Lab,
Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, India
Advisor: Prof. Anuranjan Anand

S.N. Pradhan Center for Neurosciences Summer internship May-July 2011
University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India
Advisor: Prof. Jharna Ray

Research

Are Women More Attractive at High Fertility?

2022–Present

Advisor: Prof. James R. Roney, University of California, Santa Barbara

- Tested whether within-cycle shifts in vocal and facial attractiveness are hormonally regulated and **diagnostic** of ovulatory timing; used signal-detection (ROC/AUC) analysis to assess detectability.
- Within-woman, multi-session design with LH-based ovulation confirmation; multilevel models link fertile-window timing, estradiol/progesterone, voice attractiveness, and acoustic parameters.

Cycle Phase and Mating Psychology

2019–Present

Advisor: Prof. James R. Roney, University of California, Santa Barbara

- First-author paper (*Hormones and Behavior*, 2024) shows no fertile-window rise in self-perceived attractiveness (SPA); within-cycle progesterone negatively predicts SPA; SPA covaries with sexual desire; third-party photo ratings do not account for SPA shifts.
- Directed a year-long daily-diary protocol (N = 83) integrating daily hormone assays with behavioral and psychological tracking; established standardized pipelines for participant management, biological sampling, and data-quality assurance.

Human–Wildlife Conflict and Animal Perception

2017–2018

Advisor: Prof. Mewa Singh, University of Mysore, India

- Conducted socio-ecological fieldwork on human–macaque conflict (Great Nicobar).
- Designed photo-rating questionnaires assessing perceived macaque aggression.

Activity–Rest Rhythms and Social Interaction in Insects

2015- 2016

Advisor: Prof. Vijay Kumar Sharma, MS Thesis, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), India

- Characterized circadian activity–rest rhythms in eusocial ants under varied light regimes.
- Examined social-interaction effects on sleep in *Drosophila* using time-series analysis.

Molecular Genetics and Neurobiology

2011–2012

Supervisors: Profs. Anuranjan Anand and Jharna Ray, Undergraduate Internships, JNCASR & University of Calcutta, India

- Identified rare gene variants in idiopathic generalized epilepsy via exon sequencing.
- Trained in PCR, electrophoresis, and molecular-neurobiology techniques.

Publications

Gupta, G., Simmons, Z. L., & Roney, J. R. (2024). Hormonal and cycle phase predictors of within-women shifts in self-perceived attractiveness: Tests of alternative functional models. *Hormones and Behavior*, 164, 105602. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yhbeh.2024.105602>

Roney J.R., **Gupta G., Mei M.** (2021) Progesterone. In: Lykins A.D. (eds) Encyclopedia of Sexuality and Gender. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-59531-3_6-1

Nikhil, K. L., Goirik, G., Ratna, K., & Sharma, V. K. (2014). Role of temperature in mediating morning and evening emergence chronotypes in fruit flies *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Journal of Biological Rhythms*, 29(6), 427-441. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0748730414553797>

In Preparation

Gupta G., Mei M., Roney J.R., Does voice attractiveness reveal women's ovulatory timing? Evidence from signal detection analysis and endocrine predictors of voice attractiveness

- Data collection & Analysis complete
- Draft in preparation

Gupta G., Mei M., Roney J.R., Does face attractiveness reveal women's ovulatory timing? Evidence from hormonal and signal-detection analyses

- Data collection & Analysis complete
 - Draft in preparation
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Professional presentations

Talk:

“Cycle Phase and Hormonal Correlates of Within-Women shifts in Voice Attractiveness: 2025
Do women sound more attractive when fertile?”
Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, USA

“Cycle Phase and Hormonal Correlates of Within-Women shifts in Voice Attractiveness: 2024
Do women sound more attractive when fertile?”
Center For Evolutionary Psychology, Santa Barbara, CA, USA

“Cycle Phase Predictors of Within-Women Shifts in Self-Perceived Attractiveness: 2022
Tests of Alternative Functional Models.”
Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference (Virtual, due to covid-19)

“Evolutionary logic and evolved psychological mechanisms underlying Honor Killings” 2020
Center For Evolutionary Psychology, Santa Barbara, CA, USA

Poster:

“Hormones and cycle phase predictors of within-women shifts 2022
in self-perceived attractiveness.”
California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Science, Fullerton, CA, USA

Teaching Experience (UCSB)

Teaching Assistant (2019-present)

Statistical Methods in Psychological & Brain Sciences (PSY 10B) - Summer 2020; Fall 2020; Winter 2021; Summer 2021; Fall 2021; Summer 2022; Fall 2022; Spring 2023; Summer 2023; Fall 2023; Fall 2024; Summer 2025; Fall 2025

Advanced Research Methods Lab (120L) - Winter 2025

Research Methods (PSY 10A) - Spring 2024; Summer 2025

Evolutionary Psychology Lab (155L) - Winter 2022; Spring 2025

Human Mating Psychology (PSY 146) - Summer 2020; Winter 2023

Evolution of Human Relationships (PSY 143) - Winter 2024

Intro to Psychology(PSY 1) - Fall 2019; Winter 2019

Memory (PSY 117) - Spring 2020

Biopsychology (PSY 106) - Spring 2021

Self and Identity (PSY 148) - Spring 2022

Mentoring Experience

Co-supervisor of undergraduate honors thesis:

Madeleine McCullough <i>Title undecided</i>	2025 - 2026
Shreya Dhanam <i>“Associations between menstrual cycle phases and voice attractiveness”</i>	2022 - 2023

Graduate Mentor, Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities (URCA) Program, UC Santa Barbara 2021-Present

Mentored undergraduate fellows in UCSB's competitive URCA program, guiding them through project design, data analysis, and presentation at the annual Research Colloquium. Each mentee was awarded \$750 in research funding.

Supervised projects:

Sunnyhith Maddineni <i>“Does social devaluation caused by second party actions activate the evolved psychological adaptation of shame?”</i>	2021 - 2022
Niharika Alapati <i>“Cycle phase as a predictor of women’s self-perceived attractiveness”</i>	2022 - 2023
Tara Pugliese <i>“Fertility related fluctuations in female self-esteem across the menstrual cycle”</i>	2023 - 2024

Sijia Wang	<i>"Menstrual cycle and hormonal predictors of women's sleep duration and quality"</i>	2023 - 2024
Ruhika Nandy	<i>"Associations between menstrual cycle phase and psychological stress"</i>	2023 - 2024
Kate Dang	<i>"The effect of menstrual-cycle phase on olfactory cues of attractiveness: A meta-analysis"</i>	2024 - 2025
Annabel Ruggels	<i>"Exploring the effects of Progesterone on sexual desire: A meta-analysis"</i>	2024 - 2025
Monisha Murali	<i>"Are women's voices more attractive during the fertile window?: A meta-analytical review"</i>	2024 - 2025

Graduate mentor, ACCESS GRADS program, UCSB 2021 - 2025

Mentored undergraduate students on research training and graduate school preparation

Supervised mentees:

Joyce Hua	2024 - 2025
Abigail Ebroon	2023 - 2024
Keyana Lennox	2022 - 2023
Jay Yin	2021 - 2022

Graduate mentor, Teaching Assistant Advisory Program, UCSB 2022 – 2026

Mentored incoming graduate students on teaching, and professional development through UCSB's Teaching Assistant Advisory Program.

Supervised mentees:

Clara Meyerfreund Lavrador	2025 - 2026
Jonathan Skaza	2024 - 2025
Leo Mejia	2023 - 2024
Jose Chavira	2022 - 2023
Carlos Sosa Colindres	2022 - 2023
Chuyi Yang	2022 – 2023

Awards and Fellowships

Placed 3 rd in poster competition, California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Science (CWESS, 2022)	2022
JNCASR Fellowship for entire duration of MS by Research	2013-2016
JNCASR Summer Research Fellowship	2012
Indian Academy of Sciences Summer Fellowship Program	2012
General Proficiency award as college topper	2010-2013
Gold medalist in BSc. Advanced Zoology & Biotechnology 3 rd year	2013
Gold medalist in BSc. Advanced Zoology & Biotechnology 2 nd year	2012
Gold medalist in BSc. Advanced Zoology & Biotechnology 1 st year	2011

Service and Professional Activities

Co-organizer, California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Science (CWESS), UCSB
Managed funding, logistics, and scientific program decisions
for a student-led interdisciplinary conference

2025

Organizer, Graduate Student Recruitment Weekend,
Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, UCSB
Planned and hosted departmental recruitment events, including
scheduling and prospective student engagement

2023

Major Extra Curricular Activities

- Cricket - Represented State (Zone), District, School, and College.
 - Debate - Represented school and College, at national and international meets held in India.
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