

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

Professional presentations

Talk:

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| “Cycle Phase and Hormonal Correlates of Within-Women shifts in Voice Attractiveness:
Do women sound more attractive when fertile?”
Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference, Atlantic City, NJ, USA | 2025 |
| “Cycle Phase and Hormonal Correlates of Within-Women shifts in Voice Attractiveness:
Do women sound more attractive when fertile?”
Center For Evolutionary Psychology, Santa Barbara, CA, USA | 2024 |
| “Cycle Phase Predictors of Within-Women Shifts in Self-Perceived Attractiveness:
Tests of Alternative Functional Models.”
Human Behavior and Evolution Society Conference (Virtual, due to covid-19) | 2022 |
| “Evolutionary logic and evolved psychological mechanisms underlying Honor Killings”
Center For Evolutionary Psychology, Santa Barbara, CA, USA | 2020 |

Poster:

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| “Hormones and cycle phase predictors of within-women shifts
in self-perceived attractiveness.”
California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Science, Fullerton, CA, USA | 2022 |
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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	2025 - 2026
<i>Title undecided</i>	
Shreya Dhanam	2022 - 2023
<i>"Associations between menstrual cycle phases and voice attractiveness"</i>	

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

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

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,	2022
California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Science (CWESS, 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
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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
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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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