

Amanda C. Perofsky, Ph.D.

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Current Position

2018 – **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
Division of International Epidemiology and Population Studies (DIEPS)
Supervisor: Dr. Cécile Viboud

Education

2018 **PhD** in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
Dissertation: *Ecological, Evolutionary, and Behavioral Determinants of Gut Microbiomes in Malagasy Mammals*
Advisor: Dr. Lauren Ancel Meyers

2009 **B.Sc.** in Ecology, **B.Sc.** in Biology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
summa cum laude with Highest Honors
Honors Thesis: *Improving abundance estimation for larval stream plethodontids*
Advisor: Dr. John C. Maerz

Research Positions

2011 – 2012 **Research Assistant**, Fogarty International Center, NIH and National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS), Bethesda, MD
Supervisor: Dr. Juliet R.C. Pulliam

2010 – 2011 **Post-baccalaureate IRTA Fellow**, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
Adeno-Associated Virus Biology Section, Molecular Physiology and Therapeutics Branch
Supervisor: Dr. John A. Chiorini

2009 **Research Assistant**, Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Park Disease Ecology Lab
Supervisor: Dr. Andrew Park

Publications

4. **A.C. Perofsky**, R.J. Lewis, L.A. Meyers. 2018. Terrestriality and bacterial transfer: A comparative study of gut microbiomes in sympatric Malagasy mammals. *The ISME Journal*. doi: 10.1038/s41396-018-0251-5
3. **A.C. Perofsky**, R.J. Lewis, L.A. Abondano, A. Di Fiore, L.A. Meyers. 2017. Hierarchical social networks shape gut microbial composition in wild Verreaux's sifaka. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 284: 20172274. doi: 10.1098/rspb.2017.2274.
2. E.J. Rakotomalala, F. Rakotondraparany, **A.C. Perofsky**, R.J. Lewis. 2017. Characterization of the tree holes used by *Lepilemur ruficaudatus* in the dry, deciduous forest of Kirindy Mitea National Park. *Folia Primatologica* 88:28-41. doi: 10.1159/000464406.
1. B.S. Berry*, K. Magori*, **A.C. Perofsky**, D. E. Stallknecht, A.W. Park. 2013. Wetland cover dynamics drive hemorrhagic disease patterns in white-tailed deer in the United States. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 49(3):501-509. doi: 10.7589/2012-11-283. *Co-first authors

Fellowships

2017, 2018 Graduate School Summer Semester Continuing Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin)

2014, 2015 Graduate Dean's Prestigious Fellowship Supplement, UT-Austin

2012 – 2017 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship

2011 Integrative Biology Graduate Recruitment Fellowship, UT-Austin

2010 – 2011 NIH Post-baccalaureate Intramural Research Training Fellowship

Research Support

- 2018 Research Exchange Grant, National Science Foundation IDEAS RCN (\$2800)
- 2015 Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Dissertation Improvement Grant, UT-Austin (\$8000)
- 2015 Research Grant, NSF BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action (\$16,000); co-PIs: Lauren Meyers, Rebecca Lewis; project designed by Amanda Perofsky
- 2012 Research Grant, American Society of Primatologists (\$2000)
- 2012 Research Grant, International Primatological Society (\$1500)
- 2011 Ecology, Evolution, & Behavior Startup Grant, UT-Austin (\$2000)

Scholarships and Awards

- 2017 Network Modeling for Epidemics Course Fellowship, University of Washington
- 2017 Graduate Student Professional Development Award, College of Natural Sciences, UT-Austin
- 2014, 2015 Summer Institute in Statistics and Modeling in Infectious Diseases Scholarship and Travel Award, University of Washington
- 2011 Meaningful Modeling of Epidemiological Data Clinic Scholarship and Travel Award, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences
- 2010, 2011 Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases Conference Workshop Scholarship and Travel Award, Cornell University and University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2009 Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Scholar, University of Georgia
- 2008 NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Internship, University of Georgia
- 2008 Elected, Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society
- 2007 Honors International Scholarship, University of Georgia
- 2005 – 2009 Charter Scholarship, University of Georgia
- 2005 – 2009 National Merit Scholarship, University of Georgia
- 2005 – 2009 Georgia HOPE Scholarship
- 2005 – 2009 Georgia Governor's Scholarship

Conference and Symposia Presentations

Oral Presentations

- "The impact of antigenic change on seasonal influenza epidemics"
- 2019 Epidemics International Conference on Infectious Disease Dynamics, Charleston, SC (upcoming)
- 2019 Options X for the Control of Influenza, Singapore (upcoming)
- "Gut microbiome diversity across sympatric wild mammal populations of Madagascar reflects diet, habitat use, and host phylogeny"
- 2018 American Association of Physical Anthropologists Conference, Austin, TX
- "Social network structure shapes gut microbial communities in wild Verreaux's sifaka"
- 2016 Annual Congress, BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action, East Lansing, MI
- 2016 Integrative Biology Graduate Student Symposium, Austin, TX

"Socio-behavioral determinants of infectious disease transmission in a wild lemur population"

- 2012 Integrative Biology Graduate Student Symposium, Austin, TX

Posters

- 2019 Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases Conference, Princeton, NJ
- 2017 Society of Molecular Biology and Evolution Conference, Austin, TX
- 2017 Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases Conference, Isla Vista, CA
- 2015 Epidemics International Conference on Infectious Disease Dynamics, Clearwater Beach, FL
- 2011 Meaningful Modeling of Epidemiological Data Clinic, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2011 Post-baccalaureate Fellow Poster Day, National Institutes of Health
- 2011 Fellows Research Retreat, National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research

Seminar Presentations

- 2019 Influenza Interest Group, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD “The impact of antigenic change on seasonal influenza epidemics”
- 2018 Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD “Drivers of gut microbial composition and transmission within and among wild lemur populations”
- 2017 Bansal Research Group, Georgetown University, Washington, DC “Hierarchical social networks shape gut microbial composition in wild Verreaux’s sifaka”
- 2017 BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action (web seminar) “Gut microbiome diversity across sympatric mammal populations of Madagascar reflects diet, substrate use, and host phylogeny”
- 2016 Bansal Research Group, Georgetown University, Washington, DC “Hierarchical social networks shape gut microbial composition in wild Verreaux’s sifaka”
- 2016 BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action (web seminar) “Social networks shape gut microbial communities in wild Verreaux’s sifaka”
- 2016 Kirindy Mitea National Park headquarters, Belo Sur Mer, Madagascar. “Bacteria transmission dynamics among wildlife in Kirindy Mitea National Park”
- 2015 Department of Integrative Biology, UT-Austin, Austin, TX “Social networks shape gut microbial communities in wild Verreaux’s sifaka”
- 2012 Kirindy Mitea National Park headquarters, Morondava, Madagascar “Infectious disease transmission in a wild lemur population.”

Teaching Experience

- 2018 Co-Instructor, MISMS Training Workshop on Infectious Diseases Dynamics and Evolution, National Institutes of Communicable Diseases, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016, 2017 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Scientific Inquiry Across Disciplines (Freshman Signature Course), UT-Austin
- 2013 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Social Networks and Infectious Diseases (Freshman Signature Course), UT-Austin

Guest Teaching Lectures

- 2015 Introduction to Biological Statistics Course, Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, UT-Austin “Biological Networks and Social Network Analysis”
- 2014 Introduction to Biological Statistics Course, Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, UT-Austin “Introduction to Networks”

Mentoring Experience

- 2012, 2016 Masters’ Student Training, Department of Animal Biology, University of Antananarivo. During my field seasons at Ankoatsifaka Research Station, I trained Malagasy graduate students (Elvis Rakotomalala and Safidy Rasolonjatovo) in field techniques, data collection, and specimen preservation and helped them to develop independent projects.
- 2010 – 2011 Student Training, National Institutes of Health. As a post-baccalaureate fellow in the Adeno-associated Virus Biology Section of NIDCR, I trained several undergraduate, dental, and medical students in molecular laboratory techniques.

Training

- 2017 Network Modeling for Epidemics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- 2014, 2015 Summer Institute in Statistics and Modeling in Infectious Diseases, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- 2011 Evolution of Infectious Diseases Modeling Workshop, Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases Conference, Isla Vista, CA
- 2011 Meaningful Modeling of Epidemiological Data Clinic, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010 Ecology of Infectious Diseases Modeling Workshop, Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases Conference, Ithaca, NY
- 2007 University of Georgia Tropical Field Ecology Course in Costa Rica

Science Communication and Education Outreach

- 2011 – 2018 Radio DJ and Science Talk Show Host, KVRX 91.7FM, UT-Austin, Austin, TX. Lead organizer (2013-2017) and co-host of “They Blinded Me with Science,” a weekly educational talk show that interviews both UT-based and visiting researchers and reviews current science publications and news. I recruited guests, conducted interviews, and produced podcasts that are available for download on [Podbean](#) and iTunes.
- 2011 – 2017 Co-organizer and Volunteer, [Science Under the Stars](#), Austin, TX. I helped coordinate and promote a free monthly lecture series held at UT’s field laboratory that provides graduate students an opportunity to communicate ecological research to the greater public.
- 2018 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) [Classroom Science Days](#) participant, Austin, TX.
- 2017 Panel on STEM Public Engagement, BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action, Austin, TX
- 2016 Public Outreach Lecture (“Meet the Lemurs”), Science Under the Stars, Austin, TX
Media coverage: KVRX 91.7 and [The Daily Texan](#)
- 2016 “Researchers at Work” blog post, BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action. [“How lemur social networks shape microbial transmission.”](#)

References

1. **Cécile Viboud**
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Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health
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2. **Lauren Ancel Meyers**
Professor, Integrative Biology
The University of Texas at Austin
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3. **Rebecca Lewis**
Associate Professor, Anthropology
The University of Texas at Austin
rjlewis@austin.utexas.edu