

RICHARD E.W. BERL

Ph.D. Student in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

Human Dimensions of Natural Resources
Colorado State University
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Fort Collins, CO 80523-1480

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I study the evolutionary origins and development of sociality, social learning, and social and cultural traits in humans, canids, and other non-human animal species. By integrating perspectives from animal behavior, evolutionary biology, and evolutionary cultural anthropology, I investigate the concept of cultural evolution in order to illuminate our own place in the natural world. To this end, my research is presently focused on the experimental examination of the effects of social transmission biases. Past and ongoing projects include the cross-cultural study of the cognitive bases of social learning and culture, the social behavior and structure of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in captivity and in the wild, and the genetic, cultural, linguistic, and demographic history of the Chabu, an isolated group of hunter-gatherers in southwestern Ethiopia. I intend to apply this knowledge of cultural evolution and transmission processes to benefit threatened indigenous populations such as the Chabu and conserve biocultural diversity.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Human Dimensions of Natural Resources
Certificate in Data Analysis
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

In Progress
In Progress

M.S. Zoology
Washington State University, Pullman, WA

2015

B.A. Biological Sciences, Honors
B.A. Anthropology, Honors
University of Delaware, Newark, DE

2009
2009

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Co-Investigator, "The Effects of Social Transmission Biases on Human Cultural Evolution"
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO and University of Bristol, United Kingdom
PIs: Dr. Michael Gavin, Colorado State University and Dr. Fiona Jordan, University of Bristol
Co-Investigator: Alarna Samarasinghe, University of Bristol

2015-Present

Co-Primary Investigator, "Demography, Subsistence, Culture, and Genetic Variation of the Chabu Hunter-Gatherers of Southwest Ethiopia" Oromiya, Gambella, and SNNP Regions, Ethiopia Co-PIs: Dr. Barry Hewlett, Mr. Samuel Dira, and Dr. Bonnie Hewlett, Washington State University Vancouver	2013-Present
Co-Primary Investigator, "Overimitation in the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin" Bagandou, Central African Republic Co-PI: Dr. Barry Hewlett, Washington State University Vancouver	2012-2015
Primary Investigator, "Comparative Social Behavior of Gray Wolves (<i>Canis lupus</i>) in Captivity and the Wild" Wolf Park, Battle Ground, IN and Yellowstone National Park	2012-2015
Research Assistant, Charles R. Conner Vertebrate Museum Washington State University, Pullman, WA PIs: Dr. Larry Hufford and Dr. Kelly Cassidy, Washington State University	2011-2012, 2013, 2014
Field Assistant, Lomas Barbudal Monkey Project Reserva Biológica Lomas Barbudal, Guanacaste, Costa Rica PI: Dr. Susan Perry, University of California Los Angeles	2009-2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, General Biology School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University	Spring 2015
Teaching Assistant, General Ecology School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University	Fall 2014

PUBLICATIONS

Berl, R.E.W. (in prep). Comparative social behavior of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in captivity and the wild.

Berl, R.E.W. & Hewlett, B.S. 2015. Cultural variation in the use of overimitation by the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin. *PLoS ONE* 10(3): e0120180. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0120180

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Berl, R.E.W. 2015. On the value of conserving human cultural diversity. *Northwest Science* 89(1): 100-101. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3955/046.089.0110>

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST LECTURES

Berl, R.E.W. "Sociality and culture in gray wolves and humans." Morrison Institute for Population and Resource Studies, Stanford University, Stanford, CA	Sep 27, 2013
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Berl, R.E.W. "Social inheritance and the evolution of culture."
Wolf Park, Battle Ground, IN

June 27, 2012

PRESENTATIONS

Berl, R.E.W. "Cultural variation in the use of overimitation by the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin." (Podium)
School of Biological Sciences BioLunch Seminar, Pullman, WA

Sep 15, 2015

Berl, R.E.W. & Hewlett, B.S. "Cultural variation in the use of overimitation by the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin." (Podium)
Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development,
Philadelphia, PA

Mar 21, 2015

Adams, A.F., Poznik, G.D., **Berl, R.E.W.**, Hammond, N.A., Mendez, F.L., Cornejo, O.E., Napel, M., Schertler, M., Underhill, P.A., Feldman, M.W. & Bustamante, C.D. "High-coverage sequencing of diverse Y chromosomes via in-solution capture." (Poster)
64th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics, San Diego, CA

Oct 19, 2014

Berl, R.E.W. "Social behavior of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in captivity and the wild." (Poster)
51st Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society, Princeton, NJ

Aug 11, 2014

Berl, R.E.W. "Social behavior of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in captivity and the wild." (Poster)
6th Biennial Meeting of EVO-WIBO: Evolutionary Biology in the Pacific Northwest,
Port Townsend, WA

Apr 26, 2014

Berl, R.E.W. & Hewlett, B.S. "Overimitation in the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin." (Podium)
83rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists,
Calgary, AB, Canada

Apr 12, 2014

Berl, R.E.W. "A group-level perspective in modeling social learning processes." (Poster)
Washington State University Academic Showcase, Pullman, WA

Mar 29, 2013

Berl, R.E.W. "A group-level perspective in modeling social learning processes." (Poster)
School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium,
Pullman, WA

Mar 1, 2013

Berl, R.E.W. & Hewlett, B.S. "Overimitation in the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin." (Podium)
School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium,
Pullman, WA

Mar 1, 2013

Berl, R.E.W. "A group-level perspective in modeling social learning processes." (Poster)
Dr. William R. Wiley Research Exposition, Pullman, WA

Feb 1, 2013

Berl, R.E.W. & Hewlett, B.S. "Overimitation in the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin." (Podium) *Feb 1, 2013*
Dr. William R. Wiley Research Exposition, Pullman, WA

Berl, R.E.W. "The role of adaptiveness in the evolution of social learning and culture." (Poster) *Mar 3, 2012*
School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium,
Pullman, WA

GRANTS AND AWARDS

William S. Pollitzer Student Travel Award *2014*
American Association of Physical Anthropologists

NWSA Student Research Grant *2014*
Northwest Scientific Association

James R. King Fellowship in Zoology *2014*
School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University

Exploration Fund Award *2013*
The Explorers Club

NSF IPEM Research Fund Award *2013*
NSF IGERT Program in Evolutionary Modeling, Washington State University

NSF IPEM Graduate Fellowship *2012-2013*
NSF IGERT Program in Evolutionary Modeling, Washington State University

Carl H. Elling Award *2012-2014*
School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University

NSF GRFP Honorable Mention *2012*
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

SERVICE

Seminar Coordinator, Frontiers of Conservation Social Science Seminar Series *2015-Present*
Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, Colorado State University

Seminar Coordinator, Biology Graduate Student Association *2014-2015*
School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University

Co-Founder, Palouse Interdisciplinary Graduate Society *2014*
Washington State University & University of Idaho

Chair, School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium *2014*
School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University

President, Biology Graduate Student Association *2013-2014*
School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University

Co-Vice President, Biology Graduate Student Association 2012-2013
School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University

Organizer, School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium 2011-2014
School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University

Reviewer
PLoS ONE
Behavioural Processes

Member
Human Behavior and Evolution Society
American Anthropological Association
American Association of Physical Anthropologists
The Explorers Club, Rocky Mountain Chapter

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Parks and Recreation Coordinator 2015
City of Colfax, WA

Volunteer, Biology Open House 2014
Washington State University, Pullman, WA

Volunteer, Biology Family Science Saturday 2013
Palouse Discovery Science Center, Pullman, WA

Apartment Coordinator, Family and Graduate Housing 2013-2015
Housing and Residence Life, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

Lead Organizer, Palouse Outdoor Science Day 2013-2015
Virgil Phillips Farm Park, Moscow, ID

Exhibit Designer, Educational Exhibits for Young Visitors 2011-2012
Charles R. Conner Vertebrate Museum, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

Biological Aide, Environmental Stewardship Program 2011
Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, Dover, DE

Guest Presenter, Classroom STEM Talks and Activities 2010
Wilmington Friends School, Wilmington, DE

Volunteer, Environmental Education and Community Outreach 2009-2010
Guanacaste, Costa Rica