

# RICHARD E.W. BERL

*Ph.D. Student in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources*

Human Dimensions of Natural Resources  
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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

I take an evolutionary approach to the study of sociality, social learning, and culture in humans, canids, and other non-human animals. Through an interdisciplinary perspective that integrates evolutionary biology, animal behavior, and evolutionary cultural anthropology, I investigate the concept of cultural evolution in order to illuminate our place in the natural world. To this end, my research is focused on examining the effects of cultural transmission biases—including the concept and influence of “prestige”—on the dynamics of social learning and cultural evolutionary processes. Past and ongoing projects include the study of cross-cultural differences in imitation and emulation, social learning and variation in the social behavior 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 evolutionary processes and a solid foundation in statistics toward a career in data science, using a data-centric approach informed by evolutionary theory and cross-cultural anthropology to enhance social good 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"** *2015-Present*  
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
- Co-Primary Investigator, "Demography, Subsistence, Culture, and Genetic Variation of the Chabu Hunter-Gatherers of Southwest Ethiopia"** *2013-Present*  
Oromiya, Gambella, and SNNP Regions, Ethiopia  
Co-PIs: Dr. Barry Hewlett, Mr. Samuel Dira, and Dr. Bonnie Hewlett, Washington State University Vancouver
- Co-Primary Investigator, "Overimitation in the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin"** *2012-2015*  
Bagandou, Central African Republic  
Co-PI: Dr. Barry Hewlett, Washington State University Vancouver
- Primary Investigator, "Comparative Social Behavior of Gray Wolves (*Canis lupus*) in Captivity and the Wild"** *2012-2015*  
Wolf Park, Battle Ground, IN and Yellowstone National Park
- Research Assistant, Charles R. Conner Vertebrate Museum** *2011-2012, 2013, 2014*  
Washington State University, Pullman, WA  
PIs: Dr. Larry Hufford and Dr. Kelly Cassidy, Washington State University
- Field Assistant, Lomas Barbudal Monkey Project** *2009-2010*  
Reserva Biológica Lomas Barbudal, Guanacaste, Costa Rica  
PI: Dr. Susan Perry, University of California Los Angeles

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

## 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." *Sep 27, 2013*  
Morrison Institute for Population and Resource Studies, Stanford University,  
Stanford, CA

**Berl, R.E.W.** "Social inheritance and the evolution of culture." *June 27, 2012*  
Wolf Park, Battle Ground, IN

## PRESENTATIONS

**Berl, R.E.W.** "Cultural variation in the use of overimitation by the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin." (Podium) *Sep 15, 2015*  
School of Biological Sciences BioLunch Seminar, Pullman, WA

**Berl, R.E.W. & Hewlett, B.S.** "Cultural variation in the use of overimitation by the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin." (Podium) *Mar 21, 2015*  
Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development,  
Philadelphia, PA

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) *Oct 19, 2014*  
64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics, San Diego, CA

**Berl, R.E.W.** "Social behavior of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in captivity and the wild." (Poster) *Aug 11, 2014*  
51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society, Princeton, NJ

**Berl, R.E.W.** "Social behavior of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in captivity and the wild." (Poster) *Apr 26, 2014*  
6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of EVO-WIBO: Evolutionary Biology in the Pacific Northwest,  
Port Townsend, WA

**Berl, R.E.W. & Hewlett, B.S.** "Overimitation in the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin." (Podium) *Apr 12, 2014*  
83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists,  
Calgary, AB, Canada

**Berl, R.E.W.** "A group-level perspective in modeling social learning processes." (Poster) *Mar 29, 2013*  
Washington State University Academic Showcase, Pullman, WA

**Berl, R.E.W.** "A group-level perspective in modeling social learning processes." (Poster) *Mar 1, 2013*  
School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium,  
Pullman, WA

<b>Berl, R.E.W. &amp; Hewlett, B.S. "Overimitation in the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin." (Podium)</b> School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium, Pullman, WA	<i>Mar 1, 2013</i>
<b>Berl, R.E.W. "A group-level perspective in modeling social learning processes." (Poster)</b> Dr. William R. Wiley Research Exposition, Pullman, WA	<i>Feb 1, 2013</i>
<b>Berl, R.E.W. &amp; Hewlett, B.S. "Overimitation in the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin." (Podium)</b> Dr. William R. Wiley Research Exposition, Pullman, WA	<i>Feb 1, 2013</i>
<b>Berl, R.E.W. "The role of adaptiveness in the evolution of social learning and culture." (Poster)</b> School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium, Pullman, WA	<i>Mar 3, 2012</i>

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

<b>Youth Athletic Facilities Grant, City of Colfax, WA (\$250,000)</b> Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office	<i>2015</i>
<b>William S. Pollitzer Student Travel Award</b> American Association of Physical Anthropologists	<i>2014</i>
<b>NWSA Student Research Grant</b> Northwest Scientific Association	<i>2014</i>
<b>James R. King Fellowship in Zoology</b> School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University	<i>2014</i>
<b>Exploration Fund Award</b> The Explorers Club	<i>2013</i>
<b>NSF IPEM Research Fund Award</b> NSF IGERT Program in Evolutionary Modeling, Washington State University	<i>2013</i>
<b>NSF IPEM Graduate Fellowship</b> NSF IGERT Program in Evolutionary Modeling, Washington State University	<i>2012-2013</i>
<b>Carl H. Elling Award</b> School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University	<i>2012-2014</i>
<b>NSF GRFP Honorable Mention</b> NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program	<i>2012</i>

## SERVICE

<b>Seminar Coordinator, Frontiers of Conservation Social Science Seminar Series</b> Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, Colorado State University	<i>2015-Present</i>
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<b>Seminar Coordinator, Biology Graduate Student Association</b> School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University	2014-2015
<b>Co-Founder, Palouse Interdisciplinary Graduate Society</b> Washington State University & University of Idaho	2014
<b>Chair, School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium</b> School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University	2014
<b>President, Biology Graduate Student Association</b> School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University	2013-2014
<b>Co-Vice President, Biology Graduate Student Association</b> School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University	2012-2013
<b>Organizer, School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium</b> School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University	2011-2014
<b>Reviewer</b> <i>PLoS ONE</i> <i>Behavioural Processes</i>	
<b>Member</b> Cultural Evolution Society Human Behavior and Evolution Society American Anthropological Association American Association of Physical Anthropologists The Explorers Club, Rocky Mountain Chapter	

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

<b>Parks and Recreation Coordinator</b> City of Colfax, WA	2015
<b>Volunteer, Biology Open House</b> Washington State University, Pullman, WA	2014
<b>Volunteer, Biology Family Science Saturday</b> Palouse Discovery Science Center, Pullman, WA	2013
<b>Apartment Coordinator, Family and Graduate Housing</b> Housing and Residence Life, Washington State University, Pullman, WA	2013-2015
<b>Lead Organizer, Palouse Outdoor Science Day</b> Virgil Phillips Farm Park, Moscow, ID	2013-2015
<b>Exhibit Designer, Educational Exhibits for Young Visitors</b> Charles R. Conner Vertebrate Museum, Washington State University, Pullman, WA	2011-2012
<b>Biological Aide, Environmental Stewardship Program</b> Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, Dover, DE	2011

**Guest Presenter, Classroom STEM Talks and Activities**

Wilmington Friends School, Wilmington, DE

*2010*

**Volunteer, Environmental Education and Community Outreach**

Guanacaste, Costa Rica

*2009-2010*