

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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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 Applied Statistics
Certificate in Biological Data Analysis
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

In Progress
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 evolution and genome-culture coevolution." (Podium) *Sep 23, 2016*
GAUSSI Program Meeting, Fort Collins, CO

Berl, R.E.W., Samarasinghe, A.N., Jordan, F.M., & Gavin, M.C. "Prestige of regional accents and effects on cultural transmission." (Poster) *May 30, 2016*
28th Annual Meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, Vancouver, BC, Canada

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*
64th 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*
51st 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*
6th 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*
83rd 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) Washington State University Academic Showcase, Pullman, WA	<i>Mar 29, 2013</i>
Berl, R.E.W. "A group-level perspective in modeling social learning processes." (Poster) School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium, Pullman, WA	<i>Mar 1, 2013</i>
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	<i>Mar 1, 2013</i>
Berl, R.E.W. "A group-level perspective in modeling social learning processes." (Poster) Dr. William R. Wiley Research Exposition, Pullman, WA	<i>Feb 1, 2013</i>
Berl, R.E.W. & Hewlett, B.S. "Overimitation in the Aka and Ngandu of the Congo Basin." (Podium) Dr. William R. Wiley Research Exposition, Pullman, WA	<i>Feb 1, 2013</i>
Berl, R.E.W. "The role of adaptiveness in the evolution of social learning and culture." (Poster) School of Biological Sciences Graduate Student Research Symposium, Pullman, WA	<i>Mar 3, 2012</i>

GRANTS AND AWARDS

GAUSSI Fellowship NSF Research Traineeship in Generating, Analyzing, and Understanding Sensory and Sequencing Information, Colorado State University	<i>2016-Present</i>
Youth Athletic Facilities Grant, City of Colfax, WA (\$250,000) Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office	<i>2015</i>
William S. Pollitzer Student Travel Award American Association of Physical Anthropologists	<i>2014</i>
NWSA Student Research Grant Northwest Scientific Association	<i>2014</i>
James R. King Fellowship in Zoology School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University	<i>2014</i>
Exploration Fund Award The Explorers Club	<i>2013</i>
IPEM Research Fund Award NSF IGERT Program in Evolutionary Modeling, Washington State University	<i>2013</i>
IPEM Graduate Fellowship NSF IGERT Program in Evolutionary Modeling, Washington State University	<i>2012-2013</i>
Carl H. Elling Award	<i>2012-2014</i>

School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University

NSF GRFP Honorable Mention

2012

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

Quantitative Methods in Cultural Evolution Master Class

Sep 8-9, 2016

Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena, Germany

IBM Datapalooza Denver

May 19, 2016

Sie FilmCenter, Denver, CO

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

Psychological Reports

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Member

Cultural Evolution Society, Founding Member

Human Behavior and Evolution Society

American Association of Physical Anthropologists

The Explorers Club, Pacific Northwest & Rocky Mountain Chapters

Data for Democracy, Founding Member

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer, March for Science Denver Civic Center Park, Denver, CO	<i>2017</i>
Parks and Recreation Coordinator City of Colfax, WA	<i>2015</i>
Volunteer, Biology Open House Washington State University, Pullman, WA	<i>2014</i>
Volunteer, Biology Family Science Saturday Palouse Discovery Science Center, Pullman, WA	<i>2013</i>
Apartment Coordinator, Family and Graduate Housing Housing and Residence Life, Washington State University, Pullman, WA	<i>2013-2015</i>
Lead Organizer, Palouse Outdoor Science Day Virgil Phillips Farm Park, Moscow, ID	<i>2013-2015</i>
Exhibit Designer, Educational Exhibits for Young Visitors Charles R. Conner Vertebrate Museum, Washington State University, Pullman, WA	<i>2011-2012</i>
Biological Aide, Environmental Stewardship Program Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, Dover, DE	<i>2011</i>
Guest Presenter, Classroom STEM Talks and Activities Wilmington Friends School, Wilmington, DE	<i>2010</i>
Volunteer, Environmental Education and Community Outreach Guanacaste, Costa Rica	<i>2009-2010</i>