

Laura Simone Lewis

Department of Psychology
University of California, Berkeley
lauralewis@berkeley.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of California, Santa Barbara, CA July 2025
Incoming Assistant Professor
Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
Department of Anthropology

University of California Berkeley, CA Dec. 2022 – Present
UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellow
Dept. of Psychology
Advisors: Alison Gopnik and Jan Engelmann

The Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany Aug. – Oct., 2022
Visiting Postdoctoral Researcher
Advisors: Erica Cartmill and Christopher Krupenye

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA Aug. 2016 – May 2022
Ph.D., Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology
Thesis Committee: Jason Mitchell, Martin Surbeck, Erin Hecht, Josep Call, Christopher Krupenye
M.A., Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology June 2018

The University of St Andrews, St Andrews, Scotland July 2018 – July 2022
Visiting Scholar, School of Psychology and Neuroscience
Advisors: Josep Call and Christopher Krupenye

Duke University, Durham, NC Aug. 2012 - May 2016
B.S. with Distinction in Evolutionary Anthropology and Biology
Concentration: Behavior, Ecology, and Cognition

The Summer School in Social Neuroscience and Neuroeconomics, Duke University Aug. 2017

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

- Joachim Herz Stiftung Workshop Grant** (€30,000) 2023
German government grant to support the development and implementation of the second iteration of “Bridging the Technological Gap” Workshop to teach early career researchers about technological innovations to study the cognition and behavior of the human and nonhuman animal mind
- UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship** (\$136,000) 2022
Postdoctoral fellowship through the UC President’s Office to support postdoctoral research with UC Berkeley Profs. Alison Gopnik and Jan Engelmann to explore the evolution of apes’ emotion perception
- Joachim Herz Stiftung Workshop Grant** (€50,000) 2022
German government grant to support the development and implementation of “Bridging the Technological Gap” Workshop to teach early career researchers about technological innovations to study the cognition and behavior of the human and nonhuman animal mind
- Harvard Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship** (\$28,000) 2020
Travelling fellowship to support return to University of St Andrews as a traveling scholar for 12 months to conduct additional eye-tracking research on social cognition with chimpanzees and bonobos
- Harvard University Mind, Brain, and Behavior Graduate Student Award** (\$6,000) 2018
Mind, Brain, and Behavior Interfaculty Initiative Graduate funding for research expenses as a visiting scholar at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland
- Harvard University GSAS Summer Predissertation Fellowship** (\$3,000) 2018
Graduate school support for preliminary dissertation research
- Harvard Human Evolutionary Biology Departmental Research Funding** (\$2,000) 2018
Departmental funding to support preliminary dissertation research
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship** (\$138,000) 2017 - 2022
Five year fellowship to support outstanding graduate students in STEM disciplines
- Harvard Presidential Scholar** (\$10,000) 2016 – 2022
Fellowship program awarded to top graduate student applicants at Harvard University
- Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship** (\$285,400) 2016
Harvard Graduate Fellowship for doctoral students
- Duke Dean’s Summer Research Fellowship** (\$1,500) 2015
Research project comparing activity budgets of two baboon populations in Western South Africa
- Duke Global Education Summer Research Fellowship** (\$1,500) 2015
Research Fellowship awarded for summer research conducted in Western South Africa
- Howard Hughes Research Fellowship** (\$4,300) Summer 2013
Research Fellowship program with project focus on lemur social communication

PUBLICATIONS

- Lewis, L. S.**, Wessling, E. G., Kano, F., Stevens, J. M., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2023). Bonobos and chimpanzees remember familiar conspecifics for decades. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(52), e2304903120.
- Lewis, L. S.** & Krupenye, C. (2022). Eye-tracking as a window into great ape social cognition. *Invited submission, American Journal of Primatology*, e23393. ***Wiley Top Cited Article 2021 - 2023**
- Lewis, L. S.** and Krupenye, C. (2022). Theory of mind in nonhuman primates. In B. L. Schwartz & M. J. Beran (Eds.), *Primate Cognitive Studies*. Cambridge University Press.
- Lewis, L. S.**, Kano, F., Stevens, J. M., DuBois, J. G., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2021). Bonobos and chimpanzees preferentially attend to familiar members of the dominant sex. *Animal Behaviour*, 177, 193-206.
- Lewis, L. S.**, Kano, F., Stevens, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (*preparing for resubmission*). Do chimpanzees and bonobos know their groupmates' names?
- Lewis, L. S.**, Laumer, L., Eckert, J., Winkler, S., & Krupenye, C., Cartmill, E. (*in prep*). Great apes' anticipation of others' surprise in false belief contexts.
- Lewis, L. S.**, Ritov, O., Reddy, R., Gopnik, A., Sanchez-Amaro, A., Herrmann, E., Engelmann, J. (*in prep*). Social curiosity in chimpanzees and children.
- Lewis, L. S.**, Kano, F., Stevens, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (*in prep*). Differentiation of unknown male and female conspecifics in chimpanzees and bonobos.
- Lewis, L. S.**, Verspeek, J., & Krupenye, C. (*in prep*). Social influence of food preferences in great apes.
- Lewis, L. S.** & Krupenye, C. (*in prep*). Probing chimpanzees' long-term memory for social and nonsocial hierarchies via touchscreen tasks.
- Lewis, L. S.**, Sanchez-Amaro, A., et al. (*in prep*) Comparisons of Primatology in the Wild vs. Captivity

CONFERENCE TALKS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Lewis, L.** (2024). The evolution and development of great ape social cognition. Invited Colloquium, **Graduate School of Journalism**, University of California, Berkeley.
- Lewis, L.**, Ritov, O., Reddy, R., Gopnik, A., Sanchez-Amaro, A., Herrmann, E., Engelmann, J. (2024). The evolution and development of social curiosity in children and chimpanzees. **Comparative Cognition Society Conference**. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Lewis, L.**, Ritov, O., Reddy, R., Gopnik, A., Sanchez-Amaro, A., Herrmann, E., Engelmann, J. (2024). Social curiosity in chimpanzees and children. **Cognitive Development Society Biennial Conference**. Pasadena, California.

- Lewis, L., Laumer, L., Eckert, J., Winkler, S., & Krupenye, C., Cartmill, E (2023)** Do great apes anticipate other's surprise? **Bonobo Research Network Workshop**, Antwerp, Belgium.
- Lewis, L. (2023).** Cognitive evolution and development underlying great apes' social relationships. Invited Colloquium, **Department of Anthropology**, University of California, Davis.
- Lewis, L. (2023).** The evolution and development of cognitive mechanisms underlying great apes' social relationships. **Developmental Science and Neuroscience Brown Bag Series**. Emory University.
- Lewis, L. (2023).** Using film to explore the minds of great apes. **Camp Sandbox, Sandbox Films**, Tomales Bay, California.
- Lewis, L. (2023).** Evolutionary and cognitive foundations of social relationships in great apes. **The Institute for Human Development**, University of California, Berkeley.
- Lewis, L. (2023).** Comparative Psychology: exploring psychology in nonhuman animals. **Developmental Psychology Guest Lecture**, University of California, Berkeley.
- Lewis, L. (2023).** The cognitive foundations of complex social relationships in great apes. **UC President's Postdoctoral Fellows Spring Retreat**, Lake Arrowhead Lodge, California.
- Lewis, L. (2023).** Evolutionary and cognitive foundations of social relationships in great apes. Invited Colloquium, **Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences**, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- Lewis, L. (2023).** The cognitive foundations of social relationships in great apes. **Evolutionary Anthropology Seminar Series**, University College London.
- Lewis, L. (2023).** The cognitive foundations of complex social relationships in great apes. Invited Colloquium, **Departments of Anthropology and Psychology**, New York University.
- Lewis, L. (2023).** Evolutionary and cognitive foundations of social relationships in great apes. Invited Colloquium, **Department of Anthropology**, University of California, Los Angeles.
- Lewis, L. (2022).** Comparative Psychology: the evolution of social cognition in great apes. **Developmental Psychology Guest Lecture**, University of California, Berkeley
- Lewis, L., Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2022).** Investigating the cognitive foundations of social relationships in great apes. **Canine Cognition Lab**, Boston College, Massachusetts.
- Lewis, L., Verspeek, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2022).** Are some chimpanzees and bonobos more influential than others? **Scottish Primate Research Group Annual Meeting**, Edzell, Scotland.
- Lewis, L. (2022).** The cognitive foundations of social relationships in great apes. **Fedorenko Language Lab**, MIT, Massachusetts.
- Lewis, L. (2022).** Comparative eye-tracking research to investigate great ape social cognition.

Fumihiro Kano Lab Group. University of Konstanz, Germany.

Lewis, L. & Krupenye, C. (2022). Gaze-tracking with nonhuman primates. **Bridging the Technological Gap Workshop.** Göttingen, Germany.

Lewis, L., Kano, F., Stevens J., Wessling, E., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2022). Chimpanzees and bonobos remember groupmates for at least a decade. **European Federation of Primatology and the Fesellschaft für Primatologie Conference,** Arnhem, the Netherlands.
***Award:** Best student talk, 2nd place

Lewis, L. (2022). The cognitive foundations of social relationships in great apes.
Behaviour and Evolution Research Group, University of Stirling, Scotland.

Lewis, L., Kano, F., Stevens J., Wessling, E., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2021). Social attention and long-term social memory in zoo-living bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) and chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*). **Joint Meeting of the International Primatological Society and the Latin American Society of Primatology,** Quito, Ecuador.

Lewis, L. (2021). Social attention and decade-long social memory in chimpanzees and bonobos.
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology Guest Talk, Leipzig, Germany.

Lewis, L. (2021). Our great ape cousins: exploring social cognition in chimpanzees and bonobos.
Soroptimist International Guest Talk, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Lewis, L. (2021). Long-term social memory in great apes.
Animal Behavior Guest Lecture, Franklin & Marshall College, Pennsylvania.

Lewis, L. (2021). Comparative Psychology: the evolution of social cognition in great apes.
Developmental Psychology Guest Lecture, University of California, Berkeley.

Lewis, L., Kano, F., Stevens J., Wessling, E., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2021). Decade-long social memory in chimpanzees and bonobos. **Animal Behavior Society Virtual Meeting.**

Lewis, L. (2021). Eye tracking as a window into great ape social cognition. **New York Regional Primatology Series, New York Consortium of Evolutionary Primatology,** New York City, New York.

Lewis, L. Kano, F., Stevens J., Wessling, E., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2021). The evolution of long-term social memory in great apes. **Behavior, Ecology, and Evolution Graduate Student Conference,** University of Oxford, England.

Lewis, L. (2021). Exploring social attention and long-term memory in great apes. **Primate Behavioural Ecology & Conservation, York University's Glendon Campus,** Toronto, Ontario

Lewis, L. (2021). The evolution of long-term social memory in great apes. **Behavior, Ecology, and Physiology Seminar Series,** Bangor University, Wales.

Lewis, L. (2021). The evolution of social cognition in great apes. **Exploring Diverse Intelligences Guest Lecture,** St. Mary's College, California.

- Lewis, L.** (2020). The evolution of primate social cognition. **Primate Behaviour Lecture Interview**, University College London, London, England.
- Lewis, L.,** Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2020) The evolution of social attention and long-term social memory in great apes. **Comparative Cognition Lab**, Yale University, New Hampshire.
- Lewis, L.,** Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2019) The evolution of great ape social attention and long-term social memory. **Northeastern Evolutionary Primatology Conference**, UMass Amherst, Massachusetts.
- Lewis, L.,** Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2019) The evolution of social attention: Comparative eye-tracking research with chimpanzees and bonobos. **Harvard Mind, Brain, and Behavior Interfaculty Initiative**, Harvard University, Massachusetts.
- Lewis, L.,** Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2019) The evolution of social attention and long-term social memory in great apes. **Social Origins Lab**, UC Berkeley, California.
- Lewis, L.,** Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2019) Eye-tracking research with bonobos and chimpanzees: exploring social attention. **Edinburgh Zoo Evening Talk**, Scotland.
- Lewis, L.,** Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2019) The evolution of social attention: eye-tracking research with bonobos and chimpanzees. **Scottish Primate Research Group Annual Meeting**, Edzell, Scotland.
- Lewis, L.,** Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2019) The evolution of social attention: eye-tracking research with bonobos and chimpanzees. **Behavioral Discussion Group**, University of St. Andrews, Scotland.
- Lewis, L.,** Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2019) Eye-tracking research with bonobos and chimpanzees: exploring social attention. **ZOO Science Lecture**, Antwerp Zoo, Belgium.
- Lewis, L.,** Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2019) Eye-tracking research with bonobos and chimpanzees: exploring social attention. **ZOO Science Lecture**, Planckendael Zoo, Belgium.
- Lewis, L.,** Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (2018) Bonobo and Chimpanzee Ingroup-Outgroup Discrimination. **Bonobo Research Network Workshop**, Antwerp, Belgium.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Social Origins Comparative and Developmental Lab January 2023 – Present
 University of California, Berkeley; PI's: Profs. Alison Gopnik and Jan Engelmann

[Social Origins Developmental Lab](#)

Postdoctoral research, behavioral and technological methods to test social cognition in children

Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Uganda

Postdoctoral research, behavioral and technological methods to test social cognition in chimpanzees

Centre for Social Learning and Cognitive Evolution

Jul. 2018 – August 2022

University of St. Andrews; PI's: Professor Josep Call and Dr. Chris Krupenye

Edinburgh Zoo

Dissertation research using eye-tracking methods to explore chimpanzee social cognition.

Planckendael Zoo

Dissertation research using eye-tracking methods to explore bonobo social cognition.

Affective Neuroscience and Development Laboratory

Fall 2017- Spring 2018

Harvard University; PI's: Dr. Leah Somerville and Dr. Barbara Braams

Northwest Labs

Research assistant using fMRI methods to investigate peer influence on decision-making.

Cognitive Evolution Group

Fall 2016-Fall 2017

Harvard University; PI: Dr. Alex Rosati

Caribbean Primate Research Center: Cayo Santiago

Explored rhesus macaques' biases in sequence observation, such as hot hand bias and gambler's fallacy.

Hominoid Psychology Research Group

Fall 2012-May 2016

Duke University; PI: Dr. Brian Hare

Duke Canine Cognition Center

Research assistant investigating how dogs interpret humans' communicative cues.

Duke Lemur Center

Research assistant investigating lemur social group discrimination based on communicative cues.

North Carolina Zoo

Research investigating chimpanzee processing of social and nonsocial hierarchies using touchscreens.

Tokai Baboon Project

Summer 2015

Duke University; PI's: Dr. Larissa Swedell and Dr. Steffen Foerster

Cape Town and Kysna, South Africa

Comparative research on chacma baboon activity budgets in Table Mountain National Park and the Kysna-Amatole Rainforest, South Africa.

AD HOC REVIEWER:

Journal: International Journal of Primatology (Editorial Manager: Joanna Setchell)

Journal: Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences (Editorial Manager: Thore Bergman)

Journal: Nature Scientific Reports (Editorial Manager: Richard White)

Journal: Animal Behavior and Cognition (Editorial Manager: Jennifer Vonk)

Journal: Interaction Studies (Editorial Manager: Angelo Cangelosi)

Journal: Journal of Comparative Psychology (Editorial Manager: Dorothy Fragaszy)

Journal: Journal of Animal Welfare (Editorial Manager: Fay Clark)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, SERVICE, AND OUTREACH

Co-Director, 2nd Bridging the Technological Gap Workshop August, 2024
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany

Panelist, Personal Statement Workshop, Dev. Psych. Internship Program, UC Berkeley July 2024

Panelist, Postgraduate Opportunities, Dev. Psych. Internship Program, UC Berkeley June 2024

Interview with the Minds Matter Podcast, hosted by Ava Ma de Sousa and Beth Fisher April 2024

Board Member, Black in Biological Anthropology Collective March 2024 - present

Interview with the Many Minds Podcast, hosted by Kensy Cooperrider March 2024

Co-Director, Primatology in Captivity and the Wild Workshop December, 2024
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany

Speaker, Royal Society of Edinburgh 'Curious' Event, Edinburgh Zoo, UK September 2023

Panelist, Personal Statement Workshop, Dev. Psych. Internship Program, UC Berkeley July 2023

Panelist, Postgraduate Opportunities, Dev. Psych. Internship Program, UC Berkeley June 2023

Guest Kindergarten Teacher, Washington Elementary School, Berkeley, California May 2023

Interviews (2) with Getting Curious Podcast, hosted by **Jonathan Van Ness** Jan - April 2023

Interview with Scientist on the Subway, Columbia University Neuroscience Outreach January 2023

Co-Director, Bridging the Technological Gap Workshop August, 2022

German Primate Center, Göttingen, Germany

Co-Director, Black in Biological Anthropology Fall, 2021 – March 2024

Visiting Scientist, Virtual Wild Life Drawing Class: Bonobos Summer 2021

Black Primatologists Interview, Trevon Covington, Master's Student, Central Washington University Spring 2021

Guest Kindergarten Teacher, International Community School, Oakland, California Spring 2021

Panelist, Graduate Student Pathways, Greener Scott Scholars Program, Harvard Winter 2021

Panelist, Diversity in Research, National Collegiate Research Conference Winter 2021

Mentor, Greener Scott Scholars Program, Harvard University Fall 2020 – Spring 2022

Interview with ATHENA, podcast for high school women interested in STEM Fall 2020

Co-Founder and Director, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force June 2020 – August 2021
Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University

Panel Moderator, SMASH, Alumni STEM Professional Panels Winter 2020

Panelist, Diversity in Research, National Collegiate Research Conference Winter 2020

Visiting Scientist, Wilmington High School, Wilmington, Massachusetts Fall 2019

Alumni Board Manager, Summer Math and Science Honors Academy (SMASH) 2019 – 2021

Alumni Board Member, Summer Math and Science Honors Academy (SMASH) 2017 – 2019

Edinburgh Zoo Evening Talk, Edinburgh Zoo, Scotland Summer 2019

Edinburgh Zoo Academics Go Wild Talk, Edinburgh Zoo, Scotland Spring 2019

ZOO Science Lecture, Antwerp Zoo, Belgium Spring 2019

ZOO Science Lecture, Planckendael Zoo, Belgium Spring 2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University 2019 – 2020

Courses: The Science of Happiness; Introduction to Psychology with Prof. Jason Mitchell

Award: Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard Derek Bok Center

Course: Evolutionary Anthropology 101

MENTORSHIP

PhD Student Mentorship:

Calder Hilde-Jones, PhD student, Dept. of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley 2023 - Present

Undergraduate Research Mentorship:

Kimberly Dawud (UC Berkeley), Kaitlin McPherson (UC Berkeley), Clark Nguyen (UC Berkeley), José Martínez (Florida State University), Sarahí Muñoz (UC Berkeley), Christina James (Old Dominion University), Miaomiao Zhang (Beijing Normal University), Charlene Wang (UC Berkeley), Skyler Chen (UC Berkeley), Tiffany Kalu (Harvard), Leticia Sefia (Harvard), Lydia Ramstad (Harvard), Niara Botchwey (Harvard)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Comparative Cognition Society	2024 – Present
Cognitive Development Society	2023 – Present
American Psychological Association	2023 – Present
Animal Behavior Society	2021 – Present
International Primate Society	2020 – Present