

Laura Simone Lewis

Departments of Psychological and Brain Sciences and Anthropology
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of California, Santa Barbara Assistant Professor Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences Department of Anthropology	July 2025 – Present
University of California, Berkeley UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow Dept. of Psychology Advisors: Alison Gopnik and Jan Engelmann	Dec. 2022 – July 2025
The Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology , Leipzig, Germany Visiting Postdoctoral Researcher Advisors: Erica Cartmill and Christopher Krupenye	Aug. – Oct., 2022

EDUCATION

Harvard University , Cambridge, MA 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	Aug. 2016 – May 2022
The University of St Andrews , St Andrews, Scotland Visiting Scholar, School of Psychology and Neuroscience Advisors: Josep Call and Christopher Krupenye	July 2018 – July 2022
Duke University , Durham, NC B.S. with Distinction in Evolutionary Anthropology and Biology Concentration: Behavior, Ecology, and Cognition	Aug. 2012 - May 2016
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., Kano, F., Stevens, J., DuBois, J., Call, J., & Krupenye, C. (*in press*). Do chimpanzees and bonobos know their groupmates' names? Probing great ape comprehension of vocal social labels.

Lewis, L. S.*, **Sanchez-Amaro, A.***, et al. (*under review*). Bridging divides in the study of great ape behavior, cognition, development, and evolution.

Ritov, O., Völter, C., Samuni, L., Benozio, A., Keltner, D., Engelmann, J., **Herrmann, E.***, **Lewis, L.S.*** (*under review*). Chimpanzees steal less from their friends and expect them to do the same.

Buehler, F., **Lewis, L.S.**, Zhang, Z., Schleihauf, S., Zong, Y., Herrmann, E., Zeidler, H., Engelmann, J. (*under review*). Metacognitive monitoring is similar in Kenyan, Chinese, and US children.

Lewis, L. S., Ritov, O., Herrmann, E., Reddy, R. B., Sanchez-Amaro, A., Gopnik, A., & Engelmann, J. (2025). Chimpanzees and children are curious about social interactions. *Proceedings B*, 292(2048), 20242242.

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., 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., 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., Nasrini, J., & Krupenye, C., Call, J. (*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.

Steele, C., Fornof, L., Thomas, A., **Lewis, L.S.** (*in prep*) The evolution and development of primate relationships.

*** Indicates shared authorship**

CONFERENCE TALKS AND INVITED COLLOQUIA

Lewis, L. (2025). Comparing Cousins: The Evolution and Development of Great Ape Social Minds. **Invited Colloquium**, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

Lewis, L. (2025). Curious Cousins: Social Attention, Social Curiosity, and Social Emotions in Great Apes. **Invited Colloquium**, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

Lewis, L. (2025). Curious Cousins: Social Attention, Social Curiosity, and Social Emotions in Great Apes. **Invited Colloquium**, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

Lewis, L. (2025). Comparing Cousins: Great Ape Social Memory, Curiosity, and Anger. **Invited Colloquium**, Duke University, North Carolina.

Lewis, L., Ritov, O., Reddy, R., Gopnik, A., Sanchez-Amaro, A., Herrmann, E., Engelmann, J. (2025). Curious Creatures: Social Curiosity in Great Apes. **Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, Ecology and Evolution Seminar Series**.

Lewis, L. (2025). Comparative Cognition in Great Apes. **Introduction to Social Psychology Guest Lecture**, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Lewis, L. (2025). Curious Creatures: Social Curiosity and Long-Term Memory in Great Apes. **Evolutionary Anthropology Seminar Series Colloquium**, University of Zurich.

Lewis, L., Ritov, O., Sanford, E., Gopnik, A., Engelmann, J. (2025). Cultural Curiosity in Children. **Culture Conference**, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Lewis, L. (2025). Comparative Psychology: exploring psychology in nonhuman animals. **Developmental Psychology Guest Lecture**, University of California, Berkeley.

Lewis, L. (2025). The Evolution of Great Ape Friendships. **Anthropology 101 Guest Lecture**, University of California, Berkeley.

Lewis, L., (2025). The Evolution of Friendship in Great Apes. **Eco-Afro Futures Summit**, Critical Ecology Lab, Oakland, California.

Lewis, L., (2025). Foundations of Social Relationships in Great Apes. **Mind and Culture Lab**, PI Dorsa Amir, Duke University, North Carolina.

Lewis, L., Ritov, O., Reddy, R., Gopnik, A., Sanchez-Amaro, A., Herrmann, E., Engelmann, J. (2025). Social and Cultural Curiosity in Children and Chimpanzees. **Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development**, Budapest, Hungary.

Lewis, L. (2024). Great Ape Maintenance of Long-Term Social Relationships. **Invited Lecture, Cal Discoveries**, Journey to Southern Africa, Hoedspruit, South Africa.

Lewis, L. (2024). What do Great Apes Teach Us About Our Own Human Evolution? **Invited Lecture, Cal Discoveries**, Journey to Southern Africa, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Lewis, L. (2024). Exploring Primate Behavior and Cognition in South Africa
Invited Lecture, **Cal Discoveries**, Journey to Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa.

Lewis, L. (2024). Foundations of Social Relationships in Great Apes
Invited Colloquium, **Department of Psychology**, Yale University.

Lewis, L. (2024). Preservation of Great Ape Friendships
Invited Colloquium, **Many Minds Meeting**, Princeton University.

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.

AD HOC REVIEWER:

Open Mind: Discoveries in Cognitive Science; Biological Reviews ; Journal of Experimental Psychology; International Journal of Primatology; Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences; Nature Scientific Reports; Animal Behavior and Cognition; Interaction Studies; Journal of Comparative Psychology; Journal of Animal Welfare; Evolution and Human Behavior

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, SERVICE, AND OUTREACH

Co-Host, Building A Scientific Website and Brand Workshop, Dept. of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of California, Santa Barbara December, 2025

Interview for the “Screenagers 5” Documentary, Directed by Delaney Ruston, MD December, 2025

Interview with the American Psychological Association “Speaking of Psychology” Podcast, hosted by Kim Mills December, 2025

Panelist, UC Berkeley Career Panel, UC Berkeley Postdoc Association September, 2025

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

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 (former Director), Black in Biological Anthropology Collective March 2024 - Present

Interview with the Many Minds Podcast , hosted by Kensy Cooperider	March 2024
Co-Director , Primateology in Captivity and the Wild Workshop Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany	December, 2024
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 German Primate Center, Göttingen, Germany	August, 2022
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 Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University	June 2020 – August 2021
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

Instructor, University of California, Santa Barbara

PSY 160LL: The Social Minds of Primates
 PSY 594LL: The Social Minds of Primates

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University

Courses: The Science of Happiness; Introduction to Psychology with Prof. Jason Mitchell
Award: Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard Derek Bok Center

Academic Tutor, Duke University

Course: Evolutionary Anthropology 101

MENTORSHIP

PhD Student Mentorship:

Amanda Goguen, PhD student, Psychological and Brain Sciences, UC Santa Barbara	2025 – Present
Calder Hilde-Jones, PhD student, Psychology, University of California, Berkeley	2023 - Present

Undergraduate Research Mentorship:

Tyler Peters (UC Berkeley), Rafael Branco (UC Berkeley), Kimberly Dawud (UC Berkeley), Kaitlin McPherson (UC Berkeley), Clark Nguyen (UC Berkeley), José Martinez (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