

Sierra MV Simmons

Cognitive Science PhD Student
Psychology Department
Georgia State University
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Education

- 2020-Present M.A Candidate Psychology- Cognitive Science
Georgia State University
Advisor: Dr. Sarah Brosnan
- 2018 B.S. Cognitive Science
University of California, Davis
- 2015 A.S. Biological Sciences
Cuesta College, San Luis Obispo, CA

Awards

- 2020-2021 2CI University Doctoral Fellowship in Primate Social Cognition, Evolution and Behavior
- 2018 Outstanding Performance in Cognitive Science
- 2017 UC Davis Dean's Honors List, Fall
- 2016 UC Davis Dean's Honors List, Fall
- 2013-2015 Cuesta College Academic Honors

Publications: Peer Reviewed

Myers AK, Talbot CF, Del Rosso LA, Garner JP, Maness AC, **Simmons SMV**, Capitanio JP, Parker KJ (2021). Assessment of medical morbidities in a rhesus monkey model of naturally occurring low sociality. *Autism Research*.

Oztan O, Talbot CF, Emanuela A, Maness AC, **Simmons SMV**, Mohsin N, Del Rosso LA, Garner JP, Sherr EH, Capitanio JP, Parker KJ (2021). Trait-like consistency in autism-associated biomarkers of sociality in rhesus monkeys. *Molecular Autism*.

Vater A, Agbonavbare V, Carlin DA, Carruthers GM, Chac A, Ladan Doroud, Farris SJ, Gudzeva M, Jospin G, Kintner JA, Knauss JP, Lor Y, Pechacek R, Rohner ES, **Simmons SMV**, Verescshagina M, Wirawan CS, Zagal L, David A (2016). Draft genome sequences of *Shewanella* sp. strain UCD-FRSP16_17 and nine *Vibrio* strains isolated from Abalone feces. *Genome Announc.*, 4(5), e00977-16.

Conference Presentations

Talks

Simmons SMV. (2019) Social activity budgets between Adult male and female mantled howler monkeys and white-faced capuchins. Primate Behavior and Ecology Symposium, La Suerte Biological Research Station, Costa Rica.

Posters

Trainor C, Talbot CF, **Simmons SMV**, Capitanio JP, Parker KJ. (2019) Effects of Vasopressin administration on face and object recognition in a rhesus macaque model of autism. Human Biology Research Experience (HBREX) Symposium, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA.

Research Positions

8/20-present **Graduate Research Assistant: CEBUS Lab**

Learning Research Center, Georgia State University

PI: Dr. Sarah Brosnan, Georgia State University

8/18-8/20 **Junior Specialist: Social behavior in captive rhesus macaques**

California National Primate Research Center

PI: Dr. John Capitanio, University of California, Davis, USA; Dr. Karen J. Parker, Stanford University, USA

- Projects: Pharmacokinetics of nebulized vasopressin; Exogenous vasopressin effects on social cognition in adult male rhesus; Differences in social cognition between high-social and low-social male rhesus infants; Behavioral observations to classify high-social and low-social juvenile females

7/19-8/19 **Field Student: Mantled howler monkey and white-faced capuchin behavior and ecology**

La Suerte Biological Research Station, Costa Rica

Supervisor: Dr. Laura Bolt, University of Toronto, Canada

- Project: Conducted research on social energy budgets in mantled howler monkeys and white-faced capuchins

3/17-8/18 **Student Intern/Employee: Social behavior in captive rhesus macaques**

California National Primate Research Center

PI: Dr. John Capitanio, University of California, Davis, USA; Dr. Karen J. Parker, Stanford University, USA

- Projects: Behavioral observations to classify high-social and low-social juvenile males; Differences in social cognition between high-social and low-social male juveniles.

5/16-6/18 **Student Intern: Clinical Laboratory**

California National Primate Research Center

Supervisor: Abigail Spinner CLS, University of California, Davis, USA

5/13-6/13 **Student intern: Neurogenesis in blue bellied lizards**

California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, CA, USA

PI: Dr. Christy Strand, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, USA

Mentorship

- 2019-2020 Undergraduate student mentor: Callum Trainor
2019 Stanford HB-REX summer fellow Human Biology, Stanford University
- 2018-2020 Undergraduate student mentor: Kylee M. Beck
2018 Stanford HB-REX summer fellow 2019, Autism Science Foundation
Undergraduate Summer Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders candidate, 2019
Stanford Major Grant Awardee Human Biology, Stanford University
- 2018-2020 Undergraduate student supervisor (supervision of undergraduates in data collection, writing behavioral ethograms, and behavioral coding): Courtney Haas, Senna Joshi, Katlyn Farley, Carol Lopez-Alfaro, Emily Menacher

Laboratory skills

- Basic bench work: Processing blood, cerebral spinal fluid, and urine, running PBMCs
- Basic clinical lab work: Complete blood counts, plasma biochemistry, measuring fibrinogen, processing plasma for colony wide plasma bank
- Basic bacteria culturing: plating and culturing a variety of bacteria strains

Technical skills

Microsoft office, Final Cut Pro, Observer XT14, R studio, Tobii XT Eye-Tracking Software, Python

Professional Societies

2019-Present American Society of Primatologists

Professional Service

- 2021-Present **Committee Member**, Student Committee, American Society of Primatologist
- 2019-2020 **Organizer**, Journal Club, Neuroscience & Behavior Unit, California National Primate Research Center
- 2015-2018 **Co-founder**, UC Davis Reptile Club, Davis, USA
- 2014-2015 **Chemistry Tutor**, San Luis Obispo, USA

Community Outreach

- 2021-Present **Pen-pal**, Letters to a Pre-scientist
- 2021-Present **Volunteer**, Skype-a-Scientist, Atlanta, GA
- 2018-2020 **Child Advocate**, Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children (CASA), Sacramento, USA
- 2016-2018 **Member**, Prytanean Women's Honor Society, Davis, USA
- 2016-2018 **Volunteer**, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Sacramento, USA