John C. 'Jack' Winans

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Current Appointment

2024 – *Pres.* **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior (Dept. for the Ecology of Animal Societies) and University of Konstanz (Dept. of Biology)
Mentor: Ariana Strandburg-Peshkin

Education

2024 **Stony Brook University**, Ph.D. Anthropology
Dissertation: 'Individual variation within the collective: bottom-up and top-down social processes in wild baboon groups.'
Dissertation committee: Catherine Markham (advisor), Susan Alberts, Andreas Koenig, Heather Lynch

2018 **George Washington University**, B.S. Biological Anthropology, *summa cum laude*
Thesis: 'Mixed evidence for ecological risk aversion in wild juvenile chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) at Gombe National Park, Tanzania.'
Thesis advisors: Carson Murray, Kaitlin Wellens

Research Program

I am a behavioral ecologist researching the **evolution of social behavior**. Group-living animals interact heterogeneously with one another and variation in the tenor, stability, and strength of these interactions shapes emergent group-level attributes. These group-level attributes in turn have strong consequences for individual fitness and behavioral optima. I interpret animal social behavior through the lens of this dynamic interplay between 'bottom-up' effects of individual heterogeneity on group-level patterns and 'top-down' effects of group-level phenomena on individual experiences, sometimes termed **individual-to-society feedbacks**. Specifically, I investigate how patterns of **collective decision making**, **competitive regimes**, and **movement** arise from social processes and impact fitness in wild animals. To do so, I combine information afforded by **long-term monitoring** of individually recognized animals with high resolution data gained from **animal-mounted bio-loggers** and **automated image-based tracking technology**. My study systems include **baboons**, **white-nosed coatis**, **meerkats**, and **chimpanzees**.

Publications (♦*denotes co-first or co-senior authorship*)

Winans, J.C., Grout, E.M., Ortega, J., Quin, M.J., Crofoot, M.C., Hirsch, B.T.♦, Strandburg-Peshkin, A.♦ (in review). Kinship, acoustic signaling, and socio-spatial structure shape shared decisions and social influence in white-nosed coatis. Preprint (*bioRxiv*): https://doi.org/10.64898/2026.08.11.744150

Grout, E.M., Jacobson, O.T., **Winans, J.C.**, Gall, G.E.C., Ortega, J., Schaefer-Zimmermann, J., Crofoot, M.C., Hirsch, B.T.♦, Strandburg-Peshkin, A.♦ (in review). Vocal coordination and conflict avoidance shape fission-fusion dynamics in white-nosed coatis. Preprint (*bioRxiv*): https://doi.org/10.64898/2026.05.26.727854.

Winans, J.C., Learn, N.H., Siodi, I.L., Warutere, J.K., Archie, E.A., Tung, J., Alberts, S.C.♦, Markham, A.C.♦ (in review). High early lactational synchrony within baboon groups predicts increased female-female competition and infant mortality. Preprint (*bioRxiv*): https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.09.09.611196.

Southworth, C.A.♦, **Winans, J.C.**♦, Gordon, J.B., Learn, N.H, Wilber, W., Andreadis, C., Andreasen, G., Arandjelovic, M., Campbell, C.R., Chege, M.N, Creighton, M.J.A., Cromer, C.M., Debray, R., Dickson, C.C., Ferretti, P., George, E.M., Gesquiere, L.R., He, S., Hey, L., Jefferson, E.E., Kulahci, I.G., Lerch, B.A., Nonnamaker, L.M., Rivas-González, I., Tuliozi, B., Webb, S.E., Alberts, S.C.♦, Archie, E.A.♦, Tung, J.♦ (2026). Demographic, behavioral, and ecological data from a long-term field study of wild baboons in Amboseli, Kenya. *Scientific Data* 13: 311.

Wellens, K.R., Lee, S.M., **Winans, J.C.**, Pusey, A.E., Murray, C.M. (2022). Female chimpanzee associations with male kin: trade-offs between inbreeding avoidance and infanticide protection. *Animal Behaviour* 190: 115-123.

Grants, Fellowships, & Awards (°*internal*, ♦*external*)

2022	Animal Behavior Society Graduate Student Travel Award ($380)♦
2022 – 2023	Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant ($8,701)♦, 'Social responsiveness in female savannah baboons: individual heterogeneity and group-level outcomes.'
2022 – 2025	NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant ($29,652)♦, 'Doctoral Dissertation Research: Social responsiveness in female nonhuman primates.'
2021	Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Field Research ($3,800)♦, 'Individual heterogeneity in social responsiveness among savannah baboons of the Amboseli Basin, Kenya.'
2021	Animal Behavior Society Student Research Grant ($1,500)♦, 'Individual heterogeneity in social responsiveness: identifying sources of variation in neighbor interactions in a social mammal.'
2020	American Society of Primatologists Small Research Grant ($1,500)♦, 'Using novel methods to discern variation in local interaction rules: the effect of pregnancy on baboon socio-spatial behavior.'
2018 – 2024	Graduate Council Fellowship, Stony Brook University ($50,000)°
2018 – 2023	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship ($138,000)♦
2018	Jane B. Hart Award, George Washington University ($300)°

Conference Presentations

Winans, J.C., Grout, E.M., Ortega, J., Quin, M.J., Crofoot, M.C., Hirsch, B.T., Strandburg-Peshkin, A. (2026). Kinship, vocal signaling, and socio-spatial structure shape social influence during directional conflicts in coati collective movement. International Society for Behavioral Ecology Congress 2026. Turin, Italy. (Podium).

Winans, J.C., Alberts, S.C., Archie, E.A., Tung, J., Markham, A.C. (2025). Movement tracking reveals behavioral and energetic consequences of prolonged drought in wild baboons. 30th International Primatological Society Congress. Antananarivo, Madagascar. (Podium, invited symposium presentation).

Jefferson, E.E., **Winans, J.C.**, Archie, E.A., Tung, J., Alberts, S.C., Markham, A.C. (2025). Kids and company: predictors of neighbor presence while feeding in wild immature baboons. 94th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists. Baltimore, MD. (Poster).

Winans, J.C., Archie, E.A., Tung, J., Gesquiere, L.R., Alberts, S.C., Markham, A.C. (2023). From populations to groups to individuals and back again: group living and fitness in a highly social primate. 2023 Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society. Portland, OR. (Podium, invited symposium presentation).

Winans, J.C., Alberts, S.C., Markham, A.C. (2022). High lactational synchrony decreases survival odds and increases infanticide risk for infant baboons. 2022 Annual Meeting of the Animal Behavior Society. San José, Costa Rica. (Podium).

Winans, J.C., Alberts, S.C., Markham, A.C. (2021). High synchrony of female lactation within groups decreases survival odds for infant savannah baboons. 7th Meeting of the Northeastern Evolutionary Primatologists (NEEP), Boston, MA. (Podium).

Winans, J.C., Markham, A.C. (2020). Social factors predict global and local measures of female olive baboon (*Papio anubis*) spatial position. 6th Meeting of the Northeastern Evolutionary Primatologists (NEEP), Virtual. (Podium).

Winans, J.C., Markham, A.C. (2019). Predictors of spatial proximity in wild female savannah baboons: The effect of habitat openness. 5th Meeting of the Northeastern Evolutionary Primatologists (NEEP), Amherst, MA. (Poster).

Winans, J.C., Wellens, K.R., Lonsdorf, E.V., Murray, C.M. (2018). Mixed evidence for ecological risk aversion in juvenile wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) at Gombe National Park, Tanzania. *American Journal of Primatology* 80(S1): 61. (Podium).

Invited Talks and Panel Discussions

'High early lactational synchrony within baboon groups predicts increased infant mortality risk.' (2025). Department of Anthropology, Boston University. Boston, MA. (Virtual talk).

'CASHP@25: Primate Panel.' (2025). Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology, George Washington University. Washington, DC. (Panel discussion).

'Connecting individual variation to collective outcomes: insights from baboon and coati societies.' (2025). Department of Primate Behavior and Evolution, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Leipzig, Germany. (Talk).

'Integrating long-term observation with new technologies to understand the evolution of animal social behavior.' (2022). 10XBeta. Brooklyn, NY. (Talk).

'Integrating long-term observation with new technologies to understand the evolution of animal social behavior.' (2022). Mighty. Brooklyn, NY. (Talk).

Teaching

2026	Lecturer (University of Konstanz/Kalahari Research Centre): 'Collective Behavior Field Course'
2024	Teaching assistant (Stony Brook Stony Brook University): 'Introduction to Human Biology'
2023	Teaching assistant (Stony Brook University): 'Evolution of Human Behavior'
2023	Co-instructor (Stony Brook University): 'Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP): Introduction to Biological Anthropology'
2019	Teaching assistant (Stony Brook University): 'How We Eat'
2019	Teaching assistant (Stony Brook University): 'What Makes Us Human?'
2018	Teaching assistant (Stony Brook University): 'Evolution of Human Behavior'

Fieldwork

2026	Kalahari Research Centre, South Africa (May-Jul): Deployed GPS/accelerometer/audio collars on 2 meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*) groups
2023	Amboseli Baboon Research Project, Kenya (Jul-Aug): Deployed GPS/accelerometer collars on adult baboons (*Papio cynocephalus* x *anubis*); pilot tested novel solar-powered GPS/accelerometer collar
2022	Amboseli Baboon Research Project, Kenya (Aug-Nov): Deployed GPS/accelerometer collars on adult female baboons; implemented novel, image-based method to simultaneously record high-resolution movement data of multiple neighboring baboons during focal animal samples of adult female baboons
2021	Amboseli Baboon Research Project, Kenya (Jun-Aug): Deployed GPS/accelerometer collars on adult female baboons; pilot tested novel, image-based method to simultaneously record high-resolution movement data of multiple neighboring baboons
2019	Amboseli Baboon Research Project, Kenya (Aug): Video recorded an adult female baboon fitted with a GPS/accelerometer collar in all major behavioral states to ground truth machine-learning methods of behavioral state classification from accelerometer data
2019	Amboseli Baboon Research Project, Kenya (Mar): Pilot tested noninvasive field methods of collecting socio-spatial data on five wild groups of yellow baboons
2016	Primate Studies Field School, Rwanda (Jun-Jul): Collected observational data on juvenile mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei*), anubis baboons (*Papio anubis*), and vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*)

Students and Mentees

2026 – *Pres.*	L Bhagirathi Rao (Master's student mentee, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune)
2026 – *Pres.*	Lilli Bischoff (Undergraduate research assistant, University of Konstanz)

2025 – *Pres.* Kaija Harlow (PhD student mentee, George Washington University)
2025 – 2026 Zeynep Durmus (Master's research assistant, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)
2025 Brianah Cotto (Undergraduate research assistant, Stony Brook University)
2024 – 2025 Lilly Garofano (Undergraduate research assistant, Stony Brook University)
2024 – 2024 Marissa McCandless (Undergraduate research assistant, Stony Brook University)
2023 – 2024 Jake Butkevich (Undergraduate research assistant, Stony Brook University)
2023 – 2024 Megan McNamara (Undergraduate Honors thesis student, Stony Brook University)
2021 – 2022 Jessica Rivera (Master's research assistant, University of Zürich)

Service

2025 – *Pres.* Department meeting secretary, Department for the Ecology of Animal Societies, Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior
2023 – 2024 Secretary, Behavioral Ecology Group, Stony Brook University
2022 – *Pres.* *Ad hoc* reviewer, *Animal Behaviour*, *Behavioral Ecology*, *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, *International Journal of Primatology*, *Movement Ecology*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*
2020 – 2021 Master's admissions committee member, Department of Anthropology, Stony Brook University
2019 – 2022 Treasurer, Behavioral Ecology Group, Stony Brook University

Certifications

2024 Wilderness First Aid, Outdoorschule Süd, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

Outreach

2019 – 2020 Social media volunteer, Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences, Stony Brook University
2018 – 2024 Shutterbug Science education outreach program, Department of Anthropology, Stony Brook University

Memberships

American Society of Primatologists, Animal Behavior Society, International Primatological Society, International Society for Behavioral Ecology, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi

(Updated 18 August 2026)