

John C. “Jack” Winans

Department for the Ecology of Animal Societies

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Current Appointment

2024 – *Pres.* **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior and University of Konstanz

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 and 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 current and past study systems include **baboons**, **meerkats**, **white-nosed coatis**, **spotted hyenas**, and **chimpanzees**.

Publications

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

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| 2022 | Animal Behavior Society Graduate Student Travel Award (\$380)♦ |
| 2022 – 2023 | Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$8,701)♦ |
| 2022 – 2025 | NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$29,652)♦ |
| 2021 | Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Field Research (\$3,800)♦ |
| 2021 | Animal Behavior Society Student Research Grant (\$1,500)♦ |
| 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.**, 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

- “Paths to influence over collective decisions in the wild: individual behavior, group-level constraints, and ecological factors.” (2025, scheduled). Department of Primate Behavior and Evolution, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Leipzig, Germany.

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

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

Teaching

- 2024 Teaching assistant (spring, Stony Brook Stony Brook University): “Introduction to Human Biology”
- 2023 Teaching assistant (fall, Stony Brook University): “Evolution of Human Behavior”
- 2023 Co-instructor (spring, Stony Brook University): “Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP): Introduction to Biological Anthropology”
- 2019 Teaching assistant (fall, Stony Brook University): “How We Eat”
- 2019 Teaching assistant (spring, Stony Brook University): “What Makes Us Human?”
- 2018 Teaching assistant (fall, Stony Brook University): “Evolution of Human Behavior”

Fieldwork

- 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

- 2024 – Pres. 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 (Senior Honors thesis student, Stony Brook University)
- 2021 – 2022 Jessica Rivera (Master’s research assistant, University of Zürich)

Service

- 2023 – 2024 Secretary, Behavioral Ecology Group, Stony Brook University
- 2022 – Pres. *Ad hoc* reviewer, *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

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, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi

(Updated 10 September 2024)