

John C. “Jack” Winans

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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 focused on 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 powerful 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**.

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

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 – 2023 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (\$138,000) ♦
- 2018 – 2024 Graduate Council Fellowship, Stony Brook University (\$50,000) °
- 2018 Jane B. Hart Award, George Washington University (\$300) °

Publications

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.

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

- “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 Business’ “Lunch and Learn” series. Brooklyn, NY.

Teaching Experience

- 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”

Field Experience

- 2023 Amboseli Baboon Research Project, Kenya (Jul-Aug)
- Deploy GPS/accelerometer collars on adult yellow baboons (*Papio cynocephalus*)
 - Pilot test novel solar-powered GPS/accelerometer collar
- 2022 Amboseli Baboon Research Project, Kenya (Aug-Nov)
- Deploy 3 GPS/accelerometer collars on adult female yellow baboons
 - Implement novel, image-based method to simultaneously record high-resolution movement data of multiple neighboring baboons during focal animal samples of 15 adult female baboons
- 2021 Amboseli Baboon Research Project, Kenya (Jun-Aug)
- Deploy 7 GPS/accelerometer collars on adult female yellow baboons
 - Introduce novel, noninvasive, image-based method of tracking baboon movements to long-running field site
- 2019 Amboseli Baboon Research Project, Kenya (Aug)
- Video record an adult female yellow 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)
- Test noninvasive field methods of collecting socio-spatial data on five wild groups of yellow baboons
- 2016 Primate Studies Field School, Rwanda (Jun-Jul)
- Observational data collection on wild mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei*), anubis baboons (*Papio anubis*), and vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*)
 - Fecal sample collection from wild anubis baboons (*Papio anubis*)

Mentoring Experience

- 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 (Masters 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