

DANIELA HEDWIG, Ph.D.

The Elephant Listening Project
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Education

- 2007 – 2015 **Ph.D. Biology** University Leipzig and Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
Thesis title: Acoustic structure and contextual correlates of mountain and western gorilla close distance vocalizations - a syntactic approach
- 1999 – 2007 **Dipl. Biologist** (German equivalent to M.Sc.) Friedrich Schiller University Jena
Specialization in zoology, ecology and geology

Professional experience

July 2016 – present

Postdoc, Elephant Listening Project, Bioacoustic Research Program, Cornell University (USA)

Applying passive acoustic monitoring to investigate the social function of forest elephant vocalizations, elephant abundance and activity in relation to signs of human encroachment, and to mitigate human-elephant conflict and support anti-poaching patrols

Oct. 2015 – May 2016

Project Assistant Wildlife Crime, WWF Germany

Research, management and distribution of information regarding the on-going African elephant and rhino poaching crisis • Preparation of informational material to facilitate decision-making in politics • Liaising with governmental and non-governmental partner institutions

Sept. 2015 – present

Guest Researcher, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Germany)

Scientific collaborations on gorilla and gibbon behavior

May 2014 – May 2015

Coordinator of bio-monitoring program, The Aspinall Foundation, Batéké Plateau National Park (Gabon)

Conceptualized and implemented study design and data collection protocols for the monitoring of mammal species occurrence, distribution and behavior as well as plant productivity • Expanded program through initiating collaboration with the PanAfrican Program • Supervised and trained field assistants and volunteers • Monthly reporting • Supported senior personnel in preparing funding proposals and press releases

June 2010 – April 2014

Research stay at Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Germany)

Data analysis and preparation of scientific manuscripts for doctoral thesis

Jan. – May 2010

Consultant for WWF Primate Habituation Project, Dzanga-Sangha Nature Reserve (CAR)

Managed primate habituation, research and ecotourism • Supervised and trained volunteers and field assistants • Bookkeeping and reporting

Sept. 2007 – Jan. 2010

Ph.D. Fieldwork in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Uganda) & Dzanga-Sangha Nature Reserve (CAR)

Collected data on mountain and western gorilla behavior and vegetation density • Trained field assistants • Mentored undergrad student • Active role in upkeep of research camp facilities and work routine

May 2005 – April 2007

Research Assistant at Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Germany)

Conducted cognitive tests on great apes in three European zoos

Sept. 2004 – May 2005

Intern at Lajuma Research Center, Soutpansberg Conservancy (South Africa)

Habituation and data collection on ranging patterns and social behavior of chacma baboons

Publications

Ham S, Lappan S, **Hedwig D** & Choe JC. In press. Female Songs of the Nonduetting Javan Gibbons (*Hylobates moloch*) Function for Territorial Defense. *International Journal of Primatology*.

Ham S, **Hedwig D**, Lappan S & Choe JC. 2016. Song functions in non-duetting gibbons - evidence from playback experiments on Javan gibbons. *International Journal of Primatology*. 37(2), 225-240.

w/ Kühl HS, Kalan AK [...] Boesch C. 2016. Chimpanzee accumulative stone throwing. *Scientific Reports* 6:22219.

Robbins MM, Ando C, Fawcett K, Grueter CC, **Hedwig D**, Iwata Y, Lodwick J, Masi S, Salmi R, Stoinski TS, Todd A, Vercellio V, Yamagiwa J. 2016. Behavioural Variation in Gorillas: Evidence of Potential Cultural Traits. *PLoS one*, 11(9), e0160483

Hedwig D, Mundry R, Robbins MM & Boesch C. 2015. Audience effects, but not environmental influences, explain the variation in calling rate and acoustic structure of gorilla close distance vocalizations - a test of the acoustic adaptation hypothesis. *American Journal of Primatology* 77(12):1239-52.

Hedwig D, Mundry R, Robbins MM & Boesch C. 2015. Contextual correlates of syntactic variation in mountain and western gorilla close distance vocalizations: indications for lexical or phonological syntax? *Animal Cognition* 18(2):423-35.

Hedwig D, Hammerschmidt K, Mundry R, Robbins MM, Boesch C. 2014. Acoustic structure and variation in mountain and western gorilla close calls: a syntactic approach. *Behaviour* 151:1091-1120.

Tennie C & **Hedwig D**. 2009. How latent solution experiments can help to study differences between human culture and primate traditions. In: *Primatology: Theories, Methods and Research*. Eds.: Potocki, E & Krasinski J. New York, NovaPublishers.

Tennie C, **Hedwig D**, Call J, Tomasello M. 2008. An experimental study of nettle eating in captive gorillas: Possible modes of acquisition and the role of social learning. *American Journal of Primatology* 70:1–10.

Additional work

2009

Co-founder of `Kamba ti BaAka´ health initiative

Co-initiated collaboration with WWF Germany to implement long-term medical care for the indigenous Aka people of the Dzanga-Sangha Nature Reserve (CAR) through marketing their traditional jewelry in Europe • Prepared promotional and educational material • Interacted with private sector

2013

Co-founder of `Great Apes are not Pets` educational poster campaign

Co-initiated collaborations with NGOs and national authorities of five African countries to implement a poster campaign fighting the illegal trade of great apes • Prepared promotional and educational material