

Kathryn M. Benavidez

Bloomington, IN 47408 • (512) 659-8795 [cell]
kamibena@iu.edu

EDUCATION

- PhD Student** **Indiana University**
Biological Anthropology • Minor Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior
2016 - present
- MS** **Texas State University, MSc**
Wildlife Ecology
2014 - 2016
- BS** **St. Edward's University, BSc**
Environmental Science and Policy • Minor in Sociology • Specialization in Biology
Summa cum Laude
2011 - 2014

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017 – present** **Anthropogenic pressures affecting the physiology of howler monkeys in island settings.** Using noninvasive methods to quantify relationships between gut microbial diversity, hormone levels, and IgA level in parasitized howler monkeys present in Isla Colón and Barro Colorado Island, Panama. *Collaborators:* Dr. Michael D Wasserman (adviser), Dr. Jay Lennon, Dr. Katharine Milton, Dr. Frederika Kaestle
- 2014 – 2016** ***Leptospira* in small mammal populations of Puerto Rico.** Used real time PCR to analyze samples for the presence of *Leptospira* spp. in kidney samples of rodents and mongooses from Puerto Rico. *Collaborators:* Dr. Ivan Castro-Arellano (adviser), Trina Guerra, Dr. Dittmar Hahn, Dr. Joseph Veech, Dr. David Rodriguez
- 2014 – 2016** **Estrogenic plant consumption for the black-and-white colobus monkey of Kibale National Park, Uganda.** Examined variation over a year between eight black-and-white colobus groups that inhabit Kibale National Park in Uganda. *Collaborators:* Dr. Michael Wasserman, Dr. Tara Harris, Dr. Colin Chapman, Dr. Dale Leitman
- 2013** **Ocelot conservation and border fence construction in South Texas.** Independently-developed research project focused on examining the effects that the border fence between Texas and Mexico has had on ocelot conservation. Data collection involved interviews with conservation groups and the analysis of survey data from Texas Parks and Wildlife. *McNair's Scholars Research Internship.* *Collaborators:* Dr. Peter Beck

PUBLICATIONS

- Briskin EA, Casanovas-Massana A, Ryff KR, Morales-Estrada S, Hamond C, Perez-Rodriguez NM, Benavidez KM, DM, Castro-Arellano I, Wunder EA, Sharp TM, Rivera-Garcia B, Ko AI. (2019) Seroprevalence, risk factors, and rodent reservoirs of leptospirosis in an urban community of Puerto Rico. *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, DOI: 10.1093/infdis/jiz339, <https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jiz339>.
- Benavidez KM, Guerra T, Hahn D, Rodriguez D, Veech J, Torres M, Perez de Leon A, Castro-Arellano I. (2019) The prevalence of *Leptospira* among invasive small mammals on Puerto Rican cattle farms. *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, 13(5), e0007236.
- Benavidez KM, Chapman CA, Leitman DC, Harris TR, Wasserman, MD. (2019). Intergroup variation in estrogenic plant consumption by black-and-white colobus monkeys. *African Journal of Ecology*. DOI: 10.1111/aje.12609
- Benavidez KM. (2014). Sub-Saharan African Oil: Connections with China. *Pangaea: Global Connections* 5: 1.

Benavidez KM. (2014). Remember the Ocelot: Effects of an international border fence on conservation efforts. *McNair Research Journal* 6: 69 - 80.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

Benavidez, K. M., Milton, K., & Wasserman, M. D. (2018, April). Host-parasite interactions in a small island setting: Determining exposure and susceptibility to bot flies (*Cuterebra baeri*) in wild howler monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*). Abstract. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 165: 24.

Benavidez KM, Harris TR, Wasserman MD, Chapman CA, Leitman DC, Rothman J. (2015). Intergroup variation in estrogenic plant consumption for the black-and-white colobus monkey of Kibale National Park, Uganda. Abstract. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 156: 83-83

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018** **Midwest Primate Interest Group, Bloomington, IN**
Podium Presentation, "Variation of estrogenic plant consumption by the black-and-white colobus monkey"
- 2018** **Anthropological Graduate Student Association, Bloomington, IN**
Poster Presentation, "Interactions between gut microbial diversity and the endocrine system in wild howler monkeys"
- 2017** **Midwest Primate Interest Group, Chicago, IL**
Poster presentation, "Interactions between gut microbial diversity and the endocrine system in wild howler monkeys"
- 2016** **Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Mexico City, Mexico**
Poster presentation, "The prevalence of *Leptospira* on five Puerto Rican Dairy Farms"
- 2016** **Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX**
Poster presentation, "*Bacteria prevalence on dairy farms in Puerto Rico*"
- 2015** **American Association of Physical Anthropology, St. Louis, MO**
Podium Presentation, "*Intergroup variation in estrogenic plant consumption for the black-and-white colobus monkey of Kibale National Park, Uganda*"
- 2015** **Southwestern Association of Naturalists Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA**
Podium Presentation, "*The prevalence of Leptospira in mongoose and commensal rodents of Puerto Rico*"
- 2015** **Texas Society of Mammologists Annual Meeting, Junction, TX**
Podium Presentation, "*Intergroup variation in estrogenic plant consumption for the black-and-white colobus monkey of Kibale National Park, Uganda*"
- 2014** **Texas Academy of Science, 117th Annual meeting, Galveston, TX**
Podium Presentation, "*Remember the Ocelot: Effects of an international border fence on conservation efforts.*" Award recipient
- 2014** **NCUR, University of Kentucky**
Podium Presentation, "*Remember the Ocelot*"
- 2014** **Southwestern Association of Naturalists Annual Meeting, Stillwater, OK**
Podium Presentation, "*Remember the Ocelot*"
- 2013** **McNair Research Symposium, Austin, TX**
Podium Presentation, "*Remember the Ocelot*"
- 2013** **SOURCE, St. Edward's University**

Podium Presentation, *“The Wildlife Conservation and Management Act of 1976: A policy analysis of hunting practices in Kenya.”*

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2019	Skomp Travel Grant
2019	CISAB Travel Grant
2018	Themester 2018 Animal/Human Co-curricular Program Grant
2018	Ostrom Program Grant
2017	Ford Foundation Fellowship, Honorable Mention
2017	IU Skomp Feasibility Fellowship
2017	Sigma Xi GIAR
2016 – 2020	McNair Graduate Student Fellowship
2016	Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Clark Hubbs Poster Award recipient
2015 – 2016	USDA Cultivar 2016 Fellow
2014 – 2016	USDA FATE Program Graduate Assistantship
2014	Texas Academy of Science Meeting, 2 nd Place Oral Presentation
2014	St. Edward’s BSS Research Award Recipient
2013 – present	McNair Scholar’s Program
2012	Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers Scholarship Recipient

TA EXPERIENCE

2018-present	Animal Behavior Workshop – ANBH 200/400, Indiana University
2016	Anatomy and Physiology – BIO 2340, Texas State University
2014	Populations and Organisms Lab – BIOL 1108, St. Edward’s University
2013	Cells, Genetics, and Organ Systems Lab – BIOL 1107, St. Edward’s University

CAMPUS SERVICE

2018	Animal Behavior Conference, Promotions Committee Chair and T-Shirt designer
2019	A Moment of Science, Guest Podcast Writer “Birds and Wildlife Trafficking”
2018	Midwest Primate Interest Group Meeting, Organization Chair and T-shirt Designer
2018	IU Graduate Mentoring Center, Tales from the Field Roundtable presenter
2018	EEB Eco Lunch, Guest Speaker “Leptospira in small mammals of rural Puerto Rico”

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- 2017 – present** Midwest Primate Interest Group, Secretary
- 2019 – present** Society for Conservation Biology, Student member
- 2018** IU Anthropological Graduate Student Association, Treasurer
- 2017 – present** Center for the Integrative Study of Animal Behavior, Student member
- 2013 – present** Texas Academy of Science, Student member
- 2013 – present** Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Conservation Committee member/Student member
- 2016 – present** American Society of Mammologists, Student member