

Abigail McClain

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EDUCATION

Anticipated 2026 Washington, DC	PhD Anthropology, Concentration: Primate Behavioral Ecology The George Washington University, <i>NSF Graduate Research Fellow</i>
2023-2024 Washington, DC	MPhil Anthropology; Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Information Systems The George Washington University
Aug 2017- May 2021 Bloomington, IN	Biology (BS), Spanish Linguistics (BA), Anthropology (Minor) Indiana University, Wells Scholar, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Aug 2021-Present	George Washington University Primate Behavioral Ecology Lab Project: Impact of social loss on the ranging, behavior, and physiology of wild chimpanzees. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skills: R, mixed-effects modeling, social network analysis, GIS, endocrine techniques• Integrate behavioral, spatial, demographic, and physiological datasets to model how death and social disruption influence demographic and behavioral outcomes.• Conduct quantitative longitudinal analyses using mixed-effects, social network, and spatial models to identify determinants of social, spatial, and physiological change.• Mentor undergraduate interns and high school students to help promote early and continued STEM engagement and skills development.• Collaborate and communicate findings across a multidisciplinary research consortium and translate results for public and professional audiences.
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TECHNICAL SKILLS

Computational: R; tidyverse; R Markdown; statistical modeling; mixed-effects models; social network analysis; Stata; Basic Python; GIS (QGIS/Arc); spatial analysis; longitudinal modeling; data visualization (ggplot2); data management; GitHub. **Design:** Illustrator, InDesign; Figma; R graphics packages **Languages:** Spanish (professional fluency)

PROFESSIONAL AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Aug 2021-Present Washington, DC	Graduate Teaching Assistant The George Washington University <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courses Taught: Introductory Biological Anthropology; Cell and Molecular Biology; Evolution and Ecology• Lead lab and discussion sections for small group and large lecture formats.• Develop course materials for majors and nonmajors and evaluate student work.
Feb 2021-Aug 2021 Bloomington, IN	Herpetology and Non-game Mammalogy Wildlife Field Technician Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Division <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted field data collection and population monitoring for studies of endangered Indiana wildlife species.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Fall 2024	NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant
Fall 2024	Leakey Foundation Graduate Research Grant
Fall 2021-Present	NSF Graduate Research Fellow

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2025 in review	McClain A.R. , Foerster S., Feldblum, J. F., Walker K. S., Mjungu, D. C., Pusey A. E., Murray C. M., Drivers of range shifts in female wild eastern chimpanzees (<i>P. t. schweinfurthii</i>) following female death events. <i>Animal Behaviour</i> (in revision). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presented at ASP 2025: Outstanding Podium Presentation Award
2025 in prep	McClain A.R. , Gilby I. C., Feldblum, J. F., Stanton M. A., Mjungu, D. C., Murray C. M. Evidence of social compensation following the death of social partners in wild chimpanzees.