

The Hare Research Group

Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, Duke University

About the Hare Group:

Our group is in the department of Evolutionary Anthropology. We study the evolution of cognition by designing interactive experiments that help us understand how animals - specifically dogs, apes and lemurs - think. We have two research groups called the Hominoid Psychology Research Group and the Duke Canine Cognition Center.



Research

We work in the DRC and Republic of Congo in sanctuaries for bonobos and chimpanzees who have been orphaned by the bushmeat trade. In the United States, we work with lemurs at the Duke Lemur Center, service dogs, and pet dogs that owners actually bring to our lab in the Biological Sciences Building on Science Drive. All of our research is non-invasive.

Outreach

Because many of the animals we study are critically endangered, we consider conservation education and outreach a central part of our work. Working with the organization Friends of Bonobos that operates in the United States and the DRC, we organize many local events and visit schools to teach people about great apes and other primates and their conservation.

You can read more about our lab on the Evolutionary Anthropology website:
<http://evolutionaryanthropology.duke.edu>

How to Get Involved:

The best way to start working with the Hare Group is to attend our weekly lab meetings. They occur every Wednesday during the academic school year at 5:30pm in 001 BioSci. At these meetings, our lab members and colleagues present their research and everyone participates in a discussion. After you attend our lab meetings, there are several steps you can take:

- 1) Be added to our group's list-serv. Our list-serv is where we announce news, outreach events, and research opportunities. If you would like to be added to our lab list-serv, please contact Kerri Rodriguez at kerri.rodriguez@gmail.com

2) Attend our outreach events! We will announce these at our lab meetings and send them out to our lab list-serv.

3) Become a volunteer or work study student

We need **volunteers** and **work study students** on research projects and to work on outreach efforts. We develop new projects throughout the semester that need volunteers and work study students. Work study students must be undergraduates at Duke University, qualify for federal or Duke work study and work at least 10 hours per week. Volunteers have a more flexible schedule. **We typically choose volunteers and work study students who have shown dedication and interest by attending lab meeting regularly for at least one semester.**

4) Enroll in an Independent Study

After a student has worked proficiently on a project for a semester either as a volunteer, or a work study student, he or she may have the chance to enroll in an independent study in our lab for course credit in Evolutionary Anthropology. Independent Study students will spend at least 10 hours each week dedicated to a specific component of an ongoing project in the lab. They will be given more independence, are expected to have a higher role in the development and design of studies and are required to give a presentation at lab meeting.

5) Conduct a Summer Research Project

Students whose schedules do not allow them to become involved in certain projects during the academic year may have the opportunity to get experience in our lab during the summer. Duke has several funding sources that fund summer research projects for undergraduates including the Dean's Summer Research Fellowship and the Howard Hughes Research Fellows program for rising sophomores. You can find more information on these funding sources at the Undergraduate Research Support office website: <http://undergradueresearch.duke.edu/>

In addition, our lab sometimes offers summer internships to students from Duke and other universities. Typically, these positions are filled by undergraduates or recent college graduates.

6) Complete a Senior Thesis Project

The goal of a senior thesis is to produce a study that can eventually be submitted for publication. Students who complete senior theses in the Hare Lab have typically spent at least one semester as an independent study student. They should have enough experience to independently develop solid questions and design a study to answer them.