

Information for Interested Students

Working with A. Koenig & C. Borries

- **General Information**

We are a married couple working on the behavioral ecology of nonhuman primates since more than 10 years. We have experience under different conditions (lab, semi-free, provisioned, wild) with different primate species (callitrichines, macaques, colobines). Our approach to the behavioral ecology of nonhuman primates is question-oriented (not species) and multidisciplinary, including behavior, ecology, food content, genetics, and hormones.

Andreas' research focuses on evolution of sociality and social behavior, feeding ecology, reproduction, and mating strategies of nonhuman primates. He has worked on callitrichines (lab) and on Hanuman langurs in Nepal. Carola's research interests are concentrated on male and female reproductive success and tactics, ecological influences on social relationships and reproduction, competition, and social organization in Old World monkeys. She has worked on Barbary macaques (semi-free) as well as Hanuman langurs in India (provisioned) and Nepal (unprovisioned).

- **Our Current Field Work**

We have established a research site at Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary in Thailand. The major long-term aim of the project is to test socio-ecological models regarding costs and benefits of group life, ecology of social relationships, and reproductive strategies with Phayre's leaf monkeys (*Trachypithecus phayrei*; funded by NSF).

The sanctuary is located in Northeast Thailand (16°5'-35'N, 101°20'-55'E, Chaiyaphum Province, elevation: 500-1300 m above sea level) and comprises an area of 156,000 ha. The sanctuary harbors seven diurnal (*Hylobates lar*, *Macaca arctoides*, *M. assamensis*, *M. mulatta*, *M. nemestrina*, *Trachypithecus cristatus*, *T. phayrei*) and one nocturnal primate species (*Nycticebus coucang*). Since October 2000 we established a grid and trail system. Trails are based on existing elephant and gaur trails. The trail system is currently more than 100 km long covering an area of more than 1,300 ha. Four groups of Phayre's leaf monkeys (ca. 10, 17, 24, 30 members) are well habituated and regularly contacted and observed.

- **Research and Thesis Opportunities**

Students interested to work with one of us (or both) are not required to conduct research at our field site. Primate species (and hence site) should be chosen based on the major research interest. For instance, Andreas' students work in Argentina, Ecuador, and Thailand; Carola's students work in Indonesia and Thailand. In addition, we offer the opportunity to work on extensive databases on Hanuman langurs (from earlier work in Nepal) as well as on Phayre's leaf monkeys.

- **Student's interested to work at our site (or in Thailand) should note that issuance of research permits is a long-lasting and complicated process in Thailand and a positive outcome cannot be guaranteed (though usually permits are eventually granted). Proposals need to be discussed and planned with us very well ahead of time. Currently our own research permit expires in August 2010.**
- **Because of the time limits, we discourage fieldwork for a Masters thesis. Instead we encourage comparative studies based on published data or work on our databases.**

Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS)

- ***Coursework***

Doctoral students are required to take classes in three major areas of PA, i.e., Human Evolution (Grine/ Rossie), Primate Evolution (Fleagle/ Rossie/ Seiffert), Primate Behavior & Ecology (Doran-Sheehy). The qualifying “exam” takes the form of a written paper. More specifically by the end of the Spring Semester of their second year, students are expected to have conducted a research project and written up the results in a paper, which is deemed publishable by a qualifying committee (3 faculty). Students on the primate behavior track are also required to take a biometry class (1 or 2 out of several offered) and 2 classes from the Ecology & Evolution program (Principles of Evolution and Principles of Ecology or Evolutionary Ecology). Finally, elective coursework usually includes a class on Conservation (Wright), Methods (Koenig), and potentially GIS (Stone) or something else.

Though coursework for tracks such as morphology and primate behavior differs to some degree, students may (and do) change between tracks (or even sub-fields), i.e., the program is flexible if students wish to switch. Further information on other requirements, e.g., proposal defense, are given on the IDPAS web page (see below).

- ***Research Opportunities***

The IDPAS offers a wide variety of opportunities to work with faculty in all areas of PA (not to mention the other sub-fields of Anthropology, details on the web page). This may be done via projects as part of coursework, independent research during the semester, or summer research. Usually students work with faculty of their track, however, particularly in the core courses students may have to work with individual faculty not from their track, e.g., a primate behavior student may work at the Museum of Natural History or take some functional morphology measures in the lab (Demes/Larson). Independent research in the primate behavior track covers broad review work, analysis of existing data, or short studies at one of the three field sites in the Central African Republic/ Republic of Congo (Doran-Sheehy), Madagascar (Wright), or Thailand (Koenig/Borries). Summer research can also be done elsewhere.

Individual research activities of graduate students are usually presented at conferences and might be published in major journals. The IDPAS offers a small stipend for conference visits and summer research. Depending on available grants, faculty may offer some support for summer research or other activities. In addition, students often apply for small grants themselves.

- ***Admission and Funding***

Deadline for application is usually January 15 (but be sure to verify this information). Applications are reviewed by an admissions committee, which may offer admission to the program. Individual students have to be accepted by individual faculty in the process, however, ***the admissions committee makes the final decision.***

Admission may be offered at three levels - no funding, tuition waiver, tuition waiver plus stipend (teaching assistance, fellowship etc.). Stipends may be awarded for 3 or more years, e.g. teaching assistance may be awarded for 4 years. Stipends are, however, not guaranteed, but may be suspended if progress is unsatisfactory. Thesis work (data collection) is usually funded by outside resources (applications to NSF, Fulbright, Leakey, Wenner-Gren, Margot Marsh etc.).

Master Program in Anthropology

- **Coursework**

Masters students in PA are required to take a very similar course load than doctoral students, i.e., courses in the three major areas of PA, i.e., Human Evolution (Grine/ Rossie), Primate Evolution (Fleagle/ Rossie/ Seiffert), Primate Behavior & Ecology (Doran-Sheehy). In addition, students are also required to take a biometry class (1 or 2 out of several offered) and elective courses (8 credits).

- **Course of Study and Research Opportunities**

The M.A. Program in Anthropology is designed for students who wish to pursue anthropological training for careers in education or for those whose undergraduate training did not prepare them for doctoral level work in Anthropology. Full-time or part-time attendance is possible. MA students are not eligible for Anthropology Teaching or Graduate assistantships or tuition scholarships. This program is independent from the doctoral program (IDPAS).

By the time students have completed 15 credits of graduate work, they are expected to form a guidance committee consisting of three faculty members, at least two of whom must be members of the Anthropology Department, who will guide them through the preparation of a thesis proposal and the completion of the M.A. thesis.

- **Admission and Funding**

Deadline for application is usually January 15 (but be sure to verify this information). Applications are reviewed by an admissions committee, which may offer admission to the program. Individual students have to be accepted by individual faculty in the process, however, ***the admissions committee makes the final decision.***

In the Master program funding is not provided. Depending on a student's background it might be possible to get a teaching assistantship for biology or chemistry labs. Requests should be addressed to the respective departments several months before the start of a semester.

- **Further Information**

Graduate School: <http://www.grad.sunysb.edu/>

Grad Bulletin (MA): <http://www.grad.sunysb.edu/academics/bulletin/Ant.pdf>

Grad Bulletin (PhD): <http://www.grad.sunysb.edu/academics/bulletin/Dpa.pdf>

Graduate Program: <http://gibbon.anat.sunysb.edu/IDPAS/index.php>

Anthropology: <http://www.sunysb.edu/anthro/index.shtml>

Ecology & Evolution: <http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/ee/>

Anatomy: <http://gibbon.anat.sunysb.edu/Department/index.html>

Behavioral Ecology Group: <http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/ee/beg/>

Functional Morphology Group: <http://gibbon.anat.sunysb.edu/FunMorG/index.htm>

- **Our personal pages**

<http://www.sunysb.edu/anthro/BorriesKoenig/Home.html>