

CURRICULUM VITAE
Updated: February 10, 2017

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Research Foci

Evolutionary ecology of food acquisition in primates; foraging theory; hunter-gatherers; primatology; nutritional ecology; evolution of social behavior

Academic Appointments

2016-2017 College Fellow, Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University
2015-2016 Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Dartmouth College

Education

2016 Ph.D. Dartmouth College, Biological Sciences
2007 B.S. (Honors) University of Chicago, Physics and Philosophy

Peer-reviewed publications (*equal authorship)

in review Kraft TS, **Venkataraman VV**, Tacey IC, Dominy NJ, Kawai A, Endicott K. Foraging, prosociality, and kin support do not predict reproductive success in Batek hunter-gatherers. *Evolution and Human Behavior*

in press **Venkataraman VV**, Kraft TS, Dominy NJ, Endicott KM. Hunter-gatherer residential mobility and the marginal value of rainforest patches. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*.

in press Nguyen NN et al. (including **Venkataraman VV**). Observations of 13 diurnal births in wild gelada monkeys (*Theropithecus gelada*): Behavior, impact of parity, and implications for human evolution. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*

2016 Greaves RD et al. (including **Venkataraman VV**) Appendix B. Economic activities of twenty-first-century foraging populations. In: Codding BF and Karen L. Kramer, eds. *Why Forage? Hunters and Gatherers in the Twenty-first Century*. University of New Mexico Press. pp 241-262.

2016 Shapiro A, **Venkataraman VV**, Fashing PJ, Nguyen N. Dietary ecology of fossil *Theropithecus*: inference from dental microwear textures of extant geladas from ecologically diverse sites. *Journal of Human Evolution* 99:1-9.

- 2016 van Casteren A, **Venkataraman VV**, Ennos AR, Lucas PW. Novel developments in field mechanics. *Journal of Human Evolution* 98:5-17.
- 2015 Kraft TS*, **Venkataraman VV***. Could plant extracts have enabled hominins to acquire honey before the control of fire? *Journal of Human Evolution* 85:65-74.
- 2015 **Venkataraman VV**, Kerby JT, Nguyen N, Ashenafi ZT, Fashing PJ. Solitary Ethiopian wolves increase foraging efficiency upon rodents when among grazing gelada monkey herds. *Journal of Mammalogy* 96:129-137.
- 2015 Nguyen N, Fashing PJ, Boyd DA, Barry TS, Burke RJ, Goodale CB, Jones SCZ, Kerby JT, Kellogg BS, Lee LM, Miller CM, Nurmi NO, Ramsay MS, **Venkataraman VV**, Knauf Y, Roos C, Knauf S. Increased mortality and diminished reproductive potential in wild geladas with *Taenia serialis* tapeworm cysts at Guassa, Ethiopia. *American Journal of Primatology* 77:579-594.
- 2014 **Venkataraman VV***, Glowacka H*, Fritz J, Clauss M, Seyoum C, Fashing PJ, Nguyen N. Effects of dietary toughness and dental wear on chewing efficiency in geladas. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 155:17-32.
- 2014 Fashing PJ, Nguyen N, **Venkataraman VV**, Kerby JT. Gelada feeding ecology in an intact ecosystem in the Menz Highlands, Ethiopia: Variability over time and implications for hominin evolution. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 155:1-16.
- 2014 Kraft TS*, **Venkataraman VV***, Dominy NJ. A natural history of human tree climbing. *Journal of Human Evolution* 71:105-118.
- 2013 **Venkataraman VV***, Kraft TS*, DeSilva JM, Dominy NJ. Skeletal correlates of vertical climbing in the ankle joints of rainforest-hunter gatherers and great apes. *Human Biology* 85:309-328.
- 2013 **Venkataraman VV**, Rolian C, Gordon AD, Patel BA. A resampling approach and implications for estimating the phalangeal index from unassociated hand bones in fossil primates. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 151:280-289.
- 2013 **Venkataraman VV**, Kraft TS, Dominy NJ. Tree climbing and human evolution. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 110:1237-1242.
- 2011 Fashing PJ, Nguyen N, Barry TS, Goodale CB, Burke RJ, Jones SC, Kerby JT, Lee LM, Nurmi NO, **Venkataraman VV**. Death among geladas (*Theropithecus gelada*): a broader perspective on mummified infants and primate thanatology. *American Journal of Primatology* 73:405-409.

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Otarola-Castillo ER, Greaves RD, Kraft TS, Veile AJ, **Venkataraman VV**, Kramer KL. The financial hunter-gatherer: how do foragers diversify their dietary portfolios?
- Kraft TS, **Venkataraman VV**, Tacey IC, Kawai A, Endicott KM. Lifetime reproductive success versus age-corrected reproductive success: a comparison.
- Kraft TS, **Venkataraman VV**, Tacey IC, Endicott KM. Co-residence patterns of Batek foragers across 40 years: influences of subsistence and social change.

Other publications

2015 Kraft TS*, **Venkataraman VV***, Green JC, Suratman M. Towards a sweeter future: conserving the giant Asian honey bee in Peninsular Malaysia. *Malaysian Naturalist* 68:32-36.

Invited Lectures

2015 Santa Fe Institute Working Group: Coupled grassland and mammalian community dynamics over ecological and evolutionary timescales
2014 Keene State University, Orang Asli Archive
2014 Biodiversity Institute, UiTM University, Shah Alam, Malaysia
2013 Malaysian Nature Society, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2013 National University of Singapore, Singapore
2012 Huyck Preserve, Rensselaerville, NY
2012 Evolutionary Geobiology Group, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.
2007 EXPO Graduate Symposium, Department of Geophysical Sciences, University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

Grants and Honors

2014 National Geographic Society, Waitt Grant (\$15,000)
2014 Department of Anthropology, Dartmouth College, Clare Garber Goodman Research Grant (\$4,000)
2014 Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher, Dartmouth College
2013 Huyck Preserve, Research Grant (\$1,636)
2012 Huyck Preserve, Research Grant (\$1,200)
2012 William S. Pollitzer Travel Award, American Association of Physical Anthropologists (\$500)
2011 Department of Anthropology, Dartmouth College, Clare Garber Goodman Research Grant (\$1,200)
2011 William S. Pollitzer Travel Award, American Association of Physical Anthropologists (\$500)
2010 William S. Pollitzer Travel Award, American Association of Physical Anthropologists (\$500)
2010 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (~\$100,000)
2010 American Society of Primatologists, Small Grant (\$1,200)
2010 National Geographic Society, Young Explorer's Grant (\$5,000)
2006 Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, Travel Grant (\$800)

Teaching Experience

2017 Hunter-Gatherers (Primary instructor, Harvard University)
2017 Primate Social Behavior (Primary instructor, Harvard University)
2016 Human Nature (Teaching Fellow, Harvard University)
2016 Introduction to Biological Anthropology (Primary instructor, Dartmouth College)
2016 Health and Disease in Evolutionary Perspective (Primary instructor, Dartmouth College)

- 2015 Introduction to Biological Anthropology (Primary instructor, Dartmouth College)
- 2015 Health and Disease in Evolutionary Perspective (Primary instructor, Dartmouth College)
- 2014 Biology Field Studies Program, Costa Rica (TA, Dartmouth College)
- 2012 Introduction to Environmental Sciences (TA, Dartmouth College)
- 2012 Introduction to Ecology (TA, Dartmouth College)
- 2011 Environment and Society (TA, Dartmouth College)
- 2010 Introduction to Archaeology (TA, Stony Brook University)
- 2009 Controversies in Human Behavior and Culture (TA, Stony Brook University)

Peer-review activities

Manuscript reviewer for:

American Journal of Physical Anthropology, Biology Letters, Evolutionary Anthropology, Journal of Human Evolution, Journal of the Royal Society Interface, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA, American Journal of Primatology, Journal of Field Robotics

Media

- 2017 Featured research, National Public Radio
A New View into the Primate Birthing Process, by Barbara J. King
- 2015 Featured research, Scientific American
Monkeys and wolves: unusual hunting buddies, by J. Platt
- 2015 Featured research, Slate
Baboon's best friend, by P. Thomas
- 2014 Explorer moment of the week, National Geographic
December 8, 2014
- 2014 Scientific consultant, National Geographic
Going Deep with David Rees, How to Climb a Tree
- 2013 Explorer moment of the week, National Geographic
March 29, 2013
- 2013 Featured research, BBC News
Artificial finger tests evolutionary origin of prints, by J. Amos
- 2013 Featured research, Science News
Ridges fingered as tree-climbing aids, by E. Wayman
- 2013 Featured research, National Geographic
What tree-climbing pygmies tell us about foot evolution, by E. Yong
- 2013 Featured research, Scientific American
Did human ancestors walk up trees? by K. Harmon
- 2013 Featured interview on Vermont Public Radio
Researchers look at when humans left the trees, by M. Bodette
- 2013 Featured interview on National Geographic Weekend Radio
Ethiopian wolves mix with gelada baboons, by B. Matson
- 2011 Featured research, Wired Magazine

2011 *What death means to primates*, by B. Switek
Featured research, *New Scientist*
Animals grieve if their lifestyle permits it, by M. Marshall

Photography and Videography

2016 *Cover photo of published book*
Malaysia's Original People: Past, Present, and Future of the Orang Asli
(Ed. Kirk M. Endicott)

2016 *Featured footage of gelada monkeys*
Animal Selfies, National Geographic Television

2015 *Featured footage of climbing by Batek climbers*
Going Deep with David Rees, National Geographic

Society Memberships

American Association of Physical Anthropologists
American Anthropological Association
Malaysian Nature Society
Dartmouth Beekeeping Association (Co-founder and former president)

Languages

Amharic (proficient)
Malay (proficient)
Batek (proficient)
Spanish (proficient)