

Benjamin J. Finkel

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Anthropology
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[Google Scholar](#)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Biological anthropology, primatology, behavioral ecology, human evolution, senescence, life history, foraging, nutritional ecology, reproductive strategies, conservation

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023 - present **Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology**
Boston University

EDUCATION

2024	University of Michigan	Ph.D. in Anthropology Chair: Dr. Andrew Marshall <u>Dissertation:</u> <i>The Challenges of Senescence for Adult Male Chimpanzees</i>
2013	Duke University	B.S. Evolutionary Anthropology <i>with distinction</i> B.S. Environmental Sciences

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

External

2019	National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$17811)
2018	The Leakey Foundation, Research Grant (\$14995)
2017	International Primatological Society, Research Grant (\$1727)
2017	American Philosophical Society, Lewis & Clark Fund (\$4200)

Internal

2021	Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship
2018	Rackham International Research Award (\$4000)
2018	African Studies Center Research Fund (\$3500)
2017	African Studies Center Research Fund (\$1500)

2016	Rackham Graduate School Research Grant (\$1500)
2016	Anthropology Department, research grant (\$4000)
2012	Dean's Summer Research Fellowship (\$3000)
2012	Kenan Biddle Fund for Duke Roots & Shoots (\$5000)
2011	Duke Science Education Outreach Grant (\$500)
2010 - 2011	Undergraduate Research Support Grants (\$850)

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2022	Nelaballi S, Finkel BJ , Bernard AB, Estrada GR, Setiawan E, Setia TM, Susanto TW, Rhanda R, Andika D, Lemoine S, Jaffe SM. Impacts of abiotic and biotic factors on terrestrial leeches in Indonesian Borneo. <i>Biotropica</i> . 2022; 54(5):1238-47.
<i>In Prep</i>	Finkel BJ , Namaganda S, Clauss M, Mitani JC, Marshall AJ. Foraging senescence in wild male chimpanzees.

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

2024 FA	
2023 FA	AN 556: The Evolution of Human Diet
2024 FA	AN 595: Methods in Biological Anthropology
2024 SP	
2023 FA	AN 102: Human Biology, Behavior, and Evolution
2024 SP	AN 730: The Evolution of Human Life History, <i>graduate student add-on</i>
2025 SP	
2024 SP	AN 330: From Cradle to Grave, The Evolution of Human Life History
2022 SU	BIOANTH 256: Human Longevity (<i>new prep.</i>)

Assistant Instructor

2020 FA	Statistical Modeling and Data Visualization in R, <i>laboratory section</i>
2020 SU	Sociology and Biology of Wellness (honors course)
2019 FA	Statistical Modeling and Data Visualization in R, <i>laboratory section</i>
2018 WN	Introduction to Biological Anthropology, <i>discussion section</i>
2017 FA	Primate Social Behavior, <i>discussion section</i>
2017 WN	Introduction to Biological Anthropology, <i>discussion section</i>
2016 FA	Primate Social Behavior, <i>discussion section</i>

Additional training

2024	InnovateEDU: Exploring the Future of Learning at BU, Faculty Forum
2022	Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, Classroom Consultation
2016 - 2020	Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, Teaching Certificate for attendance in the following workshops: <i>Principles and Practices of Anti-Racist Pedagogy</i> <i>Leading Discussion of Research Literature in STEM Courses</i> <i>Using Digital Tools to Facilitate Student Collaboration</i> <i>Using Technology to Check Student Understanding and Provide Feedback</i> <i>Teaching for Accessibility</i> <i>Setting the Stage for Success: Designing a Learner-Centered Syllabus</i> Instructor consultation and observation report for "Human Longevity"
2018	Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, Classroom Consultation
2016	Upper-Level Writing Seminar – Teaching Writing in the Disciplines

MENTORSHIP

2024 - present	Independent research with Nicole Merullo on Blood Pressure and Life History
2023 - present	Research Assistants, chimpanzee dental wear research project
2022 - 2023	Adam Law, undergraduate independent research project
2021	Elizabeth Meyer, undergraduate independent research project
2020	Chris Giang, undergraduate Independent Honors Study
2018 - 2019	Sharifah Namaganda, field and laboratory research assistant
2018	Rhona Thompson, undergraduate independent study
2018	Meghan Harrington, student nomination for Excellence in Writing
2012 – 2013	Cathay Wu, undergraduate research work-study
2012 – 2013	Jania Ramos, undergraduate research work-study
2012 – 2013	Aisha Golaub, Howard Hughes Research Fellows Program

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024	Merullo N, Hodges-Simeon C, Selzer A, Finkel BJ . Blood Pressure and Life History: A Comparative Approach Across Primate Taxa. Northeastern Evolutionary Primatologists, Warren, NH.
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- 2023 **Finkel BJ**, Namaganda S, Emery Thompson E, Mitani JC. Within and between community correlates of urinary testosterone in adult male chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*). American Association of Biological Anthropologists, Reno, NV.
- 2023 **Finkel BJ**, Namaganda S, Emery Thompson E, Mitani JC, Marshal AJ (2022). Activity, but not energetic condition or testosterone, declines in old male chimpanzees. Midwestern Primate Interest Group, University of Michigan, MI.
- 2022 **Finkel BJ**, Namaganda S, Emery Thompson E, Mitani JC, Marshal AJ (2022). Activity, but not energetic condition or testosterone, declines in old male chimpanzees. Energetics in Anthropology Workshop, Duke University, NC.
- 2022 **Finkel BJ**, Namaganda S, Clauss M, Emery Thompson E, Mitani JC, Marshal AJ. Foraging proficiency declines in old male chimpanzees. American Association of Biological Anthropologists, Denver, CO.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

- 2024 Reddy RR, Samuni L, Sandel AA, Clark IR, Langergraber KE, Derby RN, **Finkel BJ**, Lee KC, Mitani JC, Negrey J, Sarkar A, Watts DP, Chen Zeng T, Henrich JP. Prestige in chimpanzees: learning through social relationships across the lifespan. American Association of Biological Anthropologists, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2023 Law AJ, **Finkel BJ**, Malone MA. Dental wear in wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) : using *in vivo* photographs to assess molar enamel. American Association of Biological Anthropologists meeting, Reno, NV.
- 2019 Cruz K., **Finkel BJ**, Rothman J, Fernandez-Duque E. Macronutrient composition of foods eaten by owl monkeys. American Association of Physical Anthropology Meeting, Cleveland, OH.
- 2017 **Finkel BJ**, Marshal AJ. Intra-genus variation in a food mechanical property: the ecology of fruit hardness in a primate food at Gunung Palung National Park, Indonesia. The 86th meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, New Orleans, LA.
- 2014 **Finkel BJ**, G van der Heide, V Davalos, A Di Fiore, E Fernandez-Duque (2014). Are temporal patterns of fruit availability influencing owl monkey (*Aotus azarae*) reproductive success and seasonality? The 37th meeting of the American Society of Primatologists, Decatur, GA. American Journal of Primatology Vol 74 (S1).
- 2013 **Finkel BJ**, K Schroepfer-Walker, A Pusey, B Hare (2013). How do media portrayals of chimpanzee behavior impact youth conservation perception? Duke Undergraduate Research Support Office: VisibleThinking, Duke University.

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 "Dental Wear in Wild Chimpanzees: Methods to Assess Molar Enamel with in Vivo Photographs." Co-speaker with undergraduate research assistants. Primate ecology and conservation lab, P.I. Cheryl Knott, Boston University, 12-Apr-24.
- 2024 "Applications of wet sieving fecal particle size in frugivorous apes: a new case study of the eastern chimpanzee." Primate ecology and conservation lab, P.I. Cheryl Knott, Boston University, 16-Feb-24.
- 2023 "The challenges of aging for male chimpanzees & the trouble with testosterone." Biological Anthropology Brown Beer Colloquium, Yale University, 30-Nov-23.
- 2023 "The challenges of aging for male chimpanzees." International Frontiers in Social Evolution Seminar series, 17-Oct-23.
- 2023 "The challenges of aging for male chimpanzees." Anthropology department talk series, Boston University, 20-Sep-23.
- 2023 "Challenges of aging for male chimpanzees." Sensory Morphology and Anthropological Genomics Lab, P.I. Christopher Schmitt and Eva Garrett, Department of Anthropology, Boston University.
- 2022 "Evidence for foraging senescence in wild chimpanzees." Pan Lab, P.I. Martin Surbeck at Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University.
- 2020 "Aging, foraging ability, and sociality in old male chimpanzees." Cognitive Evolution Group, P.I. Alexandra Rosati, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan 1-Dec-20
- 2020 "Fecal properties, digestive performance, and dietary variation in adult chimpanzees." Biological Anthropology Meeting at University of Michigan, 18-Jan-20
- 2019 "Aging, frailty, and foraging ability of wild male chimpanzees." Biological Anthropology Meeting at University of Michigan, 2-Oct-19
- 2018 "Aging apes: feeding strategies of old chimpanzees." Biological Anthropology Meeting at University of Michigan, 14-Feb-18
- 2017 "The water we swim in: academic publishing's big business and the open access movement," Biological Anthropology Meeting at University of Michigan, 13-Sep-17.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016 - 2024 Ngogo Chimpanzee Project, *Kibale National Park, Uganda* – P.I.'s Drs. John Mitani, David Watts, & Kevin Langergraber. Fieldwork on wild chimpanzees.

2016	One Forest Project, Cabang Panti Research Station, <i>Gunung Palung National Park, Indonesia</i> . – P.I. Dr. Andrew Marshall. Fieldwork on primate food mechanical properties.
2014 - 2015	Owl Monkey Project, <i>Department of Anthropology, Yale University</i> – P.I. Dr. Eduardo Fernandez-Duque. Research Coordinator: data and field site management.
2013 - 2014	Owl Monkey Project, <i>Argentina</i> – P.I. Dr. Eduardo Fernandez-Duque. Field assistant: field work, data, and site management.
2009 - 2013	Hominoid Psychology Research Group, <i>Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, Duke University</i> – P.I. Dr. Brian Hare. Work-study, independent study, and thesis student.
2009 - 2012	Duke Lemur Center, <i>Duke University</i> – P.I. Dr. Brian Hare. Work-study and student volunteer.
2012	Budongo Conservation Field Station, <i>Budongo Forest Preserve, Uganda</i> – P.I. Dr. Catherine Hobaiter. Field Assistant: chimpanzee habituation project.
2011	Philadelphia Zoo – supervisor Dr. Meredith Bastian. Data assistant: captive primate behavioral data collection and enrichment.
2011	Organization for Tropical Studies, <i>South Africa</i> – Ecology and conservation field courses.
2009	Center for Tropical Agriculture Research and Education (CATIE), <i>Costa Rica</i> – Conservation ecology intern.

AWARDS & HONORS

2020	Student instructor teaching award nomination
2019	Excellence in Mentorship, Ngogo Chimpanzee Project
2018	NSF-GRFP Honorable Mention

SERVICE

2022	Search Committee, Biological Anthropology Faculty Hire
2020 - 2022	Sweetland Writing Center, Dissertation Writing Group Leader
2020 – 2021	Biological Anthropology DEI Committee
2015 – 2016	Communications Director, Michigan Anthropology Graduate Students

RESEARCH COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

2016 - 2023	Science Communication Fellow, U. of M. Museum of Natural History
2021	RELATE's STEM Communication Fundamentals Workshop
2016 - 2019	Outreach education at Kyakagunga Primary School, Uganda

- 2017 Radio show contributor – It’s Hot in Here, *WCBN Ann Arbor*
- 2017 Digital Media, Scientific Process, and Environmental Politics – Course Audit
- 2016 Podcast co-producer - Anthropology of Dad, Yale University
- 2015 Fernandez-Duque E, Finkel BJ. Love in the time of monkeys: the importance of food, jealousy, and paternal care in the evolution of owl monkey monogamy. *Natural History*, Volume 122.

Select classroom talks

- 2022 Garden City Middle School, Garden City, MI, USA
- 2020 Branch Line School, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
- 2019 Animal Behavior Lab with FEMMES: Women+ Excelling in Math, Engineering, and Science, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
- 2019 Ypsilanti District Library, Ypsilanti, MI, USA
- 2018 Germantown Friends School, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- 2017 Kyakagunga Primary School, Kamwenge District, Uganda
- 2017 University of Michigan Natural History Museum, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
- 2016 Germantown Friends School, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- 2013 Carolina Friends School, Durham, NC, USA
- 2013 Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, Durham, NC, USA
- 2012 North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, NC, USA

Media collaborations

- 2020 Scientific consultant, Underdog Films for *Netflix’s “Chimp Empire”*

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- 2022 Michigan Environmental Council, Rackham Internship Fellow. *Development Team, Planned Giving Program*
- 2013 Cottonwood Gulch Foundation, youth environmental education staff