

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Name: Vivek V. Venkataraman Birth Date: February 1, 1985
Citizenship: USA, Ireland Birth Place: Cincinnati, OH

E-mail: vivek.venkataraman@iast.fr, vivek.venkataraman@ucalgary.ca
Google Scholar Profile: <http://bit.ly/2dIxtzk>

Research Foci

Human evolutionary biology; human biology; behavioral ecology; primatology; hunter-gatherers; nutrition; energetics

Academic Appointments

2021- Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Calgary
2020- Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Calgary
2018- Research Fellow, UT1 Capitole and Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse
2018-2020 Research Associate, Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University
2016-2018 College Fellow, Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University
2015-2016 Lecturer, Dept. of Anthropology, Dartmouth College

Education

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

Publications (29 publications; h-index = 11; *equal authorship)

in revision **Venkataraman VV**, Miller CM, Fashing PJ, Nguyen N. Epizoochorous seed dispersal by a montane savanna primate. *Biotropica*

in press Koster J et al (including **Venkataraman VV**) The life history of human foraging: cross-cultural and individual variation. *BioRxiv* preprint:
<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/574483v1>

in press Hanna J and **Venkataraman VV**. Experimental research on foot use and function during climbing by primates. In: *Evolution of the Primate Foot* (eds. A Zeininger, K Hatala, R Wunderlich, and D Schmitt). Springer

2020 Kraft TS, **Venkataraman VV**, Endicott KE, Endicott KM. Preserving quantifiable ethnographic records of disappearing human lifeways. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 29(3).

2020 Lin B et al (including **Venkataraman VV**). Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) predation on wild gelada monkeys (*Theropithecus gelada*) at Guassa, Ethiopia. *American Journal of Primatology* e23098

2019 Gutema T et al (including **Venkataraman VV**). Foraging ecology of African wolves (*Canis lupaster*) and its implications for Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*) conservation. *Royal Society Open Science* 6:190772.

2019 Cunningham AJ, Worthington S, **Venkataraman VV**, Wrangham RW. Do hunter-gatherers live in marginal habitats? *Journal of Archaeological Sciences: Reports* 25:584-599.

2019 Kraft TS, **Venkataraman VV**, Tacey IC, Dominy NJ, Endicott K. Foraging, prosociality, and kin support do not predict reproductive success in Batek hunter-gatherers. *Human Nature* 29:1-27.

- 2018 **Venkataraman VV**, Yegian AK, Wallace IJ, Holowka N, Tacey I, Gurven M, Kraft TS. Locomotor constraints favor the evolution of the human pygmy phenotype in tropical rainforests. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 2018:1492.
- 2018 **Venkataraman VV**. Book Review of “The Primate Hand: Anatomical, Developmental, Functional and Paleontological Evidence.” *Quarterly Review of Biology*
- 2018 Trosvik P et al (including **Venkataraman VV**) Multilevel social structure and diet shape the gut microbiota of the grazing gelada monkey. *Microbiome* 6:84.
- 2018 Gutema TM et al (including **Venkataraman VV**) Competition between sympatric wolf taxa: an example involving African and Ethiopian wolves. *Royal Society Open Science* 5:172207.
- 2018 Mekonnen A, Fashing PJ, Sargis EJ, **Venkataraman VV**, Bekele A, Adriana Hernandez-Aguilar A, Rueness EK, Stenseth NC. Flexibility in positional behavior, strata use, and substrate utilization among Bale monkeys (*Chlorocebus djamdjamensis*) in response to habitat fragmentation. *American Journal of Primatology* e22760.
- 2017 **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*. 114(12):3097-3102.
- 2017 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*. 163:14-29.
- 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 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.
- 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 et al. (including **Venkataraman VV**). 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 et al. (including **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 active preparation (submission within 6 months)

- in prep Kraft TS et al (including **Venkataraman VV**) The energetic efficiency of uniquely human subsistence strategies. *Science*
- in prep Gutema et al (including **Venkataraman VV**) Activity patterns and habitat use of African wolves (*Canis aureus lupaster*) in two contrasting landscapes of the Ethiopian highlands. *Royal Society Open Science*
- in prep Kraft TS, **Venkataraman VV**, Tacey I, Endicott K. Batek food sharing networks: effects of reciprocity, kin, and need. *Evolution and Human Behavior*

Invited Lectures

- 2019 Human Evolutionary Biology CNRS Research Group, Montpellier University II, invited seminar
- 2019 PIREN conference on 'Identity', Ax-les-Thermes, France
- 2018 Stony Brook University, Department of Anthropology
- 2018 American Museum of Natural History, Museum Seminar Series
- 2018 Oxford Brookes University, Department of Anthropology
- 2017 Banff Film Festival, invited speaker
- 2017 Boston University, Department of Anthropology, invited seminar
- 2017 National Geographic Live!, invited speaker
- 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

- 2020 Research Grant, Leakey Foundation (\$24,710): *Detecting seasonal consumption of plant underground storage organs by geladas*
- 2019 Research Grant, Leakey Foundation (\$10,000): *Collection and preparation of modern gelada monkey remains from Guassa Community Conservation Area and Simien Mountain National Park, Ethiopia* (co-PI w/ C. Seyoum)
- 2018 Harvard Excellence in Teaching Award, Bok Center
- 2017 Harvard Excellence in Teaching Award, Bok Center

- 2017 American School for Prehistoric Research (\$3,500): *Comparative energetics of foraging among Tsimane hunter-horticulturalists*
- 2016 Recipient of Hannah Croasdale Award, Dartmouth College (*awarded to the graduating PhD candidate who possesses personal qualities of intellectual curiosity, dedication, and commitment to the pursuit of new knowledge and to teaching, as well as a sense of social responsibility to the community of scholars*)
- 2015 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): *Costs and benefits of mixed-species associations between gelada monkeys and Ethiopian wolves*
- 2010 National Geographic Society, Young Explorer's Grant (\$5,000): *Costs and benefits of mixed-species associations between gelada monkeys and Ethiopian wolves*
- 2006 Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, Travel Grant (\$800)
- 2003 Recipient Alumni Cup, Columbus Academy (*given annually to the graduating high school senior whose work has been characterized by the highest degree of independence of thought, originality and genuine intellectual curiosity, irrespective of material incentives*)
- 2003 National Merit Scholar

Teaching Experience

- 2018 Hunter-Gatherers (Primary instructor, Harvard University)
- 2018 Primate Social Behavior (Primary instructor with R. Wrangham, Harvard University)
- 2017 Hunter-Gatherers (Primary instructor, Harvard University)
- 2017 Primate Social Behavior (Primary instructor with R. Wrangham, 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 (Teaching Assistant, Dartmouth College)
- 2012 Introduction to Environmental Sciences (Teaching Assistant, Dartmouth College)
- 2012 Introduction to Ecology (Teaching Assistant, Dartmouth College)
- 2011 Environment and Society (Teaching Assistant, Dartmouth College)
- 2010 Introduction to Archaeology (Teaching Assistant, Stony Brook University)
- 2009 Controversies in Human Behavior and Culture (Teaching Assistant, Stony Brook University)

Student advising and committees

Jules Dezeure (Universite de Montpellier, PhD committee member)
The evolution of reproductive seasonality among wild primate populations

George Brill (Cambridge University, independent research)
Three-dimensional kinematics of human tree climbing by Batek hunter-gatherers

Elise Neves (Paul Sabatier University in Toulouse, Master's thesis)
Ecological influences on grouping in gelada monkeys

Cherie Lo (Harvard University, independent research)
Variation in human walking mechanics and foot strike patterns across ecological contexts

Elianna Shwayder (Harvard University, senior thesis)
Male-female relationships in Kibale forest baboons

Cara Jacobson (Harvard University, senior thesis)
The function of male-male greeting behaviors in Kibale forest baboons

Anita Eriksen (University of Oslo, Master's thesis)
Foraging strategies of wild gelada monkeys in an Afroalpine grassland at Guassa, Ethiopia

Lauren Christopher (Dartmouth College, independent research)
Evolution of omnivorous feeding strategies in monkeys

Leah Valdes (Dartmouth College, independent research)
Feeding rates in gelada monkeys

Peer-review activities

Manuscript and grant reviewer for:

Leakey Foundation, National Geographic Society, Elise Richter-Programme (Austrian Science Fund, FWF), Scientific Reports, Human Ecology, Hunter-Gatherer Research, 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, PLOS ONE, International Journal of Primatology, Global Ecology and Conservation, Folia Primatologica, Animal Behaviour

Media

2019 Featured interview, Quirks & Quarks, Canadian Broadcast Corporation
50 years after Apollo 11, scientists describe the moon landing's legacy and how it inspired them

2018 Quirks & Quarks, Canadian Broadcast Corporation
Tiny people have evolved in rainforests because it's where tiny steps are better

2018 Featured research, Newsweek
Why pygmies evolved to be so short, by Hannah Osborne

2017 Featured research, National Public Radio
A New View into the Primate Birthing Process, by Barbara J. King

2017 Dartmouth College Press Release
Dartmouth Study Finds Modern Hunter-Gatherers Relocate to Maximize Foraging Efficiency

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
What death means to primates, by B. Switek
- 2011 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

Languages

Amharic, Malay, Batek, Spanish, French