

MICHELLE YVONNE MERRILL

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Academic Department: Biological Anthropology and Anatomy, Duke University Box 90383, Durham NC 27708
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EDUCATION:

Duke University, Durham, NC 1994-present (expected Ph.D. by December 2003)
Ph.D. Candidate (ABD), Department of Biological Anthropology and Anatomy
Dissertation title: Orangutan Cultures: Tool Use, Social Transmission and Population Differences

University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 1991-1994
B.A. Degree in Anthropology
College Honors and Honors in the Major

Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA 1986-1991
A.A. Degree with Honors

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Cabrillo College, Aptos, CA
Teaching Assistant/Tutor for *English as a Second Language*, 1999

Duke University, Durham, NC
Instructor for *Introduction to Biological Anthropology*, 1998
Head Teaching Assistant for *Introduction to Biological Anthropology*, 1998
Teaching Assistant for *Human Evolution, Introduction to Biological Anthropology*, and *Primate Field Biology*, 1995 – 1997

Talent Identification Program (7th - 10th grades), **Duke University**, Durham, NC
Instructor for *Evolutionary Biology*, 1997
Teaching Assistant for *Primate Biology*, 1997

University of California, Santa Cruz, CA
Teaching Assistant for *Introduction to Physical Anthropology*, 1998
Writing Tutor for *Earth: A Habitable Planet, Cultural Dimensions of Biodiversity*, and various independent senior theses in the Social Sciences, 1993-1994

Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA
Teaching Assistant for *Nature Study and Conservation*, 1991
Teaching Assistant for *Introduction to Interpersonal Psychology*, 1988

PUBLICATIONS:

Peer - reviewed Research articles

Orangutan cultures and the evolution of material culture. 2003. C. P. van Schaik , M. Ancrenaz, G. Borgen, B. Galdikas, C.D. Knott, I. Singleton, A. Suzuki, S. Utami, M. Merrill. **Science** 299(1): 102-105.

The conditions for tool use in primates: implications for the evolution of material culture. 1999. C.P. van Schaik, R.O. Deaner, M.Y. Merrill. **Journal of Human Evolution** 36(6): 719-741.

Other Published Work

Merrill, M. Y. 2002. Investigating Orangutan Cultures. **Anthropology News**. 43: 14.

Merrill, M. Y. 2002. A report from the Orangutans Compared 2002 workshop. **AnthroQuest** 14: 10.

White, F.J., Wood K.D. and Merrill M.Y. 1998. Comment on C. Stanford (1998) "The social behavior of chimpanzees and bonobos: Empirical evidence and shifting assumptions." **Current Anthropology** 39(4): 414-415.

Merrill, M.Y. 1998. Investigating the Primate Intellect (review of *Primate Cognition*, Tomasello and Call, 1997). **BioScience** 48(11): 954-956.

Merrill, M.Y. 1998. Beautiful bonobos (review of *Bonobo: The Forgotten Ape*. de Waal, 1997). **BioScience** 48(3):45-48.

Digby, L., Merrill, M.Y. and Davis, E.T. 1997. Infanticide by female mammals. Part I: Primates. (abstract) **American Journal of Primatology**, 42(2): 105.

Merrill, M.Y. and White, F.J. 1996. Functions of vocalizations in male and female wild pygmy chimpanzees. (abstract) **American Journal of Physical Anthropology**, Supplement 22: 166.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

New College of California Self-Study for Re-Accreditation, San Francisco, Nov. 2000-Sept. 2001

- Worked with New College's Self-Study Steering Committee to design an appropriate program of research in response to new standards from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
- Coordinated student research assistant work.
- Designed and administered questionnaires and interviews for students and faculty.
- Designed a web-based forum for response to newly proposed mission statement for the New College community.

Orangutan Cultures Field Project, Sumatra, Indonesia, Feb. – Aug. 1999, May-June 2000

- Conducted observational research on orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus abelii*) in their natural habitat, focusing on social interactions and complex foraging behaviors.
- Planned and implemented overseas expedition to remote forest locations.
- Negotiated contracts and coordinated work with local assistants at two research sites.
- Developed web site with information on illegal logging at one research site.

Lomako Forest Pygmy Chimpanzee Project, Equateur, Zaire, July - September 1996

- Conducted observational research on bonobos (pygmy chimpanzees, *Pan paniscus*) in their natural habitat, focusing on vocalizations and social interactions.
- Planned and implemented overseas expedition to remote forest location.
- Mapped trails using surveyor's techniques and "Pathfinder" computer program.
- Negotiated contracts and coordinated work with local assistants.
- Provided basic medical care to local assistants and their families.

Language Research Center, Decatur, GA, July - August 1995

- Conducted and videotaped foraging study on captive bonobos in large, outdoor enclosure.
- Analyzed videotape of free-ranging bonobos from Wamba, Zaire.
- Participated in behavioral modification training of non-enculturated captive bonobos.
- Participated in artificial language research testing of enculturated captive bonobos.

Duke University Primate Center, Durham, NC, February - April 1995

- Conducted study on activity budget and canopy usage of red ruffed lemur (*Varecia variegata rubra*) social groups in large, outdoor enclosure.

Año Nuevo Wildlife Reserve, Santa Cruz, CA, January - March 1994

- Censused northern elephant seal (*Mirounga angustirostris*) population during the breeding season.
- Conducted behavioral observations (including male dominance interactions and maternal behavior).
- Weighed, measured and tagged elephant seal weanlings in the field.
- Analyzed four years of research data on age, beach choice and maternal behavior.

Conference Presentations:

Patterns of Social Learning and Cultural Variation in Orangutans, Sandhill Regional Psychology Conference 2003, Fayetteville, NC

Extraspecific Communication and Ape Intelligence, CONTACT 2002, Santa Clara, CA

Behavioral Comparison through Field Video, Orangutans Compared 2002 Workshop, San Anselmo, CA

Great Apes and the Evolution of Culture, CONTACT 2001, Santa Clara, CA

Orangutan Cultures: Intraspecific Variation and Social Transmission Opportunities, International Primatological Society 2001, Adelaide, Australia

Functions of Vocalizations in Male and Female Wild Pygmy Chimpanzees, American Association of Physical Anthropology 1996, Durham, NC

GRANTS Received:

L.S.B. Leakey Foundation (\$7505 for *Orangutan Cultures? Tool Use, Social Transmission and Population Differences, Indonesia*)

National Science Foundation (\$7508 for *DOCTORAL DISSERTATION IN PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: Orangutan Cultures? Tool Use, Social Transmission and Population Differences*)

HONOR SOCIETIES AND AWARDS:

Duke University Center for Teaching and Learning Graduate Student Fellow 1997-1998

Duke University Center for International Studies Graduate Award for International Research 1996

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship: Honorable Mention 1995

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Member

Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society

VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

2002-2003 Created and managed website and petition for campaign to halt road-building in Leuser Ecosystem

1997-1998 Coordinator: Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiological Topics weekly department seminars

1997 Duke University Workshop on Environmental Sustainability participant

1996-1997 Webpage design and maintenance for Friends of the Earth, *Duke/Triangle Initiative*

1995-1996 Co-representative to Graduate and Professional Student Council for BAA Department

1991 Coordinator: ECO-INFO Directory and Calendar, Contra Costa County

Recent Work and current projects:

ECOLITERACY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT: including an afternoon workshop on the role of sustainability in organizational development, and an extensive experiential workshop on biological systems and their applications in business strategy and design – see info at <http://www.emergentsystems.com>

WEB DESIGN AND TUTORING: see portfolio at <http://www.baymoon.com/~spinneret>

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION:

The content of orangutan cultures. M.Y. Merrill, D. H. Agee, M. Ancrenaz, B. Galdikas, C.D. Knott, D. Priatana, I. Singleton, A. Suzuki, S. Utami, C. P. van Schaik

Orangutan social networks and opportunities for social learning M.Y. Merrill

Orangutan Cultures: Tool Use, Social Transmission and Population Differences M.Y. Merrill
Ph.D. Dissertation, Duke University