

ARJUN DHEER

Dheer@izw-berlin.de | +(49)1788383025 | Alfred-Kowalke Straße 17 | Berlin, Germany

Education

Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research Berlin, Germany

Ph.D. Student. Department of Evolutionary Ecology. Thesis: Adaptability of spotted hyenas to anthropogenic changes and human-carnivore conflict in Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania. November 2017 – November 2020 (expected).

University of Southampton Southampton, UK

M.Res. Wildlife Conservation. Centre for Biological Sciences, Faculty of Natural & Environmental Sciences. Dissertation: Resource partitioning between spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*) and lions (*Panthera leo*) in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Borana Conservancy, Kenya. September 2015 – September 2016. Distinction.

University of Maryland, College Park College Park, MD, USA

B.S. Environmental Science & Policy. Concentration: Wildlife Ecology & Management. College of Agriculture & Natural Resources. August 2009 – May 2013. 2.86.

School for Field Studies Beverly, MA, USA

Undergraduate study abroad program focused on wildlife management in Lake Manyara ecosystem, Tanzania, and Amboseli ecosystem, Kenya. Independent research project: potential utility of the Grant's gazelle (*Nanger granti*) as an ecological bio-indicator for habitat quality. January 2012 – May 2012. 4.0.

GRE

V: 166 (97th percentile) Q: 162 (82nd percentile) AW: 6 (99th percentile)

Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

- Experiment DNA Metabarcoding Campaign (2019; \$4,272 (101% of target))
- IZW Metabarcoding Grant (2019; €3,500 ≈ \$4,150)
- National Geographic Early Career Grant (2017; \$4,905)
- IDEA WILD Equipment Grant (2017; \$212)
- IUCN/SOS Threatened Species Grant (2017; €35,00 ≈ \$41,150)
- IZW Ph.D. Scholarship (2017; €54,000 ≈ \$64,000)
- University Honors Program Citation (2013)
- School for Field Studies General Scholarship (2011; \$3,000)
- University of Maryland Dean's List (2011)
- University of Maryland President's Scholarship (2009; \$12,500)
- AFSA/Turner C. Cameron Memorial Academic Merit Scholarship (2009; \$2,500)
- National Merit Commended Student (2008)

Total: ~\$136,689

Research Experience

University of Southampton

Southampton, UK

Dissertation project focused on dietary and spatiotemporal resource partitioning between spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*) and lions (*Panthera leo*) in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Borana Conservancy, Kenya. Spearheaded first ever collaring effort of spotted hyenas in Lewa and Borana, resulting in deployment of GPS-GSM collars on a total of seven spotted hyenas from five clans. Developed first ID database for spotted hyenas in Lewa-Borana population. Also deployed collars on three lions from three prides. Supervisors: Zeke Davidson and Patrick Doncaster. January 2016 – September 2016.

School for Field Studies

Beverly, MA, USA

Independent research project focused on examining the potential utility of the Grant's gazelle (*Nanger granti*) as an ecological bio-indicator of habitat quality in the Amboseli ecosystem, Kenya. Techniques and software included line transects, vegetation surveys, direct behavioral follows, and SPSS. Supervisor: Shem Mwasi. April 2012 – May 2012.

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

Washington DC, USA

Independent research project focused on amyloidosis, a rare disease characterized by build-up of proteins on tissues and organs. Wrote research manuscript at end of 6-week internship. Techniques included microscopy, staining using Congo red, and sample mounting. Supervisor: Victor Kalasinsky. June 2008 – August 2008.

Relevant Work Experience

Brown Hyena Research Project

Lüderitz, Namibia

Research assistant for long-term monitoring project on brown hyenas (*Hyaena brunnea*) along coastal Namib Desert, Namibia. Assisted with camera trapping, individual identification, telemetry, data entry, and provided support for graduate students involved with project. Researched and catalogued morphometric and skeletal data of over 40 individual brown hyenas. Also participated in outreach programs for middle and high school students. Supervisor: Ingrid Wiesel. May 2014 – October 2014.

Botswana Predator Conservation Trust

Maun, Botswana

Research assistant for multi-species large carnivore project, including spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*), African wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*), lions (*Panthera leo*), cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*), and leopards (*Panthera pardus*). Conducted direct and indirect behavioral research on all five species, including behavioral follows and camera trapping. Assisted with 4x4 Land Rover maintenance, camp upkeep, and graduate student projects as needed. Independently conducted telemetry in remote areas to locate collared individuals and do behavioral follows, gathering data on hunting behavior, social behavior, and interspecific competition. Supervisor: Tico McNutt. May 2013 – December 2013.

University of Maryland

College Park, MD, USA

Laboratory assistant for long-term study on stalk-eyed fly (*Diopsidae*) evolution, sexual selection, and behavior. Responsible for feeding and cleaning of all cages for study populations. Assisted graduate students with research, data entry, laboratory maintenance, animal husbandry, and genetic techniques. Supervisor: Jerry Wilkinson. September 2011 – May 2013.

University of Maryland

College Park, MD, USA

Compiled, transcribed, and entered observational data on a community of threatened and fragmented bird populations in Jamaica. Listened to audio tapes and developed an ethogram-based spreadsheet of foraging behaviors of different bird species, including bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*), Jamaican woodpecker (*Melanerpes radiolatus*), and arrow-headed warbler (*Dendroica pharetra*). Supervisor: Christina Kennedy. September 2010 – May 2011.

University of Maryland

College Park, MD, USA

Analyzed video tapes of satin bowerbirds (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*) from Australia. Studied sexual selection, nesting behavior, and mating rituals and contributed to long-term research on this species. Supervisor: Gerald Borgia. June 2010 – August 2010.

Other Work Experience

3Play Media

Cambridge, MA, USA

Remotely edit and transcribe audio-to-text files for Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Google, Yahoo, and other clients. Fix grammatical and structural errors in presentations, papers, and seminars in fields of biology, mathematics, and environmental science. April 2014 – present.

Children Education Fund

Nairobi, Kenya

Social media and fundraising coordinator for non-profit NGO dedicated to sponsoring secondary school education for talented Kenyan youth in five counties: Narok, Kajiado, Makueni, Machakos, and Kitui. Set up and ran all ex-situ project endeavors. Collaborated with co-founders weekly to discuss project development, fundraising, and awareness. January 2015 – December 2015.

Publications

Dheer, A., Davidson, Z., Doncaster, C.P., Dupuis-Desormeaux, M., MacDonald, S., Chege, G., and Mwololo, M. (2016). Resource partitioning between spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*) and lions (*Panthera leo*). Poster presented at the EAZA Annual Conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland and the 11th International Conference on Behaviour, Physiology, and Genetics of Wildlife, Berlin, Germany.

Montero-Mendieta, S., and **Dheer**, A. (2019, January 8). Digest: Resolving phylogenomic conflicts in characiform fishes. *Evolution*. DOI: 10.1111/evo.13666.

Davidson, Z., Dupuis-Desormeaux, M., **Dheer**, A., Pratt, P., Doncaster, P., Chege, G., Mwololo, M., and MacDonald, S. (2019, October 15). Borrowing from Peter to pay

Paul: Managing Threatened Predators of Endangered, Declining Prey Species. *PeerJ*. DOI: 10.7717/peerj.7916.

Gatta, M., Périquet, S., **Dheer**, A., English, H., Street, G., Doherty, T., and Borger, L. (TBD). Meta-analysis: effects of immobilizing and tagging on terrestrial mammals. In prep.

Mwasi, S., and **Dheer**, A. (TBD). Habitat degradation and wildlife-livestock interaction in Amboseli wildlife sanctuaries, Kenya. In prep.

Torrents-Tico, M., **Dheer**, A., and Yarnell, R. (TBD). IUCN Hyaena Specialist Group threats assessment for *Hyaenidae*. In prep.

Presentations, Talks, and Workshops

Dheer, A. (2012, May 1). “Potential utility of the Grant’s gazelle (*Nanger granti*) as an ecological bio-indicator for habitat quality.” Presented at School for Field Studies workshop with local community stakeholders, Kimana, Kenya.

Dheer, A. (2016, May 5). “Resource partitioning between spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*) and lions (*Panthera leo*).” Presented at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy community stakeholder meeting, Isiolo, Kenya.

Dheer, A. (2016, August 1), “Resource partitioning between spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*) and lions (*Panthera leo*).” Presented as part of M.Res. degree requirements at University of Southampton, Southampton, UK.

Dheer, A. (2018, June 18). “Management of spotted hyenas in Ngorongoro Conservation Area.” Presented at Large Carnivore Conservation Workshop for Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, Karatu, Tanzania.

Dheer, A. (2019, February 13 & 2019, October 8). “Ngorongoro Hyena Project: ecology, evolution, and conservation of a keystone large carnivore.” Presented as a guest lecturer to School for Field Studies students and staff, Rhotia, Tanzania.

Dheer, A. (2019, June 7-12). “IUCN Hyaena Specialist Group Workshop”. Attended and participated in workshop with other scientists researching *Hyaenidae* species. Ongava Research Centre, Namibia.

Dheer, A. (2019, June 9). “Adaptability of spotted hyenas to anthropogenic change and human carnivore-conflict”. Presented PhD project outline to other members of IUCN Hyaena Specialist Group at workshop. Ongava Research Centre, Namibia.

Dheer, A. (2019, September 26). “Social media as a tool for early career scientists”. Led workshop at 2019 IZW PhD Student Symposium, Berlin, Germany.

Dheer, A., Straka, T., Jacobs, M., & Höner, O. (2019, October 1). “Maasai-carnivore interactions in Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania”. Talk given at 2019 Wildlife Research Conference, Berlin, Germany.

Science Communication

Caruso, N., and Rabaiotti, D. (2017, October 19). Contributor to best-selling humorous book about animal flatulence titled “Does It Fart?”. *Quercus Books*.

Dell’Amore, C. (2019, June 15). Interviewed for article “Hyenas have a bad rap—but they’re Africa’s most successful predator”. *National Geographic*.

Dheer, A. (2013, December 8). “David and Goliath in the Wild.” *The Zambezi Traveller 15*, p. 42.

Dheer, A., Edwards, S., Murray, E., and Shikongo, F. (2014, May 22). Participated in Lüderitz High School outreach program about carnivore ecology and conservation for International Day for Biological Diversity in collaboration with Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Lüderitz, Namibia.

Distefano, C., and Pappas, Y. (2019, September 18). Interviewed for comedy podcast episode titled “Hyena Experts are Wild!” *History Hyenas*.

Engh, B. (2017, February 18). Wildlife photography featured in educational YouTube series “Dinosaurs of Copper Ridge.” *Brian Engh Paleoart*.

Kinuthia, W. (2017, June 12). Master’s research featured in “Lewa Wildlife Conservancy Impact Report 2016”. *Lewa Wildlife Conservancy*.

Klein, J. (2017, January 13). Interviewed for article “Sometimes Nature is Morbid. That’s Why There’s #BestCarcass.” *The New York Times*.

Litton Weekend Adventure (2019, February 3). PhD research featured as focus of 30-minute 3rd season finale of Emmy Award winning TV show “Ocean Treks with Jeff Corwin”.

Marwell Wildlife (2016, July 20). Master’s research featured in article “Conservation for the Future.” *Marwell News*, p. 77.

Reese, B. (2019, September 10). Interviewed for podcast episode titled “Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation of Large Carnivores”. *The Bus Driver Experience*.

Reye, B. (2018, July 6). Interviewed about PhD research for article “Die Chefinnen der Savanne.” *Tagesanzeiger & Der Bund*.

Rust, N. (2018, February 14). Interviewed for article about spotted hyenas “Brains and Brawn.” *BBC Wildlife Magazine 36(3)*, pp. 47-50.

School for Field Studies (2019, March 13). Selected to be featured on School for Field Studies website under *Alumni Stories* section. <https://fieldstudies.org/alumni/alumni-stories/arjun-dheer/>.

Stacey, Katie. (2019, September 24). Interviewed for article “Hippo and hyena touch noses in rare encounter.” *National Geographic*.

Wiesel, I. (2014, June 30). Article featured in section of project newsletter. *Brown Hyena Research Project Newsletter 46*, pp. 4-5.

Wiesel, I. (2014, September 30). Article featured in section of project newsletter. *Brown Hyena Research Project Newsletter 47*, pp. 2-3.

Updated 26/10/2019

WILDLABS.net (2018, March 1). Received 2nd place award for #Tech4Wildlife Photo Challenge on Twitter featuring fieldwork on spotted hyenas and lions in Kenya, amongst hundreds of entries.

Twitter: @ArjDheer (3,918 followers); @HyenaProject (6,389 followers)

Instagram: @ArjDheer (1,885 followers); @HyaenaSpecialistGroup (1,171 followers)

YouTube: HyenaProject (11,191 subscribers)

Activities and Memberships

Terrapin Trail Club, 2009-2013; University of Maryland Intramural Basketball, 2009-2010; University of Maryland Intramural Flag Football, 2010; University of Maryland Wildlife Society, 2013; Student Representative for Graduate School Committee, 2015-2016; Biological Science Postgraduate Society, 2015-2016; IUCN Hyaena Specialist Group, 2017-present; 5th IZW PhD Symposium Committee, 2018-2019.

Professional Certifications and Licenses

IUCN Global and Regional Red List Assessor, 2016-present; Driving License (Maryland, USA), 2008-present.

Languages

Native: English; Elementary: Hindi, KiSwahili, German.

References

1. Dr. Oliver Höner, Primary Investigator, Ngorongoro Hyena Research. Hoener@izw-berlin.de
2. Prof. C. Patrick Doncaster, Professor in Ecology, University of Southampton. cpd@soton.ac.uk
3. Dr. Ingrid Wiesel, Founder, Brown Hyena Research Project. info@strandwolf.org