

**Megan F. Cole**

University of New Mexico  
Department of Anthropology  
MSC 01 1040  
500 University Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Email: [megancole@unm.edu](mailto:megancole@unm.edu)  
Website:  
<https://anthropology.unm.edu/people/grad-students/profile/megan-cole.html>  
Twitter: [https://twitter.com/megan\\_f\\_cole](https://twitter.com/megan_f_cole)

---

**Education**

- 2018-present PhD Student, University of New Mexico Department of Anthropology  
Graduate Student Researcher, Kibale Chimpanzee Project  
Advisor: Melissa Emery Thompson
- 2013 BS, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Double major in Evolutionary Anthropology and Environmental Studies  
Minor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Honors Thesis: "Intergroup encounters in Honduran mantled howler monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*)". *Awarded High Honors*.  
Advisor: Jacinta Beehner

**Employment**

- 2018-present Graduate Assistant, University of New Mexico Department of Anthropology
- 2016-2018 Lab Manager, Cognitive Evolution Group (PI: Alexandra Rosati)  
University of Michigan Department of Psychology (from Sept. 2017)  
Harvard University Department of Human Evolutionary Biology (2016-2017)
- 2015 Research Associate, Center for Zoo Animal Welfare (Supervisor: Stephanie Allard)  
Detroit Zoological Society
- 2013-2014 Research Assistant, Comparative Analysis of Baboon Sociality Project (Supervisor: Eila Roberts)  
Uaso Ngiro Baboon Project (2014)  
Filoha Hamadryas Project (2013)

**Research Interests**

Primate social behavior, endocrinology, life history, cooperation, social cognition, health & energetics

**Grants and Awards**

*External*

- 2019 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation (\$138,000)  
2018 Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation

*Internal*

- 2019 Student Research Grant, UNM Graduate and Professional Student Association (\$500 for dissertation pilot research)  
2019 Rogers Research Award, UNM Office of Graduate Studies (\$1200 for dissertation pilot)  
2019 Student Conference Award, UNM Career Services (\$600 for conference travel)  
2018 Student Research Grant, UNM Graduate and Professional Student Association (\$500 for conference travel)  
2012 Individual Academic Enrichment Fund, UM School of Natural Resources and Environment (\$500 for honors thesis)

- 2012 Undergraduate Fellowship Award, UM Department of Anthropology (\$1000 for honors thesis)
- 2010-2012 Nondegree Honors Award, UM Honors College (equivalent to Dean's list)

## Publications

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Cole, M.F., Cantwell, A., Rukundo, J., Ajarova, L., Fernandez-Navarro, S., Atencia, R., & Rosati, A.G. 2020. Healthy cardiovascular biomarkers across the lifespan in wild-born chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*). *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*. 375: 20190609. <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/abs/10.1098/rstb.2019.0609>

### Conference Presentations

- Cole, M.F., Fox, S.A., Machanda, Z., Otali, E., Muller, M.N., Wrangham, R.W., & Emery Thompson, M. 2020. Urinary T3 levels in wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) at Kibale National Park, Uganda. 28<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Primatological Society. Quito, Ecuador (podium). *Conference postponed due to COVID-19*.
- Emery Thompson, M., Cole, M.F., & Rosati, A.G. The ecological context of chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) health. 28<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Primatological Society. Quito, Ecuador (podium). *Conference postponed due to COVID-19*.
- Cole, M.F., Emery Thompson, M., Rukundo, J., Fernandez-Navarro, S., Atencia, R., Goldberg, T. L., & Rosati, A.G. 2020. Healthy blood lipid profiles in wild-born chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) are associated with low adiposity and inflammation. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Los Angeles, California (podium). *Conference cancelled due to COVID-19*.
- Cole, M.F., Emery Thompson, M., Rukundo, J., Fernandez-Navarro, S., Atencia, R., Goldberg, T. L., & Rosati, A.G. 2019. Healthy blood lipid profiles in wild-born chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) are associated with low adiposity and inflammation. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Biological Anthropologists. Tempe, Arizona (podium).
- Cole, M.F. & Rosati, A.G. 2019. Biomarkers of cardiac health across the lifespan in wild-born chimpanzees. 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Cleveland, Ohio (podium).
- Cole, M.F. & Rosati, A.G. 2018. Biomarkers of cardiac health in sanctuary versus laboratory-living chimpanzees. 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Biological Anthropologists. Las Vegas, Nevada (poster). *Awarded best student poster prize*.
- Cole, M.F. 2015. The effects of temperature and dominance on behavior and use of space in Japanese macaques (*Macaca fuscata*). Detroit Zoological Society. Royal Oak, Michigan (podium).
- Cole, M.F. 2013. Intergroup encounters in Honduran mantled howler monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*). University of Michigan Department of Anthropology Honors Symposium. Ann Arbor, Michigan (poster).

## Research Experience

- 2019-present Kibale National Park, Uganda  
2 months of pilot dissertation data collection with wild chimpanzees. Conduct focal follows and collect urine samples for endocrine analysis.  
Role: Graduate student researcher
- 2018-present Comparative Human and Primate Physiology Laboratory, UNM  
Analyze urinary biomarkers of stress and energetics using enzyme-linked immune assay (ELISA) and radioimmunoassay (RIA) methods.  
Role: Graduate student researcher

- 2017-2018 Duke Lemur Center, Durham, North Carolina  
2 months of field research with multiple lemur species. Assisted in research examining cognition and behavior, including studies on social cognition and decision-making.  
Role: Cognitive Evolution Group Lab manager
- 2016-2018 Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Uganda  
3 months of field research with semi-free-ranging chimpanzees. Conducted research on health, cognition, and behavior; assisted in veterinary health checks and collected and processed a variety of biological samples.  
Role: Cognitive Evolution Group Lab manager
- 2016-2018 Cayo Santiago Field Station, Puerto Rico  
2 months of field research with semi-free-ranging rhesus macaques. Assisted in research examining cognition and behavior, including studies on social cognition and decision-making.  
Role: Cognitive Evolution Group Lab manager
- 2015 Detroit Zoological Society  
7 months of research with a variety of species. Assisted in research examining captive animal welfare; conducted independent project with Japanese macaques.  
Role: Research associate
- 2014 Uaso Ngiro Baboon Project, Laikipia, Kenya (Director: Shirley Strum)  
6 months of field research with Anubis baboons examining social behavior. Conducted focal follows, collected fecal samples, and maintained life history database.  
Role: Research assistant
- 2013 Filoha Hamadryas Project, Awash NP, Ethiopia (Director: Larissa Swedell)  
9 months of field research with Hamadryas baboons examining social behavior. Conducted focal follows, collected and processed fecal samples for hormone analysis, and maintained life history database.  
Role: Research assistant
- 2012-2013 Core Assay Facility, U. of Michigan Psychology (Director: Jacinta Beehner)  
Analyzed salivary and fecal hormones using radioimmunoassay (RIA) methods; processed samples and performed fecal extractions.  
Role: Laboratory assistant
- 2012 Operation Wallacea, Rancho Manacal, Honduras  
Collected demographic, behavioral, vocal, and geospatial data on howler monkeys for honors thesis project.  
Role: Student researcher
- 2011-2012 African Drylands Research Group, U. of Michigan SNRE (PI: Bilal Butt)  
Conducted spatial and statistical analyses of wildlife-livestock interactions, performed literature reviews and created Access database.  
Role: Research assistant

## Teaching

### *Graduate Assistantship (UNM)*

Spring 2020 ANTH 150: Evolution and Human Emergence. Instructor: Sherry Nelson

Fall 2019 ANTH 360: Human Behavioral Ecology. Instructor: Martin Muller

Spring 2019 ANTH 360: Human Behavioral Ecology (online). Instructor: Martin Muller  
 Fall 2018 ANTH 150: Evolution and Human Emergence (online). Instructor: Martin Muller

#### *Guest Lectures*

2019 “Cooperation.” Human Behavioral Ecology. Instructor: Martin Muller (UNM)  
 2018 “Conducting Research on non-human animals.” Advanced Laboratory in Developmental Psychology. Instructor: Margaret Echelbarger (UM)

#### **Service and Outreach**

2019 Panelist, UNM Undergraduate Anthropology Society “Speed Mentoring”. Albuquerque, New Mexico.  
 2019 Panelist, UNM Anthropology Graduate Student Union Conference “Undergrad Research in Anthro: A How-To Guide”. Albuquerque, New Mexico.  
 2018-present Events coordinator, UNM Advancing Women in Science  
 2018-2019 Volunteer, Albuquerque BioPark Enrichment Center  
 2017 Workshop leader, Females Excelling More in Math, Engineering and Science (FEMMES). Ann Arbor, Michigan.  
 2016 “Chimpanzee conservation and welfare.” Beaumont Elementary School. Waterford, Michigan (talk).  
 2015 “Chimpanzee conservation and welfare.” Stone Lodge Retirement Home. Sisters, Oregon (talk).  
 2012 Fundraising for mobile health clinic in Laikipia, Kenya. Derby Middle School. Birmingham, Michigan (talk).

#### **Media Coverage**

UMich News: Researchers find cardiovascular health similarities between chimpanzees, humans.  
[https://news.umich.edu/researchers-find-cardiovascular-health-similarities-between-chimpanzees-humans/?fbclid=IwAR2MQJwo-Dk3GoIkkLfZIipjk8moEwmWkSctImBXdExfPaPNai\\_Tj2Bfr2I](https://news.umich.edu/researchers-find-cardiovascular-health-similarities-between-chimpanzees-humans/?fbclid=IwAR2MQJwo-Dk3GoIkkLfZIipjk8moEwmWkSctImBXdExfPaPNai_Tj2Bfr2I)

#### **Professional Membership**

2020-present International Primatological Society  
 2019-present Sigma Xi Research Society  
 2018-present American Association of Physical Anthropology

#### **Skills**

Statistical analysis: R, SPSS.  
 Endocrine analysis: hormone extraction, ELISA (cortisol, creatinine, thyroid) and RIA (C-peptide, cortisol, testosterone) techniques.  
 Language: Spanish (proficient), Amharic (conversational).