

Faculty Name: Andrea Baden

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Faculty Research Area

General Area of Research

Primate behavior, molecular ecology, conservation

Description of Current Research

Our research group studies the molecular ecology of living primates, primarily in Madagascar. Our foci include: fission-fusion dynamics in ruffed lemurs; allomaternal care in red-bellied lemurs; lemur color vision; ruffed lemur conservation/landscape genetics. Samples collected in the field are processed in the newly established Primate Molecular Ecology Laboratory (PMEL) in the Department of Anthropology at Hunter College.

Requirements and Benefits for Student

Essential and Desirable Background Knowledge and Skills

Essential: Must have a positive attitude, whether in the field or lab. Candidates should be mature, independent, hard working, and self-motivated. Organization and an attention for detail are also a must. Must have some knowledge of general biology, ecology, and/or biological anthropology.

Desirable: Some lab experience is not required, but is a plus.

Expected Responsibilities

Preference will be given to students with an interest in lemurs and/or a research idea that complements our current research objectives (see examples of other student projects and our website). Students are expected to seek independent funding for their research, though opportunities to collaborate with Baden on existing research projects are possible.

Expected Benefits

Benefits include access to our field site in Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar; access to and use of as a well-established state-of-the art field station, Centre ValBio; access to the Primate Molecular Ecology Laboratory (PMEL); and training in molecular ecology methods.