

Jonathan Aaron O'Brien, PhD

University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Anthropology and Liaison to Online Learning,
Division of Continuing Education and Professional Services.

Email: obrienja@colorado.edu

Education:

Ph.D. in Anthropology	University of Colorado 2014
M.A. in Anthropology	University of Colorado 2006, with Distinction GPA: 3.95
B.A. in Anthropology	University of Florida 2000, with Honors GPA: 3.905

Professional Affiliations and Honor Society Memberships:

Member, International Primatological Society, Rocky Mountain Biological Anthropology
Association, Golden Key Honor Society, National Honor Society

Research Experience:

December 2004 – January 2005	“A study of resource selection within resource availability in mantled howling monkeys (<i>Alouatta palliata</i>)” Ometepe, Nicaragua.
June – August 2005	“Comparison of feeding ecology of four colobines in Vietnam” Cuc Phuong National Park, Vietnam.
June- August 2006	“Habitat variation within black-shanked doucs (<i>Pygathrix nigripes</i>)” Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam.
May- June 2007	“Habitat structure within Cat Tien National Park” Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam.
August 2008- May 2011	“Ecology and Conservation of Black-shanked Doucs (<i>Pygathrix nigripes</i>) in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam” Dissertation data collection.
April 2009	Primate Census at Ta Cu Mountain, Vietnam.
February 2010	Fecal Collection for Dr. Diane Brockman “Agent Orange Exposure in Endangered Vietnamese Primates: Application of a Novel Fecal Dioxin Enzyme Immunoassay.”
May 2011	Primate Census at Ta Cu Mountain, Vietnam.
May 2012	“A preliminary investigation into the parasite ecology of the black-shanked douc in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam.”
May 2013	Fecal parasite analysis of silvered langur in Kien Luong karst area, Vietnam.
July 2014	Field Survey for Silvered Langur (<i>Trachypithecus germaini</i>), Phu Quoc National Park, Vietnam.
March- April 2016	Vietnam Education Fund: Assisting Dr. Covert in Teaching at Ho Chi Minh University of Sciences on Primate Field Methodology.
July 2017	Project Map Vietnam. UAV High Resolution Photogrammetry and Hyperspectral Sensor to Study and Mitigate the Habitat Destruction and Extinction of Endangered Species.

Published Articles:

2008 Wright, B.W., Ulibarri, L., O'Brien, J., Sadler, B., Prodhan, R., Covert, H.H. and Nadler T. It's tough out there: Variation in the toughness of ingested leaves and feeding behavior among four colobines in Vietnam. *International Journal of Primatology*, 29:1455-1466

2020 Duc, H., Quyet, L.K., Rawson, B.M., O'Brien, J. & Covert, H. *Pygathrix nigripes*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2020: e.T39828A17941480.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2020-2.RLTS.T39828A17941480.en>

Published Abstracts:

2006 J.A. O'Brien, L. Ulibarri, B.W. Wright, K.A. Wright, H.H. Covert, T. Nadler. A preliminary analysis of the mechanics, chemistry, and color of leaves ingested by four colobine species in Vietnam. (*Am. J. Phys. Anthropol. Supl.* 42:140)

2006 Wright, B.W., Ulibarri, L., O'Brien, J., Covert, H.H., Nadler, T. It's tough out there: Variation in the toughness of ingested leaves among four colobines in Vietnam. (*International J. Primatology* 27 (supl. 1:321)

2006 L. Ulibarri, J.A. O'Brien, H.H. Covert, B.W. Wright, K.A. Wright, T. Nadler
The toughness of foods selected by of four closely related Colobine species. (*Am. J. Phys. Anthropol. Supl.* 42:179-80)

2008 J.A. O'Brien, T.V. Thanh, P.H. Khanh, T.H. Nguyen, H.H. Covert. Habitat structure variation: implications for understanding the feeding ecology of black-shanked douc in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam. (*Am. J. Phys. Anthropol. Supl.* 46:164)

2008 O'Brien JA, Tran Van Thanh, Pham Huu Khanh, Covert HH. Ecology and Conservation of Black-shanked Douc (*Pygathrix nigripes*) in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam. Program of the Conservation of Primates of Indochina International Symposium p. 24

2012 O'Brien JA, Covert HH, Tran Van Thanh. A Nutritional Analysis of Leaves Ingested by Black-shanked Douc (*Pygathrix nigripes*) in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam. Program of the Congress of the International Primatological Society.

2014 O'Brien JA, Loudon JE, Adams R, Robb KE. Parasite ecology of black-shanked douc in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam. (*Am. J. Phys. Anthropol. Supl.* 153:198)

2014 O'Brien JA, Loudon JE, Adams R, Robb KE, Covert HH. A preliminary investigation into the parasite ecology of the Indochinese silvered langur (*Trachypithecus germaini*) in Kien Luong karst area, Kien Giang Province, Vietnam. Program of the Congress of the International Primatological Society (in press).

Technical Reports:

A Report to Cat Tien National Park: A Preliminary Investigation on the Feeding Ecology of the Black-shanked Douc (*Pygathrix nigripes*). May 14th- June 15th, 2007.

Field Report for Silvered Langur Survey Project. July 14th- August 3rd, 2014. Fiore RR, Tran Van Bang, Nguyen Thanh Trung, Hoang Minh Duc, Covert HH, O'Brien JA.

Grants Received:

William H. Burt Fund, CU Museum of Natural History (2005)	\$1500
Department of Anthropology Pre-dissertation grant (2005)	\$500
Department of Anthropology Travel Grant (2006)	\$300
Graduate School Travel Grant (2006)	\$200
Graduate Teacher Program Provost's Fellowship in Technology (2006)	\$2500
Graduate School Beverley Sears Grant (2006)	\$1000
Department of Anthropology Pre-dissertation grant (2006)	\$1100
Department of Anthropology Pre-dissertation grant (2007)	\$2500
William H. Burt Fund, CU Museum of Natural History (2007)	\$1500
Walker Van Riper Fund, CU Museum of Natural History (2007)	\$1500
Graduate School Travel Grant (2007)	\$200
Foreign Languages Area Study Fellowship (2008)	\$8,500
Fulbright Student Grant (2008- 2009)	\$17,000
National Geographic Explorers Grant (2008-2009)	\$13,845
CI Margot Marsh Biodiversity Conservation Fund (2008-2009)	\$15,000
Primate Conservation Inc. (2008-2009)	\$3,010
Department of Anthropology Travel Grant (2008)	\$300
Museum Student Research Award, CU Museum of Natural History (2012)	\$1200
Department of Anthropology Scott Ferris Graduate Research Award (2012)	\$1300

Teaching Experience:

August 2004 – December 2004	Grader: ANTH 3000: Primate Behavior
January 2005 – May 2005	Teaching Assistant: Primate Evolutionary Biology
August 2005 – December 2005	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 1
January 2005 – May 2006	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 2
August 2006 – December 2006	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 1
January 2006 – May 2007	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 2
August 2007 – December 2007	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 1
January 2008 – May 2008	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 2
August 2011- December 2011	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 1
January 2012 – May 2012	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 2
June 2012 - July 2012	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 1
August 2012 – December 2012	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 1
August 2012 – present	ANTH 1010: Introduction to Biological Anthropology I Online Instructor/ Course Developer
January 2013 – May 2013	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 2
June 2013 - July 2013	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 1
August 2013- December 2013	Instructor: ANTH 3000: Primate Behavior

January 2014 – May 2014	Laboratory Instructor: Biological Anthropology Lab 2
September 2014 – present	ANTH 3000: Primate Behavior, Online Instructor/ Course Developer
January 2015 – May 2015	ANTH 2020: Introduction to Biological Anthropology II Assistant Instructor
June 2015- present	ANTH 2020: Introduction to Biological Anthropology II Online Instructor/ Course Developer
June 2015- July 2015	ANTH 3000: Primate Behavior Lecturer
August 2020- present	ANTH 3010: The Human Animal Online Instructor / Course Developer
August 2020 – present	Primate Conservation online MOOC / Course Developer
June 2022 — present	ANTH 3770: Global Seminar: Primates of Vietnam, Conservation in a Rapidly Developing Country
August 2023- present	ANTH 4060: Nutrition & Anthropology Online Instructor / Course Developer
January 2024 – present	ANTH 2040: Laboratory in Human Biological Variation and Adaptation Laboratory Supervisor

Honors Thesis Committee Service:

Ms. Jill Valance	2024	<i>magna cum laude</i>	advisor
Ms. Abigail Howes	in progress		committee member
Ms. Aubrey Mosley	in progress		committee member

Departmental Service:

Co-Chair of Brown Bag Committee	Fall 2004- Spring 2005
The Brown Bag Committee organizes departmental talks by students and professors.	
Chair of Brown Bag Committee	Fall 2005- Spring 2006
Assisted in hosting visit by Vietnamese scientists	March 2005 – April 2005
Assisted in hosting visit by the Distinguished Biological Anthropologist	Feb 2006
Served on the Computer Committee	Fall 2006- Spring 2007
Assisted in the 50 th Anniversary Celebration for Anthropology Department	September 2006
Biological Graduate Representative to Faculty Meetings	Fall 2007- Spring 2008
Videotaping Department Speakers Series	Fall 2004- Spring 2008
Member of Curriculum committee	Fall 2019 - present
Liaison between Continuing Education & Anthropology	Fall 2019 – present
Member of Education Abroad Committee	Fall 2021 – present
Liaison to Graduate committee	Fall 2023 – present
Member of Center for Asian Studies Curriculum committee	Fall 2023 – present
Member of Center for Asian Studies Executive committee	Fall 2025 - present

Professional Service:

Peer Reviewer for American Journal of Primatology

Planning and Organizing a workshop on “Re-energizing the Urgent Conservation Action Plan for Primates in Vietnam to 2025, Vision to 2030.” Hanoi, Vietnam. November 2022.

Served on the “Best Practices for Remote and Online Teaching” committee. Summer 2020.

Invited Participant in the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey Conservation planning workshop, Hanoi, Vietnam. June 18-19, 2019

International Expert and collaborator on “Urgent Conservation Action Plan for Primates in Vietnam to 2025, Vision to 2030.” May 2017.

Planning and organization of NSF Workshop, “International Workshop to explore research engagement in the Lower Mekong Basin.” USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Laurel, MD. September 25-26, 2015.

Peer reviewer for Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity.

Scientific Program Committee member for the 2014 International Primatological Society Congress in Hanoi, Vietnam

Reviewed an article for the "Odd-nosed monkeys: recent advances in the study of the forgotten colobines. New York: Springer Publishing" project.

Editing and Proofing Documents for Wildlife At Risk (W.A.R.- a Vietnamese Conservation NGO).

Consulted in diet and behavioral enrichment for a rescued Black-shanked douc at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station.

Invited University Lectures:

2005 “Do you see what I see? Sensory Ecology and Field Methods.” Primate Behavior: James Loudon instructor. June 22.

2005 “I don’t see what the problem is, it tastes fine to me...The Feeding and Sensory Ecology of 4 Colobines in Vietnam.” Department of Anthropology: Brown Bag Series. September 22.

2005 “The mechanics, chemistry, and color of leaves ingested by colobine monkeys in Vietnam: The Feeding and Sensory Ecology of 4 Colobines in Vietnam.” CU Museum’s Burt Fund Brown Bag Lunch Series. February 16.

2006 “Primate Conservation in Vietnam- Looking Forward to the Future”. Dr Sauther’s Primate Behavior Class. CU Boulder. December 14.

2007 “Primate Conservation in Vietnam”. Dr. Covert’s Critical Thinking Course. CU Boulder. January 16.

2007 “Primate Conservation and Ecology in Vietnam: Understanding Ecology- Preserving a Species” Front Range Community College. Mr. Douglas Anderson’s Physical Anthropology Class. FRCC Westminster, Colorado. February 23.

2007 “Skeletal Biology: Why is this important for Physical Anthropology?” Front Range Community College. Mr. Douglas Anderson’s Physical Anthropology Class. FRCC Westminster, Colorado. March 23.

2007 “Habitat structure variation: implications for understanding the feeding ecology of black-shanked douc in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam.” Department of Anthropology Brown Bag Series. Boulder, Colorado. October 11.

2008 “Primate Diversity and Conservation in Vietnam.” SEASSI Student Conference. Madison, Wisconsin. July 28.

2012 “Primate Diversity and Conservation in Vietnam.” Mr. Oliver Payne’s ANTH 2010: Introduction to Biological Anthropology Class. Boulder, Colorado. June 22.

2014 “Ecology and Conservation of Black-shanked douc in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam.” ANTH 7020: Physical Anthropology: Contemporary Anthropological Primatology. Boulder, Colorado. January 13.

2014 “Conservation Case Studies in Vietnam.” ANTH 3000: Primate Behavior. Boulder, Colorado. January 14.

2023 “Primate Diversity and Conservation in Vietnam.” Center for Asian Studies. Boulder, Colorado. March 6.

2024 “Primate Diversity and Conservation in Vietnam (but we can still chat about Orangutans and Pangolins!).” Center for Asian Studies. South, Southeast and West Asia Outreach Program: Southeast Asia in a Backpack: Expert Guides and Maps for Teaching Geography and Conservation. Boulder, Colorado. April 6.

Invited Lectures:

2005 “The Feeding and Sensory Ecology of 4 Vietnamese Colobines” Cuc Phuong National Park (presented by Mr. Larry Ulibarri). August.

2006 “A Report to Cat Tien National Park July 6th – July 26th” Cat Tien National Park, Dong Nai Province, Vietnam. July 26.

2006 “A Preliminary Analysis of the Chemistry and Color of Leaves Ingested by Four Colobine Species in Vietnam” Primate Conservation Training Course, Hanoi University of Science, Hanoi, Vietnam. August 15.

2007 “Ecology and Conservation of the Black-shanked douc (*Pygathrix nigripes*) in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam.” CU Anthropology Club. CU Boulder. October 9.

2008 “Current Research at Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam.” Center for Biodiversity, Institute for Tropical Biology Lecture Series, Vietnam. 26 September.

2008 “Ecology and Conservation of Black-shanked Douc (*Pygathrix nigripes*) in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam”. Conservation of Primates in Indochina Conference. Cuc Phuong National Park. November 29.

2009 “Critical Success Factors For College Students”. Fulbright Conference. 5 January.

2009 “Your Fulbright Year in Vietnam.” Fulbright New Grantee Orientation. 4 September.

2011 “A Visit to Cat Tien National Park.” Saigon South International School 5th Grade. 7 April.

2012 “My Fulbright Year.” Fulbright Meeting, University of Colorado. 26 January.

2022 “Primates of Vietnam: Conservation in a Rapidly Developing Country.” Center for Biodiversity Conservation and Endangered Species. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. 21 June.