

CURRICULUM VITAE – 2016

Itai Roffman, Ph.D.

Born: November 12, 1982

Languages: Hebrew, English, French (partial)

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Biography

Itai Roffman, an evolutionary anthropologist, was a PhD student in the Institute of Evolution at Haifa University. He recently submitted his dissertation to review entitled: "Studying Suite of Early-Hominin Traits in *Pan*: Cultural and Behavioral Evidence in Support of their Classification as Early-Hominins", under the supervision of evolutionist Prof. Eviatar Nevo, and paleontologist/archeologist Prof. Avraham Ronen.

Itai received his MA in physical/biological anthropology from Iowa State University, USA (thesis titled: "Are bicultural bonobos able to recognize iconic representations and produce referential signs in human cultural terms?"). His thesis research focused on examining the iconographic competencies of bonobos as a way of studying the close cultural links between *Pan* and humans by comparing their abilities to that of late *Homo* cave art representational iconography and mark making. There he empirically proved language-competent bonobos ability to produce iconographic mark-making and to remember their respective meanings across time along with interpreting meaning of hieroglyphic type icons. His dissertation research is a continuation of that study. Its ultimate goal was to demonstrate that early *Homo* and chimpanzees' tool production and use competencies are based on the shared ancestry of these two hominin sister species. Roffman further demonstrated the competency of bilateral informational-exchange of chimpanzees/bonobos with humans in terms of miming, music and vocal control implicating proto-language in hominin evolution. Other traits observed were alliance building, cultural/group/personal identity, responsibility and moral order along with giving testimony of past events.

Itai has successfully identified strategies for resource procurement in captive and semi-captive bonobo- chimpanzees (*Pan paniscus*) in Europe and America, exemplified by their stone/wood and bone tool preparation and processing competencies, to the level of pre-agricultural extractive foraging.

Moreover, he has established a field site in Mali, West Africa, to study wild chimpanzee survival strategies, cultural diversity and adaptations to arid multi-habitat cliff range environments. For his unique research Itai was awarded the prestigious Adams Fellowship for Doctoral Students, of The Israel National Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

In addition to his scientific work, Itai is active in the advancement of chimpanzee liberation and sanctuary rights for cultural rehabilitation to fulfill their hominin/early *Homo* potential in open natural reservations. As part of this effort, he founded the "Israeli *Pan* Hominin Welfare & Personhood Association" and the "Mali Chimpanzee Cultural Preservation, Rehabilitation and Heritage League" (dedicated to establishing reservations for chimpanzees and promoting their right of *habeas corpus*). He has also started an initiative to help mentally disabled children to express themselves through intelligent bilateral video-assisted informational exchange sessions with bonobo chimpanzees, who competently converse using computer keyboard English Lexigram symbols.

In the past Roffman led Roots & Shoots (the Jane Goodall Institute) Peace making programs between Jews and Arabs in Israel, and at the Syrian Rajar village (situated half in Lebanon and half in Israel) through humanitarian educational projects for children and youth, promoting equality and acceptance of those who are different in society, mainly via chimpanzee sister-species awareness raising. For this project in 2005 Roffman was presented with the Dr. James Gillihan Award for Peacemaking - Honoring at TEAM (Teachers of Experiential and Adventure Methodologies), Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois.

Current Occupation

Post-doctorate student, The Graduate Studies Authority; The International Center for Advanced Studies in Evolution, Haifa University, Israel

Education

2002-2005 BA in Multidisciplinary Studies, Tel-Hai Academic College, Tel-Hai, Israel.

2006-2008 MA in Anthropology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA.

2009-2016 PhD in Evolutionary Anthropology, Haifa University, Israel

Publications

1. Roffman I (2008) Masters Thesis in Anthropology: "Are bicultural bonobos able to recognize iconic representations and produce referential signs in human cultural terms?" *Iowa State University, Department of Anthropology*.

2. Roffman I and Nevo E (2010) Can Chimpanzee Biology Highlight Human Origin and Evolution? *Rambam Maimonides Med J.* 1(1):e0009. doi:10.5041/RMMJ.10009
Main article:
<http://www.rmmj.org.il/userimages/10/0/PublishFiles/10Article.pdf>
Supplementary material:
<http://www.rmmj.org.il/userimages/10/0/PublishFiles/10ArticleAM.pdf>
3. Roffman I, Savage-Rumbaugh S, Rubert-Pugh E, Ronen A, and Nevo E (2012) Stone tool production and utilization by bonobo-chimpanzees (*Pan paniscus*). *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 109: 14500-14503
4. Roffman, I., Savage-Rumbaugh, S., Rubert-Pugh, E., Stadler, A., Ronen, A., & Nevo, E. (2015). Preparation and Use of Varied Natural Tools for Extractive Foraging by Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*). *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 158 (1): 78-91.
5. Roffman I, Peleg G, Stadler A, Nevo E. 2015. Meaningful informational exchange and pantomime in chimpanzees and bonobos: implications for proto-language in hominins. *Human Evolution* 30(3-4): 141-174.
6. Roffman I, Panchevre M, Ronen A, and Nevo E. 2016. Cultural and Physical Characterization of Near-Arid Savanna Chimpanzees in Mali (in press). *Human Evolution*.
7. Roffman I. 2016. Ph.D. Dissertation in Evolutionary Anthropology: "Studying Suite of Early-Hominin Traits in *Pan*: Cultural and Behavioral Evidence in Support of their Classification as Early-Hominins" (in review). The Graduate Studies Authority, University of Haifa, Israel.

Research

2006-2008 Language Competent Bonobo Iconography, Master Thesis Research, The Great Ape Trust of Iowa, USA. Guided by: Prof. Jill Pruett, Prof. Lisa Fontaine, Prof. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh.

2009-2016 PhD thesis: "Studying Suite of early Hominin Traits in *Pan*." Haifa University, Haifa, Israel. Supervisors: Prof. Eviatar Nevo and Prof. Avraham Ronen.

2010-2011 Wuppertal Zoo Germany, Bonobo tool use and food processing research (October-January).

2011 Great Ape Trust of Iowa, Hominin type tool use and food processing research in bonobos (June-August).

2013 Parc National du Kouroufing et Wongo, Mali, chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) research field expedition (June).

2014 Mt. Kouloubalounda, Mali, and National Zoo of Mali, chimpanzee cultural research (February-April).

Reviewer

2015 Israel Journal of Ecology & Evolution

Lectures (partial list)

2007 "*Do cross-fostered chimpanzees and bonobos possess representational symbology and recognizable imagery in human cultural terms?*"; The Jane Goodall Institute ChimpanZoo Conference, Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, Kansas (Oct 10, presentation and panel).

2010 Maimonides Article Lecture: Sheba Tel Ha-Shomer Hospital, Maccabe Health Centre, Ramat-Gan. Israel.

2010- Several departmental lectures at the Haifa University and in other Israeli academic institutions.

2011 "*Early Homo suite of traits in chimpanzees*"; Judaism In Evolutionary Perspective Conference (Nov 17), Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem.

2012 "*Studying Suite of Early Homo traits in Pan*"; Adams Conference For 2012, The Israel National Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Jerusalem (January 8).

2014 Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities annual Tu-Bishvat Party lecture (January 13).

Awards

2005 The Dr. James Gillihan Award for Peacemaking - Honoring at TEAM (Teachers of Experiential and Adventure Methodologies), Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois.

2005 Member of the Microsoft Office Information Worker Board of the Future, Budapest, Hungary (June 19-23).

2006-2008 2 years full scholarship for Masters in Anthropology, Iowa State University, awarded by Great Ape Trust of Iowa

2008 "Outstanding Youth Leadership" awarded to Attend The Jane Goodall Global Youth Summit, Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, Florida (April 19-25).

2013 "Human Evolution – Past Present and Future Anthropological, Medical and Nutritional Considerations" (May 8th-10th) 1st prize for scientific research poster presentation presented by Sir. David Attenborough.

2016 "Adams Conference 2016" (January, 19th) 1st prize for scientific research poster presentation for the Adams Fellowship for Doctoral Students, The Israel National Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Grant awarded

2016-2017 The Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
Project title: "Ensuring Survival of the Endangered Mali Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*): Development of Sustainable Strategies for their Co-existence with Humans."

Fellowship

2010-2014 Adams Fellowship for Doctoral Students, The Israel National Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Board membership

2012 - Bonobo Hope Sanctuary (BHS) board of directors' member
2012-2013 Bonobo Hope Sanctuary (BHS) IACUC board member
2013- Bonobo Hope Sanctuary (BHS) board of directors' member

Recommendations

1. Prof. Eviatar Nevo, Professor of Evolutionary Biology, Foreign Associate, National Academy of Sciences, USA; Director, International Graduate Center of Evolution, University of Haifa, 199 Aba Khoushy Ave., Mount Carmel, Haifa, 3498838, ISRAEL. Tel: (972) 4 8240448 Fax: (972) 4 8246554 E-mail: nevo@research.haifa.ac.il Homepage: <http://evolution.haifa.ac.il/>

2. Dr. Jane Goodall DBE, The Jane Goodall Institute 4245 North Fairfax Drive - Suite 600 Arlington, Va. 22203 Tel. 703 682 9220: Fax. 703 682 9312 www.janegoodall.org ; www.rootsandshoots.org

3. Prof. Morris Goodman (1925-2010), Ph.D., Distinguished Professor, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI.

4. Dr. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, Director of science, Bonobo Hope Sanctuary, Iowa, USA suerumbaugh@gmail.com

5. Mr. William Konstant
Organization: Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation
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