

Curriculum Vitae

Itai Roffman, PhD



Personal details

Born: November 12, 1982

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Languages: Hebrew, English, French (partial)

Education

1986-1992: Elementary education, Rockville, Maryland, USA.

1992-2001: Elementary and High-school, Herzliya, Israel.

2002-2005: BA in Multidisciplinary Studies (History & Arts), Tel-Hai Academic College, Tel-Hai, Israel.

2006-2008: MA in physical/biological anthropology, Iowa State University, USA. Under the supervision of cognitive psychologist and linguist Dr. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, symbologist Prof. Lisa Fontaine and anthropologist Prof. Jill Pruett.

Thesis entitled: "Are bicultural bonobos able to recognize iconic representations and produce referential signs in human cultural terms?".

2009-2016: PhD in Evolutionary Anthropology, Haifa University, Israel. Under the supervision of evolutionist Prof. Eviatar Nevo and paleontologist/archeologist Prof. Avraham Ronen. Dissertation entitled: "Studying Suite of Early-Hominin Traits in *Pan*: Cultural and Behavioral Evidence in Support of their Reclassification as Early-Hominins".

Sep 2016 - 2017: Post-doctoral fellow, The Graduate Studies Authority; The International Center for Advanced Studies in Evolution, Haifa University, Israel.

Current Occupation

August 2018 - present: Lecturer and Researcher, Yezreel Valley College, Israel

<https://www.yvc.ac.il/en/>

Research

2006-2008: Language Competent Bonobo Iconography - MA thesis Research, The Great Ape Trust of Iowa, USA.

2009-2016: Studying Suite of early Hominin Traits in *Pan* - PhD thesis research, Haifa University, Haifa, Israel.

2010: Informational-exchange research, Wales Ape & Monkey Sanctuary, UK (May).

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

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

2013: Chimpanzee field research expedition, Parc National du Kouroufing et Wongo, Mali (June).

2014: Chimpanzee cultural research, Mt. Kouloubalonda, Mali, and National Zoo of Mali, Bamako (February-April).

2017: Chimpanzee protection contract signing by villages, Mt. Kouloubalonda, Mali, and rehabilitation of chimpanzees at the National Zoo of Mali, Bamako (March-May).

Appointments

2015: Reviewer in the Israel Journal of Ecology & Evolution

2017: Reviewer for the National Geographic Society research grant proposals

Lectures (partial list)

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

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

2010-2017: Multiple departmental lectures, including lectures in academic courses, at Haifa University and at other academic institutions in Israel and abroad.

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

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

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

2018: Seminar "Studying Suite of Early-Hominin Traits in *Pan*: Cultural and Behavioral Evidence in Support of *Pan*'s Reclassification as Early-Hominins". EEB Behavior Group, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Minnesota (February 23).

2018: Seminar Presentation "Gestural Communication and Pantomime in Great Apes (*Pan* genus)". Department of Comparative Literature, Cornell University (March 6).

2018: Mali chimpanzees as an extant model for early hominin evolution. The Center for Sustainability, Achva Academic College (May 21).

2018: Mali chimpanzees as an extant model for early hominin evolution. The Green Forum of the Yesh Atid party on World Environment Day, the Knesset, Jerusalem (June 5).

Media

2004-2017: multiple news reports and articles (internet, newspaper, radio, TV)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/13545371731/?fref=ts>

2018: <http://as.cornell.edu/news/ape-communication-explored-cornell-event>

National Service

2003-2005: Youth leadership and peace program in Rajar Village, northern Israel (Roots & Shoots, the Jane Goodall Institute).

2009-2010: Protecting farms from burglaries at Moshav Kerem Maharal and Yilelat Hatan farm, Mt. Carmel, northern Israel.

Honors and Awards (including Memberships in Professional Societies)

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).

2008: "Outstanding Youth Leadership" invitation 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", London, UK - 1st prize for scientific research poster presentation, awarded by Sir. David Attenborough (May 8-10).

2016: Adams Conference - 1st prize for scientific research poster presentation, awarded by the Adams Fellowship for Doctoral Students, the Israel National Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Jerusalem, Israel (January 19).

Research Grants

2016-2017: The Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Abu-Dhabi, UAE.

Project title: "Ensuring Survival of the Endangered Mali Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*): Development of Sustainable Strategies for their Coexistence with Humans" (USD 10,000).

2016-2017: Primate Conservation Inc., Rhode Island, USA. Action fund grant: "Ensuring Survival of the Endangered Mali Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*): Development of Sustainable Strategies for their Coexistence with Humans" (USD 2,500).

2018-2020: The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, Los Angeles, California, USA. Project title: "Mali Chimpanzee cultural diversity research and conservation; habitat and viability assessment" (USD 65,000; under the auspices of the Jane Goodall Institute).

2018-2019: The Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Abu-Dhabi, UAE.

Project title: "Ensuring Survival of the Endangered Mali Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*): Development of Sustainable Strategies for their Coexistence with Humans" (USD 12,500).

Fellowships

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

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

Board membership

2012-2013: Bonobo Hope Sanctuary (BHS) IACUC board member.

2012-present: Bonobo Hope Sanctuary (BHS) board of directors member.

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.

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 protolanguage in hominins. *Human Evolution* 30(3-4): 141-174.
6. **Roffman I** (2016). PhD Dissertation in Evolutionary Anthropology: "Studying Suite of Early-Hominin Traits in *Pan*: Cultural and Behavioral Evidence in Support of their Reclassification as Early-Hominins". The Graduate Studies Authority, University of Haifa, Israel.
7. Rumbaugh ES, **Roffman I**, Pugh E, Rumbaugh DM (2016). 16. Ethical methods of investigation with *Pan/Homo* bonobos and chimpanzees. In: Biocommunication: Sign-Mediated Interactions between Cells and Organisms. Eds.: J. Seckbach & R. Gordon. London, World Scientific Publishing: 449-572.
8. **Roffman I**, Panchevre M, Ronen A, and Nevo E (2016). Cultural and Physical Characterization of Near-Arid Savanna Chimpanzees in Mali. *Human Evolution* 31(4): 191-214.
9. **Roffman I**, Savage-Rumbaugh S, Ronen A, Fontaine L, Rubert-Pugh E, Nevo E, Chiarelli B. (2018, in press). *Pan* Survival in the 21st Century: Chimpanzee Cultural Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Emancipation Manifesto.
10. Savage-Rumbaugh S, **Roffman I**, Lingomo S, Rubert-Pugh E (2018). The Fully Conscious Ape *International Journal of Comparative Psychology*, Volume 31.
11. **Roffman I** et al. (2018, in preparation). Comparison of wear-patterns created on stone-tools used by bonobos with those of early hominins exhibited in the fossil record.
12. **Roffman I** et al. (2018, in preparation). A short report: an effective approach for the preservation of chimpanzee cultural diversity in Mali.

Other Noteworthy Activities and Skills

1. The Israeli coordinator of the "Roots & Shoots" humanitarian, environmental and educational programs for youth, the Jane Goodall Institute.
2. Founder, the Mali Chimpanzee Cultural Preservation, Rehabilitation and Heritage League.
3. Artist (visual arts).
4. Advisor on environmental protection, rehabilitation and sustainable development to the Green Forum of Yesh Atid party.

