

# MICHELLE YVONNE MERRILL, PH.D.

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## CURRENT PROJECTS:

Eco-literacy and organizational consulting at Emergent Systems ([www.emergentsystems.com](http://www.emergentsystems.com)), including developing “train-the-trainer” curricula and coordinating informational events for replication of the Digital Bridge Academy (a community college program for high-risk, out-of-school adults, [www.cabrillo.edu/academics/wdba/replication/](http://www.cabrillo.edu/academics/wdba/replication/)).

## EDUCATION:

**Ph.D. 2004, Biological Anthropology and Anatomy, Duke University, Durham, NC**

Dissertation Title: *Orangutan Cultures: Tool Use, Social Transmission and Population Differences*

**B.A. 1994, Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA**

College Honors and Honors in the Major

**A.A. 1991, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA** A.A. Degree with Honors

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

**Cabrillo College, Aptos CA**

CONSULTANT 2005, Advanced Digital Management: Sustainability and the Knowledge Economy

IN-CLASS TUTOR 1999, English as a Second Language

**Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA**

TEACHING ASSISTANT 1991, Nature Study and Conservation

TEACHING ASSISTANT 1988, Introduction to Interpersonal Psychology

**Duke University, Durham, NC**

INSTRUCTOR 1998, Introduction to Biological Anthropology

HEAD TEACHING ASSISTANT 1997-1998, Introduction to Biological Anthropology

TEACHING ASSISTANT 1995-1997, Introduction to Biological Anthropology, Human Evolution, Primate Field Biology

**Talent Identification Program, Duke University, Durham, NC** (7th - 10th grade Summer Science Program)

INSTRUCTOR 1997, Evolutionary Biology

TEACHING ASSISTANT 1997, Primate Biology

**University of California, Santa Cruz, CA**

TEACHING ASSISTANT 1998, Introduction to Physical Anthropology

WRITING TUTOR 1993- 1994, Earth: A Habitable Planet, Cultural Dimensions of Biodiversity, individual senior theses in the social sciences

## PRESENTATIONS, ACADEMIC TALKS & LECTURES:

**Plexus Summit on the Verge: Changing Lives, Organizations and Minds** 2005, Delray Beach, FL "Sim-Bio-Sys: Life as a Business Partner"

**CONTACT** 2005, Santa Clara, CA, "Sources of Inspiration and the Emergence of Sustainable Technologies"

**Leadership for Sustainability** 2004, Durango, CO, "Sim-Bio-Sys: Life as a Business Partner" (with Gary Merrill)

**Duke University, Biological Anthropology and Anatomy Seminar Series** 2004, Durham, NC, "The Quest for Orangutan Cultures"

**Central Coast Commercial Sustainability Network** 2003, Marina, CA, "Discoveries from *Bioneers*" (with G. Merrill)

**Sandhill Regional Psychology Conference** 2003, Fayetteville, NC, "Patterns of Social Learning and Cultural Variation in Orangutans"

**CONTACT** 2002, Santa Clara, CA, "Extraspecific Communication and Ape Intelligence"

**New College, Mythic Humanity Course** 2001, San Francisco, CA, "Origins of the Human Mind"

**CONTACT** 2001, Santa Clara, CA, "Great Apes and the Evolution of Culture"

**International Primatological Society** 2001, Adelaide, Australia, "Orangutan Cultures: Intraspecific Variation and Social Transmission Opportunities"

**Cabrillo College, Anthropology Department** 1999, Aptos, CA, "Primate Studies in the Field: Bonobos, Orangutans and Mosquitoes, Oh My!"

**American Association of Physical Anthropology** 1996, Durham, NC, "Functions of Vocalizations in Male and Female Wild Pygmy Chimpanzees"

**PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS:**

- van Schaik, C. P., M. Ancrenaz, G. Borgan, B. Galdikas, C.D. Knott, I. Singleton, A. Suzuki, S. Utami, M. Merrill. 2003. Orangutan cultures and the evolution of material culture. *Science* 299: 102-105.
- van Schaik, C.P., Deaner, R.O., Merrill, M.Y. 1999. The conditions for tool use in primates: implications for the evolution of material culture. *Journal of Human Evolution* 36(6): 719-741.

**OTHER PUBLISHED WORK:**

- Merrill, M.Y. 2005. When in Gombe... (book review of *The Cultured Chimpanzee: Reflections on Cultural Primatology*, McGrew, 2004). *American Scientist* 93(September-October 2005): 472.
- Merrill, M.Y. 2002. Investigating Orangutan Cultures. *Anthropology News* 43(7): 14.
- Merrill, M.Y. 2002. A report from the Orangutans Compared 2002 workshop. *AnthroQuest* 14(Fall '02): 10.
- White, F.J., Wood K.D. and Merrill M.Y. 1998. Comment on C. Stanford (1998) "The social behavior of chimpanzees and bonobos: Empirical evidence and shifting assumptions." *Current Anthropology* 39(4): 414-415.
- Merrill, M.Y. 1998. Investigating the Primate Intellect (book review of *Primate Cognition*, Tomasello and Call, 1997). *BioScience* 48(11): 954-956.
- Merrill, M.Y. 1998. Beautiful bonobos (book review of *Bonobo: The Forgotten Ape*, de Waal, 1997). *BioScience* 48(3): 45-48.
- Digby, L., Merrill, M.Y. and Davis, E.T. 1997. Infanticide by female mammals. Part I: Primates. (abstract) *American Journal of Primatology*, 42(2): 105.
- Merrill, M.Y. and White, F.J. 1996. Functions of vocalizations in male and female wild pygmy chimpanzees. (abstract) *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, Supplement 22: 166.

**WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION:**

- Leading to Sustainability: Exploring a West Coast/Pacific Rim Senior Executives Seminar** 2005, Santa Clara, CA (planning session to determine agenda and invitees for possible session of University of Cambridge's "Business & the Environment Programme" for corporate executives)
- Biologists at the Design Table** 2004, Palo Alto, CA (four-day workshop for biologists to learn about practicing "biomimicry" with author Janine Benyus and Dr. Dayna Baumeister)
- Central Coast Commercial Sustainability Network Workshops** 2003 – 2005, Marina, Elkhorn Slough and Santa Cruz, CA (member and regular participant in bi-monthly evening workshops)
- Presenting Data and Information** 2003, San Francisco, CA (one-day course on information design and presentations by Professor Edward Tufte)
- Duke University Workshop on Environmental Sustainability** 1997, Durham, NC (planning for improvements in operations and maintenance practices at Duke University)

**WILDLIFE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

- Orangutan Cultures Field Project**, Sumatra, Indonesia, February - August 1999, May-June 2000
- Conducted observational research on orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus abelii*) in their natural habitat, focusing on social interactions, tool use and other complex foraging behaviors.
  - Planned and implemented overseas expedition to remote forest locations.
  - Negotiated contracts and coordinated work with local assistants at two research sites.
  - Developed website with information on illegal logging at one research site.
- Lomako Forest Pygmy Chimpanzee Project**, Equateur, Zaire (now Congo), July - September 1996
- Conducted observational research on bonobos (pygmy chimpanzees, *Pan paniscus*) in their natural habitat, focusing on vocalizations and social interactions.
  - Planned and implemented overseas expedition to remote forest location.
  - Negotiated contracts and coordinated work with local assistants.
  - Provided basic medical care to local assistants and their families.
- Año Nuevo Wildlife Reserve**, north of Santa Cruz, CA, January - March 1994
- Censused and conducted behavioral observations on northern elephant seal (*Mirounga angustirostris*) population during the breeding season, including work with team to weigh, measure and tag elephant seal weanlings in the field.
  - Analyzed four years of research data on age, beach choice and maternal behavior.

**INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

**New College of California Self-Study for Re-Accreditation**, San Francisco, Nov. 2000-Sept. 2001

- Worked with New College's Self-Study Steering Committee to design an appropriate program of research in response to new standards from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
- Coordinated student research assistant work.
- Designed questionnaires and conducted interviews to gather information from students and faculty.
- Designed a web-based forum for response to newly proposed mission statement for the New College community.

**CAPTIVE ANIMAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

**Language Research Center**, Decatur, GA, July - August 1995

- Conducted and videotaped foraging study on captive bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) in large, outdoor enclosure.
- Analyzed videotape of free-ranging bonobos from Wamba, Zaire.
- Participated in behavioral training and care of non-enculturated captive bonobos for cognitive research.
- Participated in artificial language research testing and care of enculturated captive bonobos.

**Duke University Primate Center**, Durham, NC, February - April 1995

- Conducted study on activity budget and canopy usage of red ruffed lemur (*Varecia variegata rubra*) social groups in large, outdoor enclosure.

**VOLUNTEER SERVICE:**

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|-----------|---|
| 2004      | Canvassing and volunteer recruitment: Environmental Victory Project (LCV) Portland, OR  |
| 2003-2004 | Coordinator: Santa Cruz Bioneers discussion group ( <a href="http://www.baymoon.com/~scbioneers/">http://www.baymoon.com/~scbioneers/</a> )   |
| 2002-2004 | Webpage design and online petition coordinator for effort to halt "Ladia Galaska" road project in Gunung Leuser Ecosystem of northern Sumatra ( <a href="http://www.duke.edu/~mym1/ladia_galaska.htm">http://www.duke.edu/~mym1/ladia_galaska.htm</a> ) |
| 1997-1998 | Coordinator: Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiological Topics weekly BAA Department seminars   |
| 1996-1997 | Webpage design and maintenance for Friends of the Earth, <i>Duke/Triangle Initiative</i>  |
| 1995-1996 | Co-representative to Graduate and Professional Student Council for BAA Department   |
| 1991      | Coordinator: ECO-INFO Directory and Calendar, Contra Costa County   |

**GRANTS:**

**L.S.B. Leakey Foundation** (\$7505 for *Orangutan Cultures? Tool Use, Social Transmission and Population Differences, Indonesia*)

**National Science Foundation** (\$7508 for *DOCTORAL DISSERTATION IN PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: Orangutan Cultures? Tool Use, Social Transmission and Population Differences*)

**HONOR SOCIETIES AND AWARDS:**

- Duke University Center for Teaching and Learning Graduate Student Fellow 1997-1998
- Duke University Center for International Studies Graduate Award for International Research 1996
- National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship: Honorable Mention 1995
- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Member
- Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society Member

**WEB DESIGN & TUTORING:**

Course-related: **Introduction to Biological Anthropology**, Duke University, 1998

Commercial/personal: see portfolio at <http://www.baymoon.com/~spinneret>