



Living on the edge: Habitat-use and foraging decisions of the Buraiga chimpanzee community of Kibale National Park, Uganda

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Abstract: Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) are a large-bodied, highly adaptable great ape species, characterized by across and within population variation in habitat use, behavior, and feeding ecology. Populations face many threats across their range, including increasingly fragmented habitats. This often results in habitation of forest fragments or agricultural mosaics, which pose novel challenges and opportunities in these human-influenced landscapes. A robust literature derived from long-term chimpanzee field studies documents an array of site-specific strategies in forest settings or highly disturbed agricultural mosaics, yet few studies describe chimpanzees living along boundary zones of protected areas. The Buraiga chimpanzees, a previously understudied chimpanzee community, provides a unique opportunity to investigate these ecological dynamics along the boundary zone of Kibale National Park, Uganda. Living along the edge of the protected area and occupying landscapes with varying levels of human influence affects the chimpanzee home range, habitat use, and resource utilization. Documenting how great ape populations utilize increasingly anthropogenically influenced landscapes is important for facilitating long-term survival in the face of climate change, habitat fragmentation, and other ongoing threats.

Wednesday, April 1st | 2:00pm–3:15pm | Science Hall 126 & Zoom

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