

Sylvia K. Vitazkova

EDUCATION

- 2005 **Columbia University**, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, NYC, NY
Doctor of Philosophy: Department of Ecology, Evolution, & Environmental Biology.
Committee co-chairs: Dr. S.E. Wade (Cornell University) and Dr. M. Cords (Columbia University). Dissertation Title: “The effects of demography and ecology on the parasites of wild, black howler monkeys, *Alouatta pigra*, from Belize and southern Mexico.”
- 2003 **Columbia University**, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, NYC, NY
Advanced Certificate in Environmental Policy: Center for Environmental Research & Conservation
- 1995 **Cornell University**, College of Arts & Sciences, Ithaca, NY
Bachelor of Arts: Neurobiology & Animal Behavior, *cum laude*

ADMINISTRATIVE, RESEARCH, POLICY, AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- May 2006 **Graduate Program Coordinator**
-present *Division of Science and Math, Marine Science Center, VI-EPSCoR, University of Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI*
Leading the development and implementation of a new Master of Marine and Environmental Science program. Partnering with various stakeholders to support research and educational outreach in marine and environmental science.
- Sept. 2005 **Visiting Fellow**
-May 2006 *Parasitology Section, Animal Health Diagnostic Center, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY*
Continued training in veterinary parasitology. Mentor: Dr. S.E. Wade
- Jan. 2005 **Lecturer**
-May 2006 *Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY*
Taught “Fundamentals of Biology” laboratory (health professions majors); “Principles of Biology” laboratory (biology majors). Developed and taught “The Biology of Aging” (non-majors).
- Sept. 2002 **Field & Laboratory Researcher**
-Dec. 2004 *Field sites in Belize and Mexico and Parasitology Section, Animal Health Diagnostic Center, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY*
Designed and carried out doctoral-level research in ecological parasitology.
- Jan.-May 2001 **Policy Fellow**, Ms. Patricia Evers (CHR), Dr. Clara Cohen (BANR)
Christine Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources: Formed part of team that organized workshop on international agriculture and natural resources management.

Committee on Human Rights: Investigated cases of human rights abuse in Colombia. Drafted appeals letters. Attended Congressional briefings, met with legislative aides, and made presentation to Committee at Annual Meeting.

- Sept. 2000 **Field Researcher**
-Dec. 2000 *Estacion Cientifica Yasuni (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador)*
Napo Province, Ecuador
Field research on spider monkey self-medication, interrupted due to safety concerns.
- Sept. 1996 **Graduate Fellow**
-Aug. 2000 Columbia University, Department of Ecology, Evolution, & Environmental Biology
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, NYC, NY
Completed coursework, internships, pilot research, teaching assistantships, qualifying exams and literature review for doctoral degree and certificate in environmental policy.
- June-Aug. 1999 **Field Researcher**
Estacion Cientifica Yasuni (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador)
Napo Province, Ecuador
Conducted pilot project on spider monkey self-medication.
- Jan.-May 1999 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
Columbia University, New York, NY
Life Systems, M. Gompper, K. Giffith, P. Olsen, co-instructors
- Jan.-June 1998 **Laboratory Researcher**
Dept. of Biology, Barnard College, New York, NY
Co-developed and actualized project on self-medication in mice infected with malaria. Participated in IUCUC training course.
- Jan.-May 1998 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
Barnard College, New York, NY
Animal Behavior, J. Glendinning, instructor
- Jan.-July 1996 **Research Assistant**
Dr. Linda B. Buck, Dept. of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School, and Dept. of Genetics, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Boston, MA
Conducted research on mammalian olfactory system. Oversaw daily operation of laboratory.
- Dec. 1994 **Field Researcher**
-Jan. 1995 *La Boca de Nichare, Estado Bolívar, Venezuela*
Gathered data for undergraduate Honors Thesis on Ye'Kuana ethnozoology.
- Aug.-Dec. 1994 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant,**
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
The History of Evolution, W.B. Provine, instructor
- May 1993 **Undergraduate Field Research Assistant**
-Aug. 1993 *Antizana Mountain National Park & Cuyabeno Faunal Reserve, Ecuador*

Assisted research on red-backed hawks, caimans, parrots and limnology.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- In preparation **Vitazkova, S.K.** Parasitism in *Alouatta* sp.: Implications for Human-wildlife Interactions. In: Primate Parasite Ecology: The Dynamics and Study of Host-Parasite Relationships, Huffman, M.A. and Chapman, C.A. eds. (Cambridge University Press)
- Accepted **Vitazkova, S.K.** and Wade, S.E. The effects of ecology on the endoparasites of *Alouatta pigra*. *International Journal of Primatology*
- In press **Vitazkova, S.K.** and Wade, S.E. Parasites of free ranging black howler monkeys, *Alouatta pigra*, in Belize and Mexico. *American Journal of Primatology*
- Online publication Huffman, M.A. and **Vitazkova, S.K.** Primates, plants, and parasites: the evolution of animal self-medication and ethnomedicine. In: *Ethnopharmacology, from Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS)*, Developed under the Auspices of the UNESCO, Eolss Publishers, Oxford ,UK, [<http://www.eolss.net>]
- 2001 **Vitazkova, S. K.**, E. Long, A. Paul, and J. I. Glendinning.
Mice suppress malaria infection by sampling a “bitter” chemotherapy agent.
Animal Behaviour Vol. 61(5):887-894

REPORTS

- 2001 The human rights situation of scientists in Colombia
Presentation to Committee on Human Rights, National Academies, Washington, D.C.
- 1995 Ethnozoology of Ye’Kuana Indians in Venezuela
Honors Thesis, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

- May 2005 Ctr. for Environmental Research & Conservation, Columbia University, NYC, NY
Seminar: Demographic and Ecological Factors Affecting the Parasites or Free-Ranging Black Howler monkeys, *Alouatta pigra*, from Belize and Mexico
- Oct. 2001 Primates in Biomedical Research: Diseases & Pathology, Gottingen, Germany
Oral presentation: Chemoprophylaxis and self-medication in mammals
- Nov. 1999 International Conference on Ethnomedicine & Drug Discovery, Silver Springs, MD
Poster presentation: Zoopharmacognosy: Healing in the Animal Kingdom
- Nov. 1997 International Working Group on Sustainable Livelihoods, UNDP, Pearl River, NY
Rapporteur/Invited student participant
- Mar. 1997 Building Bridges with Traditional Knowledge, University of FL, Gainesville, FL
Poster presentation: Ye’Kuana Ethnozoology

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Jan. 2006 Workshop participant: “Listening Skills” and “Personal Strengths: Identifying and Applying Strengths For Success In Teaching and Learning”
Center for Learning and Teaching, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- May 2005 Workshop participant: “Creating Significant Learning Experiences”
Center for Teaching Excellence, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- 2003 Animal Behavior Society
2005 Society for Conservation Biology

AWARDS

- 2002 Dimitri N. Chorafas Foundation Award
1996-2004 Columbia University Faculty Fellowship in Natural Sciences
1997 National Science Foundation Pre-Doctoral Dissertation Grant Honorable Mention
1992-1995 Cornell Tradition Arthur “Cully” Bryant, ‘00 Named Fellow for public service

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- English Native speaker
Slovak Native speaker
Spanish Fluent speaking skills, competent writing skills
French Written and spoken comprehension

COMPUTER SKILLS

- Software Word, Excel, Power Point, EndNote, SPSS, SAS for Windows; WebCT
Hardware PC and Macintosh interfaces

OTHER

- 1998-2005 Yoga Instructor, *various studios in New York, NY, Boston, MA and Ithaca, NY*
1997-1998 Riding Instructor, *Claremont Riding Academy, New York, NY*
2002 Atma Vikasa Yoga Vigyana Mandira: Yoga Teacher Certification, Mysore, India
1996 Aerobic Fitness Association of America: Aerobic Instructor Certificate
1994 NAUI: Open, Advanced, Deep Sea, and Night Diver SCUBA certification
1994 Australian Surf Rescue Club: Bronze Medal Certification, Manly Beach, Australia