

CADELL NICHOLAS LAST
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EDUCATION

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL; BRUSSEL, BE. — 2014-PRESENT

Ph.D candidate and researcher at the Evolution, Complexity, and Cognition (ECCO) group at Global Brain Institute (GBI) focused on constructing a system-level model of human evolutionary processes, including an exploration and utilization of superorganism theory, life history theory, as well as the future of reproduction, culture, and consciousness in a cosmic context.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO; TORONTO, ON. — 2011-2013

Graduated from the University of Toronto M.Sc. Evolutionary Anthropology program. Specialized in understanding divergence in human and primate evolution. Field research focused on chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) ecology in Cameroon and ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*) behaviour among free-ranging populations. M.Sc. thesis focused on understanding the evolution of cathemerality.

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY; HAMILTON, ON. — 2007-2011 (DEANS HONOUR LIST)

Graduated with a combined B.A. (Hon.) degree in biological anthropology and history. Special interests included primate socio-ecology, primate conservation, human evolution and migration, contemporary human genetic variation, cultural construction of race and cross-disciplinary research on the history of biological anthropology. Undergraduate thesis focused on chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) ground nesting and the evolution of terrestrial behaviour in our hominid ancestors.

MOHAWK COLLEGE; HAMILTON, ON. — 2005-2007

Graduated with a General Arts and Science diploma. Completed study in a wide ranging and multidisciplinary program that included sociology, psychology, anthropology, biology, chemistry, philosophy, economics, history, among other subjects.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Last, C. 2014. Human Evolution, Life History Theory, and the End of Biological Reproduction. *Current Aging Science*. 7(1), DOI: 10.2174/1874609807666140521101610

Last, C. 2014. Global Brain and the Future of Human Society. *World Future Review*, 1-8. DOI: 10.1177/194675

Last, C., & Muh, B. 2013. Finding a Home: Effects of human presence on chimpanzee nest location in the Lebialem-Mone Forest Landscape, Southwest Region, Cameroon. *Folia Primatologica*, 84: 51-63.

Last, C. 2013. The 10,000 Year Explosion: How Civilization Accelerated Human Evolution (2009) by Gregory Cochran and Henry Harpending. *vis-a-vis: Explorations in Anthropology*, 12(1): 120-123.

WORKING PAPERS

Last, C. 2014. Human Metasystem Transition Theory (HMST). *GBI Working Paper*, 1-15. (submitted to *Journal of Evolution and Technology*).

Last, C. 2014. Epilogue II - Roadblocks to Singularity. submitted for: Goertzel, B. & Goertzel, T. (eds.). *The End of the Beginning: Life, Society, and Economy on the Brink of Singularity*.

IN PROGRESS

Last, C. & Kyriazis, M. 2014. A Survey of Transhumanist Perspectives on Radical Life Extension.

Last, C. 2014. The Future of Big History (presenting at: *International Big History Association*)

Last, C. 2014. Information-Energy Metasystem Model (presenting at: *American Society for Cybernetics*)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

EVOLUTION, COMPLEXITY, AND COGNITION GRANT — 2013

Awarded to fund travel and accommodation expenses while presenting at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (\$1,000)

ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP — 2012/2013

Awarded to fund a second year of MSc. research at the University of Toronto (\$15,000)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP — 2012

Awarded to fund proposed ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*) nocturnal behavioural research on St. Catherines Island (SCI) (\$1,500)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FELLOWSHIP GRANT — 2012

Awarded for conference participation and travel at CAPA 2011 and AAPA 2012 (\$880)

WILLIAM S. POLLITZER STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD — 2012

Awarded for essay prize on topic of identifying an important missing article in biological anthropology (\$500)

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES CONFERENCE GRANT — 2011

Awarded for podium presentation at CAPA 2011 in Montreal (\$150)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO GRADUATE FUNDING — 2011/2012

Awarded for acceptance into the M.A. anthropology program (\$15,000+tuition)

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE — 2011

Awarded as essay prize for undergraduate history thesis (\$50)

Essay: [Searching for Selection: How Charles Darwin's experience with Indigenous peoples helped shape his ideas about evolution by natural selection](#)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD (USRA) — 2011

Awarded to fund proposed primate research project in Cameroon, Africa (\$6,000)

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION STUDENT PROJECT GRANT — 2010

Awarded for poster presentation at CAPA 2010 in Saskatoon (\$900)

CAPA 2010 STUDENT TRAVEL BURSARY — 2010

Awarded for poster presentation at CAPA 2010 in Saskatoon (\$100)

THE LORNA AND DAVID SOMERS AWARD — 2010

Awarded for service to the McMaster community and academic leadership skills

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION STUDENT PROJECT GRANT — 2010

Awarded for primate volunteer field survey in Cameroon (\$1,500)

M.U.M.A. TRAVEL BURSARY — 2010

Awarded for primate volunteer field survey in Cameroon (\$500)

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

INT. BIG HISTORY ASSOCIATION (DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA) — AUGUST 2014

Presentation: The Future of Big History

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CYBERNETICS (GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY) — AUGUST 2014

Presentation: Information-Energy Metasystem Model

WORLD FUTURE SOCIETY — JULY 2014

Poster: Global Brain and the Future of Human Society

CYPRUS SYMPOSIUM 'PATHWAYS TO INDEFINITE LIFESPANS (UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA) — MAY 2014

Presented: Human Evolution, Life History Theory, and the End of Biological Reproduction

GLOBAL BRAIN LECTURE SERIES (VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL) — OCTOBER 2013

Presented: Pathway to the Global Brain: A Theory of Human Metasystem Transitions

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM — AUGUST 2012

Presented: Conserving our Closest Relatives and Rural Development in Africa

MEDUSA LECTURE SERIES (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO) — MARCH 2012

Presented: Chimpanzee Group Nest Site Size in Equatorial West Africa and Group Nest Site Size Variability in the Lebialem-Mone Forest Landscape

CAPA 2011 CONFERENCE (UNIVERSITE DE MONTREAL) — OCTOBER 2011

Presented: Effects of Human Predation on Chimpanzee Nest Construction in South-West Cameroon

MEDUSA LECTURE SERIES (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO) — OCTOBER 2011

Presented: Effects of Human Predation on Chimpanzee Nest Construction in South-West Cameroon

USRA RECEPTION 2011 (MCMASTER UNIVERSITY) — JUNE 2011

Presented: Introduction to USRA research in South-West Cameroon

CAPA 2010 CONFERENCE (UNIVERSITY OF SASKATOON) — OCTOBER 2010

Poster: Chimpanzee Ecology and the Bushmeat Trade in South-West Cameroon

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM (MCMASTER UNIVERSITY) — MARCH 2010

Presented: Critique of the Upper Paleolithic Language Hypothesis

UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY CONFERENCE (YORK UNIVERSITY) — JANUARY 2010

Presented: German-Jewish reaction to the Third Reich 1933-1938

FIELD WORK EXPERIENCE

ST. CATHERINES ISLAND; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA — JULY-AUGUST 2012

Conducted field research on free-ranging ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*) nocturnal behaviour on St. Catherines Island. Research included utilizing global positional system (GPS) collars and night vision goggles in order to track movements and record behaviour. Hypotheses related to how rank, seasonality, human presence, food availability, lunar luminosity, and mating affect nocturnal behaviour were tested. Research funding provided by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH).

LEBIALEM-MONE FOREST LANDSCAPE FIELD SURVEY; CAMEROON — JULY-AUGUST 2011

Conducted a primate research field survey with the Cameroonian NGO ERuDeF (The Environment and Rural Development Foundation). Field research was conducted in the Lebialem-Mone Forest Landscape in Cameroon, Africa. Research centered around primate socio-ecology, with a focus on the impact local human hunting has on chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) nest location and altitude. Research funding provided by McMaster University (Social Science USRA 2011).

LEBIALEM-MONE FOREST LANDSCAPE FIELD SURVEY; CAMEROON — JULY-AUGUST 2010

Participated in a five week great ape field survey in the Lebialem-Mone Forest Landscape in Cameroon, Africa. Maintained reserve, removed human-constructed primate traps, organized conservation classes and collected data on primate (*Pan troglodytes ellioti* and *Gorilla gorilla diehli*) nest sites (including information related to diet, tool usage, and ecology).

SCIENCE WRITING

PBS DIGITAL STUDIOS — MAY 2013-PRESENT

Science writer and creator of The Advanced Apes animated YouTube channel in collaboration with PBS Digital Studios (PBSDS). The first series (12 episode pilot) debuted in Fall 2013 and has included episodes on the history and future of science and humanity.

THE ADVANCED APES — FEBRUARY 2012-PRESENT

The Advanced Apes is a blog and channel dedicated to popularizing science research and education. Previous entries have been featured by websites like Scientific American Guest Blog, Richard Dawkins Foundation of Reason and Science, The People Project, Jane Goodall Institute of Canada, and American Humanist. The animated YouTube Channel can be found at youtube [dot] com / theadvancedapes. Website: theadvancedapes [dot] com. This blog is also hosted by Huffington Post.

For more see: cadelllast.com

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

FOUNDER, TREASURER, AND RESEARCH COORDINATOR FOR ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (ERUDEP) CANADA; TORONTO, ON. — OCTOBER 2011-DECEMBER 2012

Mission of ERuDeF Canada was to conduct inter-disciplinary research focused on great ape research and conservation, and rural development in Cameroon. We were also dedicated to understanding the human socio-cultural, economic, and environmental landscape of the region in order to help the lives of those people who share land and resources with the great apes of Cameroon.

LAB EXPERIENCE

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY LAB; HAMILTON, ON. — MARCH-JULY 2010

Volunteered as Physical Anthropology Lab Assistant. Helped organize and categorize the Anthropology department's human bone collection for various excavation sites.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO TEACHING ASSISTANT; TORONTO, ON. — JANUARY 2013-APRIL 2013

Teaching Assistant for two 30 student undergraduate courses (ANT101Y - Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology). Responsible for organizing weekly lab based tutorials covering human biological and cultural evolution. Also in charge of grading lab assignments and tests.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO TEACHING ASSISTANT; TORONTO, ON. — SEPTEMBER 2012-APRIL 2013

Teaching Assistant for two 30 student undergraduate courses (ANT333Y - Living Primate Adaptations). Responsible for marking lab assignments, essays, and tests.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO TEACHING ASSISTANT; TORONTO, ON. — SEPTEMBER 2011-APRIL 2012

Teaching Assistant for two 30 student undergraduate courses (ANT100Y - Introduction to Anthropology). Responsible for organizing weekly discussion and lab based tutorials covering all four major anthropological sub-fields (biological, cultural, archaeology, and linguistics). Moderator of online chatroom discussion and in charge of grading all essays and tests.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO WIT PROGRAM; TORONTO, ON. — SEPTEMBER 2011-APRIL 2012

Participating in Writing Instruction for TAs (WIT) program at the University of Toronto. Program is designed to enhance TAs roles and training and consequently lead to improvement in student learning and support for the development of core academic skills and competencies.

PRIVATE TUTOR; HAMILTON, ON. — DECEMBER 2010-APRIL 2011

Private Tutor for Grade 4 school student from Franklin Road Elementary. Tutoring sessions focused on improving math, reading, and study skills. Responsible for organizing hour long teaching sessions that included math work sheets, and reading, writing and comprehension assignments.

FRANKLIN ROAD ELEMENTARY VOLUNTEER; HAMILTON, ON. — SEPTEMBER 2010-JANUARY 2011

Elementary school teaching assistant (Grade 4). In charge of supervising and teaching two developmentally delayed children. Focused on improving reading, writing and comprehension skills. Organized class material, assisted in preparation work, and clean-up.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SECONDARY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER; HAMILTON, ON. — SEPTEMBER 2010-APRIL 2011

High school teaching assistant (Grade 10). Provided assistance to students who have writing, reading and comprehension difficulties. Organized and gave lectures related to the subject of 20th century Canadian History. Marked essays, tests, and various smaller work assignments. Responsibilities also included aiding students on final culminating assignments.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SECONDARY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER; HAMILTON, ON. — DECEMBER 2007-MAY 2008

High school teaching assistant (Grade 12). Provided assistance to students on essay preparation, improving study habits, presentation skills and their culminating projects. Organized and gave lectures related to the subjects of Anthropology, Sociology and Psychology. Marked essays, tests, final projects and various smaller work assignments.

EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE OF CANADA; TORONTO, ON. — AUGUST 2011-PRESENT

Volunteer for the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada helping organize and run events in Toronto. Also volunteered by helping with data management, fundraising, and social media.

AGSU MEDUSA COORDINATOR; TORONTO, ON. — SEPTEMBER 2011-AUGUST 2012

Volunteer as Anthropology Graduate Student Union (AGSU) Medusa Coordinator. Role of the Medusa Coordinator is to organize Lecture Series hosted by the AGSU for all anthropology graduate students.

HAMILTON HEALTH SCIENCES VOLUNTEER; HAMILTON, ON. — MAY 2011-MAY 2012

Volunteer in the Pediatrics ward at McMaster Children's Hospital. Responsible for ensuring all patients are safe, content and entertained. Conduct hourly check-ups on patients, socializing with children that need company or watching over infants who do not have a guardian present. Provide children with the opportunity to participate in games room activities. Activities include arts and crafts, puzzles, board games, reading, video games, movies and books. Also, responsible for bringing patients any entertainment activity to their room if requested.

HAMILTON OUT OF THE COLD SOUP KITCHEN; HAMILTON, ON. — JANUARY 2010-APRIL 2011

Soup kitchen worker in charge of food preparation and room set up (tables/chairs etc.). Served dinner, which included bread, soup, drinks and dessert. Assisted with garbage, recycling and room clean up after meals were served.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

INTERNATIONAL BIG HISTORY ASSOCIATION (IBHA) — 2014

WORLD FUTURE SOCIETY (WFS) — 2014

EVO-DEVO UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY — 2013, 2014

LIFEBOAT FOUNDATION ADMINISTRATION — 2013, 2014

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (CAPA) — 2010, 2011, 2012

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS (AAPA) — 2011, 2012

ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT UNION (AGSU) (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO) — 2011, 2012

PERSONAL WEBSITE

CADELLLAST.COM

Personal website with in-depth information about my academic career, science writing career, endorsements, personal interests, social media presence, and scientific perspective and philosophy.

REFERENCES

FRANCIS HEYLIGHEN, PH.D. — ASSOCIATE PROF. OF CYBERNETICS (VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL)
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JOYCE PARGA, PH.D. — ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO)
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TRACY PROWSE, PH.D. — ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY (MCMASTER UNIVERSITY)
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