

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute /D2/L4
Name	Sofia Bernstein

1. Country/location of visit
Koshima, Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan
2. Research project
Food Associate Calls and Audience Effects in Macaca Fuscata
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015.04.25 – 2015.05.02 (8 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Associate professor, Goro Hanya, Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
<p>Before coming to Japan I had a great interest in Japanese primatology. I read about the history of primatology in Japan and became aware of the studies in Koshima. I was very excited to get the opportunity to see this historic site I have read so much about. The first day we visited the site, I got some ideas for the type of study I wanted to conduct. I had read a study where researchers made platforms with novel food and hid them away from the group to see if the discoverer would act selfishly or make a food call to alert the rest of the group. The study set up was simple and I decided it was appropriate to try in Koshima given the limited amount of time we had to conduct a study.</p> <p>I did have a few concerns with the other student’s projects. It seemed as though they had complete freedom to do any type of study, and some of them I believe are not ethical and impose more stressors on the monkeys at Koshima. I greatly respect Japanese primatology and being at the birthplace of Japanese primatology I expected students to know the history of the place and act respectfully. However, a few studies seemed designed just out of curiosity, with no scientific merit. That worried me, and confused me on what the true purpose of this trip was. I assumed it was for students to visit this incredibly historic site and learn about the birthplace of primatology. However, we did not discuss any of the history about the site, and I don’t know if that is because students are already expected to know. Either way, I think a great improvement of this course would be to conduct it with respect for the history of the site and give a brief history lesson. I believe it is very important to know your history, and conduct yourself with respect for the researchers who have opened the doors for you and primatology in Japan.</p> <p>Overall, the trip was very informative for me, and being an older student, it was interesting to see how the M1 students were creative and eager to learn how to conduct a mock field study. I would like to say thank you to Dr. Hanya, Dr. Sha, and Takahashi-san and Suzumura-san for all of your help, guidance, and kindness during my stay. It was a great learning experience.</p>
6. Others

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Koshima Field Station



Koshima Island view from station



“Girls House” at Koshima Station



First view of Koshima beach



An adult female food calls during provisioning



Provisioning the group on the beach



The hutch on the island



Juvenile and food discovery experiment

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