

Darby Proctor, Ph.D.

Associate Professor | School of Psychology at Florida Tech

Melbourne, FL, US

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About

Dr. Darby Proctor's research focuses on decision-making in nonhuman primates in order to understand the evolutionary roots of human decision-making biases. She was instrumental in setting up a collaboration between Florida Tech and Brevard Zoo and conducts research with their animals, most notably spider monkeys. In addition to this line of research, Dr. Proctor is interested in pedagogy and increasing student involvement in the classroom. She created roachlab.org to provide hands-on animal experiences for undergraduate students at Florida Tech and beyond. Before coming to Florida Tech, Dr. Proctor was an National Institutes of Health-funded IRACDA Fellow in Research and Science Teaching (FIRST) at Emory University and Yerkes National Primate Research Center. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from Georgia State University, where she worked at the Language Research Center.

Areas of Expertise

Comparative Psychology, Animal Behavior, Nonhuman Primates, Behavioral Economics, Decision-Making, Primatology

Affiliations

Brevard Zoo : Research Scientist, Save the Chimps : Chimpanzee Wellbeing Advisory Committee, American Psychological Association Advisory Panel for PsycLearn : Member, Biology Letters : Editorial Board Member, Journal of Comparative Psychology : Consulting Editor, American Society of Primatologists Research Committee : Grant Reviewer, Animal Behavior and Cognition : Editorial Board Member, Frontiers in Psychology (Comparative Psychology) : Review Editor

Event Appearances

Roach lab: Using cockroaches to increase learning outcomes in undergraduate psychology
Conference for Academic Research in Education

Leveraging embedded undergraduate research to bolster research culture: A multi-pronged approach case study

Best Practices in Undergraduate Research, Florida Statewide Symposium

Risk-Taking as part of reputation formation among chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes)
International Primatological Society Congress XXVII

When cultures collide: Cultural transmission with alternating traditions in a newly formed group of captive chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes)
International Primatological Society Congress XXVI

Audience effects chimpanzee decision-making in the primate gambling task
International Conference on Comparative Cognition

Education

Georgia State University
Ph.D. Psychology - Cognitive Sciences and Animal Behavior

Georgia State University
M.S. Biological Anthropology

University of Florida
M.S.M. Management

University of Florida
B.A. Biological Anthropology

Accomplishments

Kerry Bruce Clark Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching
2021

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