

# Curriculum Vitae

## Annie Megan Santamaria

U-M ID 94199804

PhD in Biological Anthropology, Department of Anthropology

### Education

**MSc Evolutionary and Behavioural Ecology (Distinction) | University of Exeter** 2019 – 2020

**Thesis:** Do good mothers age faster? An evolutionary and life-history perspective on osteoporosis (72%).  
Relevant modules: Statistical Modelling (64%), Evolutionary and Behavioural Ecology (75%), Approaches to Evolutionary and Behavioural Ecology (67%), Art of Science (academic writing module, 64%).

**BSc Chemistry, Biotechnology, Zoology (First Class Exemplary) | St Joseph's College** 2015 – 2018

**Term Paper:** Antibiotic resistance of microbes found in tap water samples across Bangalore (85%).

**Research Project:** Kleptoparasitism: A spider-spider interaction (98%).

Relevant modules: Human Anatomy and Physiology (86%); Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, and Immunology (85%); Ecology, Wildlife & Animal Behaviour (80%); Genetic Engineering, Biophysics & Bioinformatics (69%); Kinetics, Metabolism and Applied Microbiology (79%); Inorganic Chemistry (83%); Biochemistry (80%); Histology and Genetics (85%); Developmental Biology and Evolution (71%); Industrial and Animal Biotechnology (75%); Biostatistics and Plant Biotechnology (86%).

Extra credit courses: Visual Communication, Psychology, Physics.

### Research Experience

**Junior Research Fellow | St. John's Research Institute** June 2021 – Present

Part of a research project that aims to generate evidence for decision-making on the potential non-inferiority of a lower dose of calcium (500mg) for pregnant women to prevent preeclampsia and preterm births. Also to collect adherence data on the WHO recommended 1500mg calcium supplement dosage and identify biomarkers for the onset of preeclampsia. In collaboration with Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, USA and the Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania; funded by the Gates Foundation.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Write and edit review papers (Mitigating the effects of a pandemic in clinical research on pregnant women) and research proposals (Effects of COVID-19 vaccine on pregnancy outcomes; PAPP-A and Vitamin D as biomarkers from preterm births).
- Preparing progress reports for government authorities (the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) and the Harvard team.
- Preparing blood samples for cryopreservation
- Collecting and interpreting data on nutrition intake and comorbidities.
- Working at the grassroots level with pregnant women and providing dietary/pregnancy counselling.

**Research Assistant | University of Exeter** Feb. 2020 – March 2020

Studied kleptoparasitism in wasps and aggression in termite societies as part of two large-scale social evolution research projects. Familiar with BORIS software to collect data and develop ethograms. Experience with experimental design and have developed meticulous data collection skills.

**Research Assistant | Asian Nature Conservation Network** May 2019 – July 2019

Collected field data on spider ecology as part of a large scale project studying the impacts of a man-made habitat on biodiversity. Developed research methods and structured data collection protocols.

**Research Assistant | Indian Institute of Science** August 2019

Systematically collected behavioural data as part of an evolutionary biology PhD research project on sexual fitness in *O. henrii*, performed laboratory experiments, and documented all findings and results with accuracy. Was able to take on different roles to support different aspects of the study and refine the data collection process.

**Editor & Science Writer | Gubbi Labs – Research Matters** Sept. 2017 – Aug 2019

- Worked collaboratively with a team of nearly 40 writers, translators, and editors to create, curate, and manage digital and print content.

- Developed innovative ways to communicate scientific research through social media handles, podcasts, illustrations, and infographics, leading to a 20% increase in viewership.
- Liaise with university media centers and researchers, coordinated content creation projects with external partners and organized a scientific workshop.
- Wrote news releases on complex research papers that required a rapid 24-hour turnaround.
- Published 26 articles in the fields of Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Evolution, Ecology and Biotechnology in digital and print media.

### Research Assistant | Goan Bird Conservation Network

May 2017

- Surveyed forest bird biodiversity and population size at the Cortigao Wildlife Sanctuary in collaboration with the Goan State Forestry Department.
- Surveyed urban bird populations in Panjim city by coordinating citizen science initiatives. The data was then used to inform government decision-making processes in urban development programs.

## Teaching Experience

### Volunteer | Diya Foundation

June 2017 – Present

- Developed teaching aids, taught life skills, and trade skills to adults with intellectual challenges.
- Taught software skills (Canva) and structured a lesson plan using a person-centric approach to teaching
- Raised awareness about intellectual disabilities through social media content creation and signposting.
- Helped fundraise by participating in fundraising events (raised approximately ₹2,00,000 = \$2,600).

### Student Staff Liaison Committee Representative | University of Exeter

Oct. 2019 – Nov.

2020

- Acted as a critical link between the University and the students by actively engaging with the course group to gauge opinions, ideas, and views.
- Successfully resolved 90% of all student issues without the involvement of higher management.

## Additional Volunteer Experience

### Vaccinator | St John Ambulance

Jan. 2021 – March 2021

Worked collaboratively with NHS doctors, nurses, and other trained staff in a clinical environment to ensure good practices through safe-guarding, the completion of vaccination documentation and compliance with strict regulations. Experienced with regulatory compliance law (Health and Safety legislature, COSHH and laboratory ethical guidelines).

### National Health Service Volunteer | Royal Volunteer Service

March 2020 – March 2021

Community responder supporting self-isolating individuals through check-in phone calls and by coordinating efforts to ensure necessities were sent to individuals evidencing active listening and communication skills.

### Organizer & Volunteer | Student Conference on Conservation Sciences (SCCS)

2017, 2018

Organized and coordinated events for an international student-led conference at the Indian Institute of Science, India.

## Honours and Awards .

- Awarded full tuition fee scholarship by British Council India 2019 to pursue an MSc at the University of Exeter (£23,400 = ₹23,77,250).
- Schools Commendation from the University of Exeter for contribution as Student Staff Liaison Committee Representative.
- Awarded overall first place in General English (₹1,000) and Additional English (₹1,000) for the batch of 2015-2018 at St. Joseph's College.
- Awarded second place for presenting a poster on BSc research project "Kleptoparasitism: A spider-spider interaction" at an international symposium.
- Inter college and district level football player during undergraduate and pre-university

## Referees:

**Dr Andrew Young**, Associate Professor, University of Exeter, [A.J.Young@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:A.J.Young@exeter.ac.uk)

**Dr Barbara Tschirren**, Senior Lecturer, University of Exeter, [B.Tschirren@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:B.Tschirren@exeter.ac.uk)

**Dr Pratibha Dwarkanath**, Associate Professor, St John's Research Institute, [pratibha@sjri.res.in](mailto:pratibha@sjri.res.in)