FIFTY YEARS OF PRIMATE RESEARCH AT GOMBE NATIONAL PARK, TANZANIA

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Fifty years ago, Jane Goodall began her studies of chimpanzees in the Gombe Stream Reserve, Tanzania, an area of rugged hills along the coast of Lake Tanganyika, near the eastern edge of the range of the Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii subspecies. This 35 square kilometer area was gazetted as Gombe National Park by the Tanzanian government in 1968 and has been well protected ever since. Through the efforts of Jane Goodall and the Jane Goodall Institute, the chimpanzees of the Kasekela community have been studied daily since 1964, and studies have more recently expanded to include all of the approximately 100 chimpanzees in the park, currently living in three communities. In addition, two troops of olive baboons and some of their daughter troops have been monitored continuously since 1967. This symposium will showcase studies that have been enabled by the long-term data that are available on these two species. Talks on chimpanzees will discuss the causes and consequences of intercommunity aggression; consequences of different dominance styles in alpha males; the influence of kinship as determined from genealogical and genetic data on social behavior; factors influencing patterns of sexual cycles; maternal behavior and stress, as measured from fecal hormones; and the impact of disease, past and present. Talks on baboons will address skeletal indicators of life history events as well as asynchrony in sexual cycles. The final talk will discuss conservation of the Gombe ecosystem.

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