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Abstract

Phyllis C Lee is Professor of Psychology at Stirling University, Scotland. She has conducted fieldwork on baboons, vervet monkeys and elephants for more than 20 years. Her research interests focus on physical growth, cognitive and social development; behavioural ecology and reproductive strategies; life history evolution; and biodiversity conservation.

Main Text

Phyllis C Lee is currently Professor of Psychology at Stirling University, Scotland. She joined Stirling in 2005 after spending many years as first Lecturer in Biological Anthropology (1990-2000), then as Reader in Behavioural Biology and Conservation and Dean of Downing College (2000-2005), at the University of Cambridge, UK.

Phyllis was born in California, and obtained her first degree in Human Biology from Stanford University, USA. Her interest in primates stems from childhood and was focused during work experience training squirrel monkeys with positive reinforcement techniques at the Stanford Hospital. This led to a life-long interest in individual differences in primates. Her first fieldwork was at Gombe, Tanzania, where she was part of the baboon mother-infant project. This ended prematurely when several students were kidnapped at Gombe, and Phyllis then spent a year in Ruaha National Park, Tanzania. This led to the offer of a PhD place in the Sub-Department of Animal Behaviour at Madingley, part of the Zoology Department at Cambridge, supervised by Robert Hinde. Phyllis joined Robert Seyfarth and Dorothy Cheney's vervet monkey project in Amboseli National Park, Kenya, to study sibships. Unfortunately, most of her sibling cohort died, from predation, starvation and disease, and Phyllis quickly learned the importance of demographic events in primate field studies.

At the end of her fieldwork with vervets, Phyllis was invited to join the Amboseli Elephant Research Project by Cynthia Moss, and has remained part of the project ever since. Her major research interests focus on physical growth, cognitive and social development in mammals; primate and mammalian behavioural ecology and reproductive strategies; mammalian life history evolution, longevity, ageing and demography; and biodiversity conservation, human-animal interaction and sustainable development, including the effects of gender and human attitudes on conservation success. She has published more than 65 journal articles, one book,

and five edited volumes including 'Comparative Primate Socioecology' (Lee 2001) and 'The Amboseli Elephants: a Long-Term Perspective on a Long-Lived Species' (Moss et al. 2011). She appears regularly in the media.

Phyllis has supervised more than 30 PhD students, a similar number of Masters students, and examined many others. Many of her students have gone on to pursue careers in primatology. Her many honours and awards include the Royal Anthropological Institute's W.M. Rivers Medal for contributions to field anthropology and the Primate Society of Great Britain's Osman Hill Memorial Medal for contributions to primatology (both awarded in 2014).

Phyllis has served primatology as President (1998-2002) of the Primate Society of Great Britain, a consulting member of the Species Survival Commission (IUCN) Primate Specialist Group, a member of the Conservation Working Party of the Primate Society of Great Britain, Consulting Editor of both *Folia Primatologica* and *Primates*, and as a member of the co-ordinating committee for the XXII International Primatological Society Congress (Edinburgh 2008).

References

- Lee, Phyllis C. 2001. *Comparative Primate Socioecology*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Moss, Cynthia J, Croze Harvey & Lee, Phyllis C. 2011. *The Amboseli Elephants: a Long-Term Perspective on a Long-Lived Species*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.