



University
of Victoria

GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Duan Wei Hou Research Project: Fieldwork with Tibetan Macaques



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11:30 am – 12:50 pm

Cornett Building, Room A225

Our international team of primatologists has studied one Tibetan macaque population at the Valley of the Wild Monkeys tourist site in Huangshan, China for more than 30 years. In the 1990s, park staff habituated the monkeys for tourism, and since then, they have lived in close human contact during the summer months, but with little human influence during the winter. Tibetan (and other) macaques live in female-philopatric, matrilineally-structured groups. Our team has recently explored Tibetan macaque affiliative behaviors such as grooming, “bridging,” and social movements. Our recent analysis of the population’s microbiome demonstrates how contact with humans, the local ecology, and patterns of affiliation influence the flora and fauna of the Tibetan macaque gut. We have also studied the influence tourism has on affiliative and other behaviors in this group, and we are currently working to mitigate negative impacts of inter-species interaction while improving educational outcomes for site visitors.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

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