

CURRICULUM VITAE

Yuting Gao, PhD Candidate

Department of Anthropology
University of Colorado Boulder
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EDUCATION

2021-2026 Ph.D. Biological Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder, US
2020 B.S., Anthropology, Sun Yat-sen University, China
2019 Study Abroad, University of California, Los Angeles, US

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dietary adaptation; Microbiome; Ancient DNA; Anatomy

PUBLICATION

In Review

Gao, Y., & SR. Leigh, Advancing Scientific-Collection Based Research with the Global Registry of Scientific Collections (GRSciColl), American Journal of Biological Anthropology

In Prep:

Gao, Y, Dietary and Aging Effects on Salivary Amylase Expression in Primates, Target journal: International Journal of Primatology

Gao et al. Dietary Signatures in Cercopithecoid Oral Microbiomes Diversity, Target journal: American Journal of Biological Anthropology

Conference Proceedings

Gao, Y., & Xia, Z. Y. (2022, April). Genetic insights into local adaptation of lipid metabolism in fishing-based populations in southern East Asia. In *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY* (Vol. 177, pp. 66-66). 111 RIVER ST, HOBOKEN 07030-5774, NJ USA: WILEY.

Gao, Y., & SR. Leigh. (2025, March). Microbes, Molars, and Meals: Interspecific Comparisons of Cercopithecoid Oral Microbiome. In *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY* (Vol. 186, pp. 57-57). 111 RIVER ST, HOBOKEN 07030-5774, NJ USA: WILEY.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS& AWARDS

2025 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Colorado Boulder
2025 Smithsonian Institution Predoctoral Fellowship (alternates)
2025 NSF DDRIG (rating: very good, good, excellent/very good)
Research Grants from University of Colorado Boulder (\$12650 Total):
2025, 2023 Museum of Natural History (\$3000)
2025 Graduate and Professional Student Government (\$500)
2025, 2024 Graduate School of the University of Colorado Boulder (\$4150)

July 2025 Update

2023	CARTSS (\$5000)
2024	Outstanding Graduate Student Poster Prize, Rocky Mountain Biological Anthropologist Association (\$200)
2022	Frances Leon Quintana Scholarship, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder (\$1000)
2016-2019	Dean's Award for Academic Excellence, 3 years, Sun Yat-sen University

CONFERENCE

Oral Presentation

2025	Gao, Y. , SR. Leigh, Microbes, Molars, and Meals: Interspecific Comparisons of Oral Microbiomes in African and Eurasian monkeys (<i>Cercopithecoidea</i>), 94th annual meeting of AABA, March, 2025, Baltimore, MD, US
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Poster Presentation

American Association of Biological Anthropology

2023	SR. Leigh, JM. Thomas, Gao, Y. , <i>Calibrating Primate Body Mass Growth Spurts</i> , 92nd annual meeting of AABA, Reno, NV, US
2022	Gao, Y. , Z.Xia, <i>Genetic insights into local adaptation of lipid metabolism in fishing-based populations in southern East Asia</i> , 91 st annual meeting of AABA, Denver, CO, US

Society for Molecular Biology & Evolution

2023	Gao, Y. , <i>Beyond genetics: the influence of diet on primate salivary amylase expression</i> , SMBE 2023, Ferrara, Italy
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Rocky Mountain Biological Anthropologist Association

2024	Gao, Y. , SR. Leigh, <i>Diet Shapes the Oral Microbiome Diversity in Old World Monkeys</i> , 3rd annual meeting of RMBAA, Denver, CO, US
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CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS

2025	Studio Lab End of Year Undergraduate Research Symposium.
2023	<i>Beyond genetics, the influence of diet on primate salivary amylase expression</i> . Poster presented at the Department of Anthropology Annual Research Symposium, University of Colorado Boulder.
2022	Guest lecture in ANTH 2020 Human variation and adaptation, “ <i>Contemporary genetics</i> ”, University of Colorado Boulder

TEACHING

Lab Instructor

ANTH 2030 Lab for Introduction to biological anthropology

2023 Fall, 2024 Fall. Responsible for teaching 2 sections of labs about human skeletons and primate evolution. Each section has ~ 16 students and lasts for 2 hours.

ANTH 2040 Lab in Human variation

2025 Spring, 2024 Spring, 2021 Spring. Responsible for teaching 2 sections of labs about genetics in human evolution. Each section has ~ 16 students and lasts for 2 hours.

Grader

July 2025 Update

ANTH 2010 Introduction to biological anthropology

2021Fall, 2022Fall. Responsible for grading for about ~160 students; Create weekly quiz.

ANTH 2020 Human variation and adaptation

2022 Spring. Responsible for grading for about ~60 students.

MENTORSHIP

2025	Research mentor in Studio Lab (university's program to involve undergraduates in research). Mentor three undergraduates in bioinformatics for genomics research. Meet once a week.
2023	Mentor in Graduate School program for new graduate students. Meet once a month.
2022	Mentor in International Student and Scholar Services for international graduate students. Meet once a month.

SERVICE

2025	Volunteer facilitator, Denver Museum of Natural Science
2022	Treasurer, Anthropology Graduate Student Association, CU Boulder
2021	Volunteer, Open Space and Mountain Parks, City of Boulder

FIELDWORK

2018	Archaeology fieldwork in southwest China, Yunnan, Kunming Determined the age of death of infants by implementing geometric morphometrics to >100 bone remains (age < 3).
2017	medical anthropology fieldwork in Southwest China, Yunnan, Lincang Herbal medicine

LANGUAGE

Chinese (Native Fluent); English (Work Fluent)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Dissertation: investigate phylogeny, diet and anatomy of the primate oral microbiome using dental calculus samples from museum specimens.
- Collaboration: study diet and Tuberculosis pathogen with human dental calculus samples from a 19-20th century religious burial in Colorado.
- Training: analyze primate gut microbiome with 16s rRNA sequencing and bioinformatics. Northwestern University with Dr. Katherine Amato in 2022 summer.