

# Zoë Tierra Rossman

University of New Mexico  
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## Education

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*University of New Mexico* August 2019-present  
Doctor of Philosophy in Biology  
Advisor: Dr. Felisa Smith  
Anticipated graduation: Fall 2024

*University of California, Davis* 2013-2017  
Bachelor of Science with High Honors  
Evolution, Ecology, and Biodiversity

## Research Experience

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Research Assistant: UNM Center for Stable Isotopes Spring 2020  
Analyzed samples submitted to the UNM CSI for bulk stable isotope analysis, and correcting output data to send back to researchers

Researcher: UC Davis Dept. of Population Health & Reproduction 2015-2019  
Designed and conducted studies on yawning behavior and interspecific and intraspecific contagious yawning behavior in a group of captive African elephants. Designed and conducted a study on elephant-initiated interactions with humans.

Field Assistant: African Elephant Research Unit 2017  
Assisted in observations of self-directed behaviors and collection of saliva samples for cortisol analysis from a group of captive African elephants.

Student Researcher: UC Davis Dept. of Wildlife, Fish, & Conservation Biol. 2014-2015  
Examined the evolutionary origins of panda coloration. Scored the coloration patterns of over 200 terrestrial carnivores and collected information on independent variables using NASA TERRA/MODIS and IUCN data on QGIS.

Student Researcher: UC Davis Dept. of Wildlife, Fish, & Conservation Biol. 2013-2014  
Used Google Earth and GE Grids to map Eastern Africa for anthropogenic land conversion to determine prospective wildlife corridors.

## Teaching Experience

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Guest Lecturer: UNM BIOL 303 (Ecology & Evolution) – “Ecosystem Processes” March 3, 2020  
Lectured for two upper-division ecology and evolution sections on ecosystem processes.

Teaching Assistant: UNM BIOL 304 (Plant and Animal Form & Function) Fall 2019  
Taught two upper-division lab sections on plant and animal physiology. Lectured and oversaw a variety of lab activities weekly. Taught skills such as graphing and statistical analyses using Microsoft Excel.

## Publications

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Rossman ZT, Padfield C, Young D, Hart BL, and Hart LA (2020). Contagious yawning in African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*): Responses to Other Elephants and Familiar Humans. *Front. Vet. Sci.* 7:252. doi: [10.3389/fvets.2020.00252](https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2020.00252).

**Rossman ZT**, Padfield C, Young D, and Hart LA (2017). Elephant-Initiated Interactions with Humans: Individual Differences and Specific Preferences in Captive African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*). *Front. Vet. Sci.* 4:60. doi: [10.3389/fvets.2017.00060](https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2017.00060).

**Rossman ZT**, Hart B, Greco B, Young D, Padfield C, Weidner L, Gates J, and Hart LA (2017). When Yawning Occurs in Elephants. *Front. Vet. Sci.* 4:22. doi: [10.3389/fvets.2017.00022](https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2017.00022).

Caro T, Walker H, **Rossman Z**, Hendrix M, and Stankowich T (2017). Why is the giant panda black and white?. *Behav. Ecol.* arx008. doi: [10.1093/beheco/ax008](https://doi.org/10.1093/beheco/ax008)

Jacobson A, Dhanota J, Godfrey J, Jacobson H, **Rossman Z**, Stanish A, Walker H, and Riggio J (2015). A novel approach to mapping land conversion: an application to East Africa. *Environmental Modelling & Software* 72:1-9. doi: [10.1016/j.envsoft.2015.06.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsoft.2015.06.011)

## Presentations

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**Rossman ZT**, Gehrt S, Newsome SD. "Niche partitioning and individual diet specialization in a community of urban carnivores." UNM Center for Stable Isotopes Virtual Brown Bag Seminar Series, October 19, 2020 (oral presentation).

**Rossman ZT**. "When yawning occurs in elephants." Presented at the UC Davis Undergraduate Research Conference, April 29, 2017 (oral presentation).

**Rossman ZT**. "Elephant-initiated interactions with humans: individual differences and specific preferences." Presented at the UC Davis Undergraduate Research Conference, April 9, 2016 (oral presentation) and at the UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Undergraduate Research Symposium, April 15, 2016 (oral presentation).

## Science Communication

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Anthropo Scene Podcast: "[Coyote Not So Ugly](#)." July 7, 2021

Sips With Scientists (Sonoran Desert Museum): "[Incredible Coyotes!](#)" March 3, 2021

Curiosity Daily Podcast: "[Lockdown Is Changing Our Perception of Time, a Devastating Meteor that Never Landed, and Elephants Can Catch Yawns from Humans](#)." June 22, 2020

## Fellowships & Grants

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National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship: **\$138,000** 2019-2024  
Initial proposal on hyena socioecology funded prior to accepting UNM's offer; funds will be used at UNM for 3 years from Fall 2020-Fall 2023 to study urban coyote ecology and behavior

Joseph Gaudin Scholarship (UNM): **\$3,000** 2021

GRAC Research Award (UNM): **\$400** 2021

American Society of Mammalogists Grants-in-Aid of Research: **\$1,500** 2020

Joseph Gaudin Scholarship (UNM): **\$2,500** 2020

GRAC Research Award (UNM): **\$500** 2020

GRAC Travel Award (UNM): **\$300** 2020

Provost's Undergraduate Fellowship (UC Davis): **\$1,800** 2016

## Honors & Awards

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Evolution & Ecology Departmental Citation (UC Davis)	2017
Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research Honorable Mention (UC Davis)	2017