



Dr. Roman M. Wittig

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Research Assistant (RA) for the Tai Chimpanzee Project (TCP)

We are seeking Research Assistants (RAs) to come work with us at the Tai Chimpanzee Project (TCP, www.taichimpproject.org) in Côte d'Ivoire. TCP is a long-term field site located in the Tai National Park (TNP, Côte d'Ivoire) dedicated to research on the life-history, behavior, cognition, and health of wild chimpanzees as well as the protection of chimpanzees and sympatric wildlife.

The RA responsibilities include full day follows of **habituated chimpanzees in their natural habitat**, the collection of behavioral, acoustic, and/or video data, the monitoring of group demography and health, as well as biological sample collection. The position might also include other types of data collection related to chimpanzee behavior and habitat characteristics, such as phenology or camera trap data. In addition, RAs will participate in data cleaning and organizing and will be responsible for camp hygiene and organization. The RAs will be part of a team of researchers and local field assistants and will be supervised by the TCP project manager on site and remotely by a team of experts. The strong and diverse scientific and managerial skillset gained in this position has served as a springboard for many PhD students in primatology.

The RA should have a **Bachelor** or **Master** in Biology, Psychology or Anthropology with a strong interest in behavioral ecology / animal behavior / conservation. Previous field experience and practical knowledge of behavioral data collection is an advantage.

The living conditions in the field site are very basic and phone or internet connection is unreliable. Our camps are located in the remote Tai Forest, a National Park which hosts an incredible biodiversity of wildlife (e.g., leopards, elephants, pigmy hippos, pangolins, and multiple primate species) and therefore a **respectful behavior** towards nature and the staff is expected. That includes a respectful attitude towards local traditions and culture, open communication among staff members, and avoidance of excessive drinking behavior or loud music. Working with the chimpanzees is physically demanding, so excellent physical and psychological conditions are necessary. The RA is required to have understanding of **English AND French**, and needs to be able to work independently in the forest after a training period.

We offer training both in our lab and in the field. The initial training includes 1 week (depending on existing knowledge and experience) guidance by experts from the Ape Social Mind Lab at the ISC in Lyon, France. Afterwards we expect a minimum tenure of 8 months in the TNP, where the RA will be trained by international and local staff. The RA receives free accommodation and a small stipend (300 €) that should cover all living expenses, insurances, working clothes, etc. After the successful tenure we reimburse the international flights from Europe to Abidjan and back as well as the visa costs (to a max of 1000 €).



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This project involves a cooperation of the Institute for Cognitive Sciences (CNRS UMR 5229) in Lyon (FRA), the Helmholtz Institute for One Health in Greifswald (GER), the German Primate Center (DPZ) in Göttingen (GER) and the Evolution of Brain Connectivity Project at the Max Planck Institute EVA in Leipzig (GER).

Please apply by sending a motivation letter, a CV (including your experience with behavioral data collection), and two references to taichimpanzeeproject@gmail.com and state “RA TCP 2024” in the subject line.

We will start evaluating the applications on March 1, 2023 and continue until the position is filled. The start date of the appointment will be as soon as possible.



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