

# Kathy West, MS

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Wildlife Conservation Photographer

Founder and Director, "Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation" 501(c)3

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## Education

MS 1980 – 1981 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Graduate Group in Ecology, Field Primatology (Ketambe, Gunung Leuser, Sumatra); Thesis "Ecology, Communication and Behavior of Siamang Apes in Sumatra (*Symphalangus syndactylus*)", IUCN Status: Endangered

BS 1975 – 1978 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Major: Zoology, Animal Behavior

## Relevant Awards and Recognition

- 2023 Photographic image honored in Showcase 2023 Top 100, North American Nature Photography Assoc.
- 2023 Anniversary Winner and [Featured Photographer](#) for Bevisgear, March 2023
- 2022 Photography image honored in Showcase 2022 Top 250, North American Nature Photography Assoc.
- 2022 Golden State Art's [Artist Spotlight](#), November 2022
- 2021 Photographic image semi-finalist, Mkapa African Wildlife, Nature's Best Photography Int'l Competition
- 2021 Photographic images (2) honored in Showcase 2021 Top 250, North American Nature Photography Assoc.
- 2020 Photographic image semi-finalist, Nature's Best Photography International Competition
- 2020 Photographic image (1) honored in Showcase 2020 Top 250, North American Nature Photography Assoc.
- 2019 Recipient of Kyes Award for Excellence in Outreach, for Significant Contributions to Primatology Outreach, American Society of Primatologists. "Awarded to recognize a long history of excellence in primatology outreach, using best practices, creativity, and cultural sensitivity while demonstrating meaningful impact".
- 2018 American Society of Primatologists Conservation Grant – "Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation"
- 2017 Photographic image semi-finalist, Nature's Best Photography International Competition

## Relevant Experience

### CONSERVATION PHOTOGRAPHER AND OUTREACH SPECIALIST

- 2023 Conservation outreach journal article, first author: "An overdue catalyst: Limitations imposed by COVID-19 improved capacity building in community-led environmental education in Madagascar" West, et al. American Journal of Primatology, Vol 85, Special Issue: New Ideas in Conservation Education. May 2023
- 2023 Developed teaching materials, directed and funded 3 session of Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation (PICC) in Panama (Azuerio peninsula) in collaboration with local PICC team
- 2022 Developed teaching materials, directed and funded 3 sessions of Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation (PICC) in [Uganda](#), in collaboration with PICC partners [Rafiki](#) and [BACHO](#)
- 2022 Authored, illustrated and published "[Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Mountain Gorillas](#)"; with gorilla natural history and conservation issues, with Rukiga translations
- 2022 Invited Speaker, Biology and Art Departments, Notre Dame of Maryland University. May 5, 2022. "Long and Winding Trails Intertwined: Science and Art as One"
- 2022 Developed teaching materials, directed and funded session of Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation (PICC) in [Panama](#) (Azuerio peninsula) in collaboration with local PICC team.
- 2022 Designed and authored new [webpage](#) to reflect expansion of nonprofit, Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation
- 2021 Invited speaker, American Society of Primatologists Annual Conference, Nov 2021 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: Special session in education outreach.

- 2021 Authored, illustrated and published "[Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Azuero, Panama](#)"; primate natural history and conservation issues, focused on 3 endangered primate species, with Spanish translations
- 2020–23 Developed teaching materials, directed and funded 7 sessions of Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation (PICC) (from US) in NE Madagascar, 2020–2022 in collaboration with Malagasy PICC Team member, [Pascal Elison](#)
- 2020 Authored, illustrated and published "[Book Two: Lemur Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Masoala NP](#)"; with natural history, lemur conservation issues, and translations customized for NE Madagascar. Co-author Pascal Elison, Malagasy guide and PICC Team member
- 2019 Poster presented at American Society of Primatologists Conference, Aug 2019 Madison, WI; "[Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation \(PICC\): A Primate Extinction Crisis Outreach Project](#)"
- 2018–19 PICC project progress summary: submitted 4 grant applications, produced introduction videos (with Dr. Jaclyn Aliperti), established Malagasy team members for Masoala Session ([Our Team](#))
- 2019 Invited talks – Photography Club of Davis (6/2019), Woodland Camera Forum (3/2019), Rotary Club of Davis (9/2019). Presented select photographs from international sites, with information for each species on IUCN status and conservation issues. Introduced audiences to PICC program and conservation actions.
- 2018 Designed, illustrated, co-wrote and published hard copy and pdf of "[Book One: Lemur Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Berenty](#)", in English and Malagasy. Provided 500 books to co-author Dr. Amber Walker-Bolton for Madagascar school programs, conservation clubs and with international primate researchers. Book is open-source online and through social media ([link to PDF](#))
- 2018 Conducted PICC program with children in Suriname as part of US Fulbright "[Suriname Forest Fragments Project](#)", in collaboration with Dr. Marilyn Norconk. ([PICC in Suriname](#))
- 2016–17 Founded "[Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation](#)" (PICC) program, curriculum, website and materials (<https://photographyinspiringconservation.org>)

#### PHOTOGRAPHS APPEARING ON JOURNAL COVERS

- American J of Primatology, Sep 2019, Vol 81 Issue 9
- J of Virology, August 2018, V92
- J Nature, Lab Animal, June 2017, Vol 46
- J of Hormones and Behavior, Nov 2016, Vol 86
- American J of Primatology, Mar 2016, Vol 78
- Science: Translational Medicine, Sept 2014
- NY Times, cover photo for lead story, Science section, November 6, 2014
- American J of Primatology, Oct 2012, Vol 74
- J of Medical Primatology, April 2009, Vol 38

#### SENIOR OFFICER: COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH AND PHOTOGRAPHY, 2000 – 2016

California National Primate Research Center, University of California, Davis, California

*Program Founder, Director and Educator, K–12 Education Outreach Program, 2003 – 2016*

*Principal Photographer, Scientific Illustrator, and Graphic Artist, 2000 – 2016*

*Chair, Founder, NIH Nonhuman Primate Consortium Outreach Working Group, National Primate Research Centers / NIH Office of the Director, 2011 – 2016*

*Senior Officer, Media Relations and Social Media, 2010 – 2016*

*Webmaster, Designer, and Content Editor, CNPRC.ucdavis.edu, 2009 – 2016*

*Editor, Science Writer, and Production Manager, Biannual public newsletter, 2007 – 2016*

*Program Representative: Marketing and Promotion, 2006 – 2016*

#### FREELANCE SCIENTIFIC, NATURAL SCIENCE AND MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR, 1984 – PRESENT

I provide accurate and engaging scientific, natural science, and medical illustrations for a broad range of research and conservation projects from molecular to ecosystem level. Clients in government, NGOs, conservation organizations, academic institutions, private commissions.

#### SELECT JOURNAL AND NEWS ILLUSTRATIONS

- Illustrations for Academic Monograph "[Hummingbird \(Family Trochilidae\) Research: Welfare-conscious Study Techniques for Live Hummingbirds and Processing of Hummingbird Specimens](#)". Tell et al. Special Publ, Museum of Texas Tech Univ., No. 76, 19 Jan 2021

- Illustrations and graphics for *"Primate Socioecology: Back to the Basics"* by L. Isbell, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Publ 2023
- Illustrations for *"Behavioral responses around conspecific corpses in adult eastern gorillas (Gorilla beringei spp.)"*. Porter et al. PeerJ, Apr '19, <https://peerj.com/articles/6655/>
- Illustrations for *"Use of RFID technology to characterize feeder visitations and contact network of hummingbirds in urban habitats"*. Bandivadekar, et al. PLoS Dec 12, 2018
- Illustration for UCD Medical School, Sept 3, 2014 news release: *"Breast-fed and Bottle-fed Infant Rhesus Macaques Develop Distinct Gut Microbiotas and Immune Systems"*, Ardeshir et al. Science Translational Medicine, Sep 2014:Vol. 6, Issue 252.
- Illustration for *"Abnormal Early Cleavage Events Predict Early Embryo Demise: Sperm Oxidative Stress and Early Abnormal Cleavage"*. Burrue et al. Figure 1, Nature, 2014
- Illustrations for H1N1 bird flu prevention educational materials (Senegal) for DAI and UC Davis; *"Stamping Out Pandemic and Avian Influenza (STOP AI)"*. Used cultural understanding of lifestyles and activities to produce educational materials to inform a non-literate population in disease prevention. 2007–2008

## Conservation Work and Image Services

May 2023	Donated images of nonhuman primates to American Society of Primatologists (ASP) Board of Directors
Feb 2023	Donated images of nonhuman primates to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for SSC Primate Specialist Group special report
Aug 2020	Donated 150 images of nonhuman primates to ASP – Conservation Action Network
Jul 2020	Donated set of photographs from Madagascar to SEED Madagascar conservation program
Nov 2019	Donated image to C. Borgerson for J. Madagascar Conservation and Development online publ., V.14, No.1
Aug 2019	Donated copies of <i>"Book One: Lemur Conservation Coloring Books: Berenty (West and Walker-Bolton)"</i> to conservation researchers at American Society of Primatologists conference
2017, '18, '19, '21, '23	Donated photography prints and merchandise to American Society of Primatologists conservation auctions. Over \$1,500 raised for conservation programs
May 2019	Founding member of #Primatweeps, an outreach Twitter group for engaging public audiences in primatology and conservation. Provided large set of photographs for unlimited use
2017–23	Provided content and images for @PICCmadagascar (primate conservation) Twitter, FB and Instagram accounts
Jul 2019	Donated photography art to Dr. Brett Frye for journal publication / cover of AJP
Feb 2019	Donated photograph to American Psychological Association for Congressional briefing and visits poster, and leave-behind information materials
Jan 2019	Developed coloring book pages for Dr. C. Borgerson (National Geographic report publ); alternative food sources for conservation in the Masoala NP, translated to local dialect (part of <i>Book Two: Lemur Conservation Coloring and Activity Book, West and Elison</i> )
Oct 2018	Donated photographs and photography services in Suriname; Xenarthra Rehabilitation Center and Sanctuary, Monique Pool, Director, Green Heritage Fund Suriname, Member IUCN/SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Spec. Gp & IUCN/ SSC Sirenia Spec. Gp
Sep 2018	Donated photographs to Marine Mammal Center, Sausalito, CA for use in outreach and education
Apr 2018	Provided at request, hardcopies of <i>"Book One: Lemur Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Berenty"</i> to Lemur Conservation Network
Mar 2018	Designed and created graphics for Dr. Amy Porter, Dian Fossey Foundation journal publication (in-kind donation), PeerJ, Apr '19, <a href="https://peerj.com/articles/6655/">https://peerj.com/articles/6655/</a>
Mar 2018	Donated lemur images for online use to Lemur Conservation Network and American Soc. of Primatologists
Jan 2018	Donated illustrations, layout, design, text and publishing for <i>"Book One: Lemur Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Berenty, West and Walker-Bolton"</i> ; 44 pp., in English and local Malagasy dialect
Apr 2017	Volunteer photography services, Workshop for Women Biol. Anthropologists, Santa Clara Univ., Calif
Mar 2017	Donated graphics and illustration skills to University of California, Davis, hummingbird conservation and education program materials
Feb 2017	Provided requested photos from Cambodia to bat research specialist, Dr. Neil Furrey, Centre for Biodiversity Conservation, Royal University of Phnom Penh

Jan 2017	Provided photography services to UC Davis PREDICT Program (Phase II, rural Cambodia). Documented program activities, local PREDICT scientists and residents, scientific techniques
Sept 2016	Provided photographs at request to Dr. Katie Hinde for TEDWomen 2016
Aug 2016	Donated photography art prints to American Society of Primatologists and International Primatological Society joint conservation auction. Raised over \$600 for conservation funds.
Nov 2014	Provided bat photos and video (taken at Tiputini Biodiversity Station) to Ecuadorian bat biologist, Dr. Jaime Guerra, University de San Francisco, Quito

## Organization Memberships

- North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA), since 2019
- International Primatological Society, since 2016
- American Society of Primatologists (member since 2010); contributing member to: ASP Education Committee (2010–); ASP Conservation Committee (2019–); ASP – Conservation Action Network (2019–); ASP Media and Public Engagement Committee (2016–2019)
- Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, since 1984

## References

- Dr. Cortni Borgerson, National Geographic Explorer, Board Member of IUCN Primate Specialist Group and NGO MAHERY, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Montclair State University, [cortniborgerson@gmail.com](mailto:cortniborgerson@gmail.com)
- Dr. Harry Greene, Professor Emeritus; Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow; Faculty Curator of Herpetology, Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates; [harry.greene@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:harry.greene@austin.utexas.edu)
- Dr. Amanda Dettmer, Associate Research Scientist, Child Study Center & Department of Pediatrics Yale School of Medicine; [adettmer@gmail.com](mailto:adettmer@gmail.com)
- Dr. Katie Hinde, Professor of Evolutionary Biology and Senior Sustainability Scientist at Arizona State University; [katiehinde@gmail.com](mailto:katiehinde@gmail.com)

*"Kathy's work is utterly wonderful, reflecting outstanding technical expertise, extensive training in biology, and a special knack for capturing details, a talent I suppose must come from some deep love of natural history.*

*My regard for Kathy's award-winning work is all the higher because of her commitment to conservation, especially through education."*

*Dr. Harry W. Greene, 2019*

*"Kathy has not only captured incredible and compelling imagery, but she has spent the last two years working to empower the children in Malagasy communities to become dedicated conservationists....Kathy not only empowers the international community to care about lemurs, she empowers local communities to save them."*

*Dr. Cortni Borgerson, 2021*