

## **Abigail Parker**

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Emmanuel College, St. Andrew's St.  
Cambridge CB2 3AP, UK

### **Education:**

University of Cambridge, Cambridge UK October 2017-

- PhD student in the Department of Zoology and the Museum of Zoology
- Funded by Harvard Herchel Smith Scholarship at Emmanuel College.

Harvard University, Cambridge MA Class of 2017

- Graduated Summa Cum Laude (highest honors); GPA 3.98.
- Concentration in Integrative Biology, secondary field Earth and Planetary Sciences.
- Member of the Radcliffe Varsity Heavyweight Rowing Team. Captain for 2016-2017 season.

### **Awards and Prizes:**

- Recipient of University of Cambridge Worts Travelling Scholars Fund, Gravity Travel Fund, and Cambridge Philosophical Society Research Studentship awards.
- Elected to the Harvard chapter of Phi Beta Kappa honors society in the Class of 2017 Junior 24.
- Ivy League 2015-2016 Academic All-Ivy student-athlete.
- 2015 College Rowing Coaches Association National Scholar-Athlete.

### **Research Experience:**

Stephanie E. Pierce Laboratory, Harvard University, Cambridge MA January 2016-August 2017

- Completed a senior thesis project (final grade: Exceptional) in vertebrate paleontology, uncovering a lack of habitat partitioning between North American fossil horses with different traits, using databases on fossil occurrences, environmental proxies, and ecological modeling.

Jason Head Laboratory, Cambridge University Museum of Zoology October 2017 -

- PhD research focused on investigating the evolution of body size in reptiles in the Cenozoic.
- Conducted fieldwork in deposits from the Turkana Basin in Ethiopia and Kenya. Funded by Cambridge University Worts Travelling Scholars Fund, Cambridge Gravity Travel Fund, and the Emmanuel College Panton Trust Travel Grant. Research Affiliate of the Turkana Basin Institute.
- Collaboration with the Spatial Ecology and Paleontology Lab at Georgia Institute of Technology and the Michelle Lawing Lab at Texas A&M University, funded by the Emmanuel College Gerard Evans Fund: advancing methods for modelling the relationship between the distribution of traits in biological communities and environmental variables, incorporating maximum likelihood and species distribution modelling, with applications for using fossils to estimate paleoclimates.
- Public outreach through the museum, including "Take A Closer Look" gallery sessions with fossils, presenting at public events, and producing online videos for Cambridge Science Festival's "Calling all curious people" campaign (2020).
- Teaching: led small group supervisions and graded assignments for the undergraduate course "Vertebrate Evolution." Wrote specimen-based practical assignments focused on the phylogeny of vertebrates for courses "Evolution and Behaviour" and "Evolution and Animal Diversity" and gave hands-on demonstrations to students in those courses.

## **Leadership:**

Cambridge University Women's Boat Club

September 2017- July 2021

- President for 2018-2019 season. Led every aspect of team operations for a squad of 36 athletes training 12 times a week, culminating in wins at the Boat Race for both Cambridge crews and 6 medals at the British University Championships.
- Sat on the club's Executive Committee board responsible for long-term planning and budgeting.
- Acted as the public face of the club during year-round press coverage, including live interviews on national television.
- Recipient of Eric Evans Fund bursary from University of Cambridge Sport.

Council of the School of Biological Sciences Student Representative    January 2020-December 2021

- Elected to represent the graduate student body at the highest administrative body for one of Cambridge University's constituent schools, the Council of the School of Biological Sciences, comprising the Heads of Department for all biological sciences.
- Gained experience in high-level planning for university research, teaching, budgeting, and development initiatives.
- Represented student views directly to the Head of School, most notably with regards to graduates' concerns during the coronavirus crisis.

Harvard College Conservation Society

April 2015 - May 2017

- Project Manager 2016-2017, overseeing seven different projects to assist in conservation research and organize a conference designed to connect students to jobs in conservation.

## **Presentations:**

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, Annual Meeting 2020: Conference Talk

Parker, Abigail K. and Jason J. Head. "Ecometric Modelling of Turtle Body Size Distributions: How Turtles Predict Paleotemperature."

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, Annual Meeting 2018: Poster Presentation

Parker, Abigail K. and Jason J. Head. "Correlated body size changes in Cenozoic turtles, crocodylians, and mammals."

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Annual Meeting 2017: Poster Presentation

Parker, Abigail K., Brianna K. McHorse, and Stephanie E. Pierce. "Habitat Partitioning in Monodactyl and Tridactyl Horses of North America."

## **Publications:**

Parker, Abigail K., Brianna K. McHorse, and Stephanie E. Pierce. "Niche Modeling Reveals Lack of Broad-Scale Habitat Partitioning in Extinct Horses of North America." *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 511 (December 15, 2018): 103–18.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2018.07.017>.