

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D2
Name	Liesbeth FRIAS

1. Country/location of visit
United States/ Chicago, Germany/ Berlin
2. Research project
Joint meeting of the International Primatological Society and the American Society of Primatologists (Chicago)/ 12 th Conference of the European Wildlife Disease Association (Berlin)
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016.08.20 – 2016.09.01 (13 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Lincoln Park Zoo (Chicago)/ Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (Berlin)
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
<p>This was a summer of conferences. First, I attended the IPS/ASP Conference in Chicago (Fig. 1), where I presented our work entitled “Towards a primate-parasite community ecology: parasite sharing in sympatric Bornean primates” in the session on Parasites & Disease. It was a very stimulating session and excellent research was presented. The talks ranged from host-parasite relationships in natural systems to experimental models in Japanese and Barbary macaques. This was the first time I presented in a primatology conference and I wasn't sure what to expect. However, our session was small enough that presenting felt like talking to close friends in a seminar, and I received relevant questions and good comments afterwards, so overall I think it was a good experience.</p> <p>I left Chicago a couple of days before the end of the conference to attend a second conference in Berlin. The 12th Conference of the European Wildlife Disease Association was jointly organized by the European Wildlife Disease Association and the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, bringing together wildlife specialists from around the world to discuss wildlife health and conservation challenges in a changing world. The conference was preceded by the EWDA Wildlife Health Surveillance Network Meeting followed by workshops. This was a small conference, but full of diverse activities. Every day started with a plenary talk to introduce the session topic (wildlife health – emerging diseases, wildlife conservation and management, causes and consequences of anthropogenic environmental changes) followed by the invited works. Close to the end of the conference we had an excursion to the Spree forest biosphere reserve in the south of Berlin, where we also had the traditional EWDA auction to collect money for EWDA's student chapter (Fig. 2). During the conference I presented our work entitled “Parasite sharing as a preliminary indicator of multispecies connectivity”. This conference was much more related to my research interests than the previous one, and the feedback I got was more specific and critical. I had the opportunity to meet excellent researchers, establish new connections, and got invited to take part of the Association, to work with them towards building an Asian section for the study of wildlife diseases.</p>

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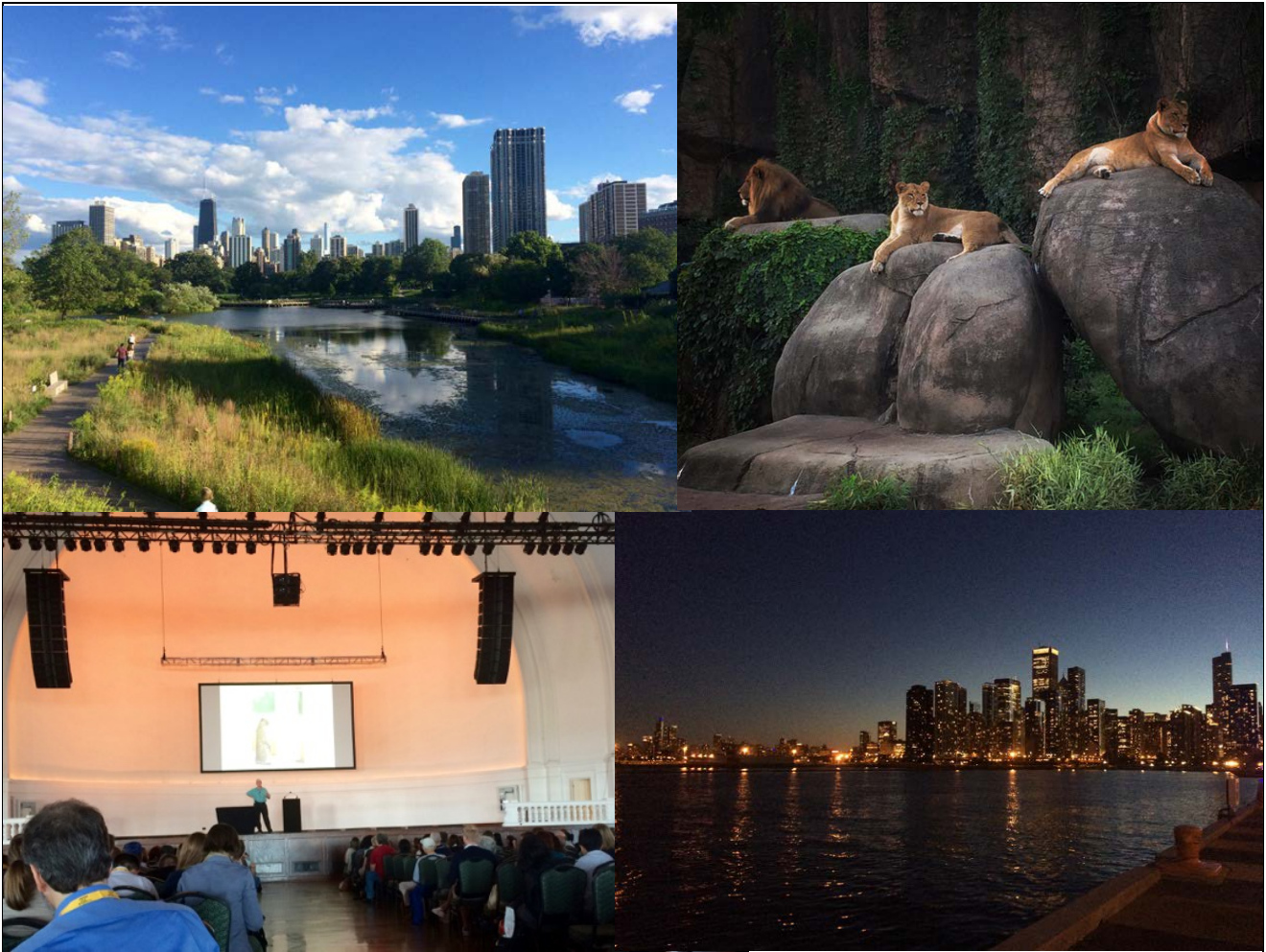


Fig. 1. IPS/ASP Conference in Chicago. View from Lincoln Park Zoo (top left) and lions at the zoo (top right). Dr. Frans de Waal on cooperation and empathy in primates (lower left). View from Chicago from the conference venue (lower right). Photo credit: Liesbeth Frias.

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Fig. 2. Last day of the EWDA Conference (top left) and auction at the Spree forest (top right). The Spree forest, a UNESCO biosphere reserve in the south of Berlin, known for its traditional irrigation system (lower left and middle) and Brandenburg Gate, famous landmark in Berlin. Photo credit: EWDA Student Chapter (top left) and Liesbeth Frias.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to PWS and Prof. Matsuzawa for supporting my attendance to both conferences. To my supervisors, Munehiro Okamoto and Andrew MacIntosh, for valuable comments on the presentations and constant support.